



PES Presidency declaration Elections in FYR Macedonia will fail without further reforms

Adopted by the PES Presidency on 22nd January 2016

On Tuesday the Parliament of FYR Macedonia dissolved itself, announcing early elections on 24 April. This happened in spite of the fact that two major preconditions for fair elections – an audit of the voters list and media reform – have not yet been fulfilled. Despite repeated criticism voiced by actors involved in the mediation process the Parliament proceeded with its dissolution.

A temporary government has been established in FYR Macedonia after PES associate party SDSM released evidence last year of widespread wiretapping on part of the government, revealing large scale corruption, electoral fraud and interference with the justice system. After the crisis erupted the EU brokered deal was agreed in FYR Macedonia last summer between the two major parties, PES associate party SDSM and ruling party VMRO-DPMNE which outlined a number of reforms concerning media freedom and electoral laws.

The EPP member majority party has been obstructing this process of reforms, which was yet again demonstrated by the dissolution of the Macedonian Parliament on 19 January, which will lead to early elections.

The PES agrees with the Associate Party SDSM that the current environment in FYR Macedonia will not allow for free and fair elections. Therefore we insist that the audit of the voters list and the necessary media reforms will be completed before elections take place.

