

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 January 2019 12:01 PM  
**To:** s 47E(d) @lists.dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM): Name change - v2 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
(fYROM): Name change

**Originating Division:** EUD

**Version Date:** 15/1/2019  
**Version:** 2

**Reason for Update:** New talking points  
**Expiry:** 30/03/2019

**Talking Points**

- Welcome the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passing constitutional amendments to change the country's name to Republic of North Macedonia
  - this is a crucial step in implementing the historic Agreement reached with Greece in June 2018.
- Note implementation of the Agreement still requires ratification by the Greek Parliament.
- Encourage Skopje and Athens to continue to work together to implement the Agreement.
- A solution to the name issue would contribute to the region's security and prosperity.

*If raised: Will Australia now refer to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'?*

- Any change to Australia's policy would be premature at this stage
  - the Government will review Australia's approach when both governments in Athens and Skopje advise they have formally adopted the new name.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

**Background**

On 11 January 2019, the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) passed four government-proposed amendments to the constitution. This will allow fYROM to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. However, fYROM will only start using the new name once the parliament in

Athens has also ratified the agreement. Greek PM Tsipras congratulated FYROM PM Zaev for finalising its constitutional change processes.

PM Tsipras has indicated he will introduce the name deal into the Greek parliament in late January. The government is confident it has the numbers to get the deal passed, but the numbers are likely to be close. The leader of the coalition government's junior partner, the far-right ANEL, has withdrawn his party from the government because of long-standing opposition to the proposed name change. PM Tsipras has called a vote of confidence in his government. This is likely to take place this week. Even if Tsipras loses the confidence vote, he has options to remain in government and push the name deal through the Greek Parliament.

The parliamentary approval process in FYROM comprised three stages and commenced in October 2018. FYROM previously held a referendum on 30 September concerning changing the country's name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. According to the State Electoral Commission, 91 per cent of those who voted voted 'yes'. Voter turnout was 36 per cent; less than the 50 per cent needed to make it legally valid. The question was framed in the context of FYROM's desire to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions (*"Are you in favour of EU and NATO membership by accepting the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece?"*).

On 17 June 2018, the leaders of FYROM and Greece reached agreement on a new name of FYROM of 'Republic of North Macedonia'. This aimed to resolve a 27-year old dispute over the country's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece has argued that FYROM's constitutional name - the Republic of Macedonia - implies a territorial claim to Greece's northern province of the same name. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed FYROM's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', brokered by the UN and reluctantly accepted by both sides. Greece has blocked FYROM's progress toward both NATO and EU accession. Under the agreement reached in June, if the approval processes are met Greece will support FYROM joining NATO and beginning negotiations on joining the EU.

Australia has used the UN's appellation - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994.

s 33(a)(iii)

**Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

Moderate.

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) EUD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Kevin Magee; AS ELB

**Distribution**

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 January 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** Biggi, Andrea  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media TPs - FYROM\_update [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We have updated the background to the TPs.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
**(FYROM): Name change**

**Originating Division:** EUD

---

**Version Date:** 18/1/2019  
**Version:** 2.01

**Reason for Update:** Update to background  
**Expiry:** 30/03/2019

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### Talking Points

- Welcome the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passing constitutional amendments to change the country's name to Republic of North Macedonia
  - this is a crucial step in implementing the historic Agreement reached with Greece in June 2018.
- Note implementation of the Agreement still requires ratification by the Greek Parliament.
- Encourage Skopje and Athens to continue to work together to implement the Agreement.
- A solution to the name issue would contribute to the region's security and prosperity.

*If raised: Will Australia now refer to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'?*

- Any change to Australia's policy would be premature at this stage
  - the Government will review Australia's approach when both governments in Athens and Skopje advise they have formally adopted the new name.



Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals in the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

## Background

On 11 January 2019, the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) passed four government-proposed amendments to the constitution. This will allow FYROM to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. However, FYROM will only start using the new name once the parliament in Athens has also ratified the agreement. Greek PM Tsipras congratulated FYROM PM Zaev for finalising its constitutional change processes.

s 33(a)(iii)

The parliamentary approval process in FYROM comprised three stages and commenced in October 2018. FYROM previously held a referendum on 30 September concerning changing the country's name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. According to the State Electoral Commission, 91 per cent of those who voted voted 'yes'. Voter turnout was 36 per cent; less than the 50 per cent needed to make it legally valid. The question was framed in the context of FYROM's desire to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions (*"Are you in favour of EU and NATO membership by accepting the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece?"*).

On 17 June 2018, the leaders of FYROM and Greece reached agreement on a new name of FYROM of 'Republic of North Macedonia'. This aimed to resolve a 27-year old dispute over the country's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece has argued that FYROM's constitutional name - the Republic of Macedonia - implies a territorial claim to Greece's northern province of the same name. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed FYROM's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', brokered by the UN and reluctantly accepted by both sides. Greece has blocked FYROM's progress toward both NATO and EU accession. Under the agreement reached in June, if the approval processes are met Greece will support FYROM joining NATO and beginning negotiations on joining the EU.

Australia has used the UN's appellation - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994.

s 33(a)(iii)

## Handling Notes

## Media Interest

Moderate.

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Steven Barraclough; A/g AS ELB

<b>Distribution</b>	
s 47E(d)	

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 January 2019 8:02 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Logan, Kate <Kate.Logan@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: Media TPs - FYROM\_update [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As per s 47E(d) please find proposed edits to the FYROM name deal TPs. We have made some changes in the background to reflect Greek PM Tsipras' win in the confidence vote last night (16 January).

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DHOM  
Athens

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 January 2019 4:53 PM  
**To:** s 47E(d) l@lists.dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM): Name change - v3 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
(FYROM): Name change

**Originating Division:** EUD

**Version Date:** 22/1/2019

**Reason for Update:** Beginning of  
Ratification Process in Athens on 19  
January

**Version:** 3

**Expiry:** 30/03/2019

**Talking Points**

- Welcome the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passing constitutional amendments to change the country's name to Republic of North Macedonia
  - this is a crucial step in implementing the historic Agreement reached with Greece in June 2018.
- Welcome the beginning of the formal ratification process in Athens
  - which started on 19 January after the Greek Government tabled the Agreement in Parliament.
- Encourage Skopje and Athens to continue to work together to implement the Agreement.
- A solution to the name issue would contribute to the region's security and prosperity.

*If raised: Will Australia now refer to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'?*

- Any change to Australia's policy would be premature at this stage
  - the Government will review Australia's approach when both governments in Athens and Skopje advise they have formally adopted the new name.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

**Background**



On 11 January 2019, the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) passed four government-proposed amendments to the constitution. This will allow fYROM to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. However, fYROM will only start using the new name once the parliament in Athens has also ratified the agreement. Greek PM Tsipras congratulated fYROM PM Zaeu for finalising its constitutional change processes.

Having narrowly won a vote of confidence on 16 January 2019, Greek Prime Minister Tsipras has pushed ahead with the ratification of the fYROM name deal. The Agreement was tabled in the Greek Parliament on 19 January, slightly earlier than anticipated. The Parliament's Committee on Foreign Policy and Defence started discussing the Agreement on 21 January. The Plenary was due to vote as early as the 24-25 January. Tsipras has committed to hold a substantial and inclusive parliamentary debate ahead of the vote. <sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

A protest rally in Athens on 20 January attracted at least 100,000 people and was marked by violence.

The parliamentary approval process in fYROM comprised three stages and commenced in October 2018. fYROM previously held a referendum on 30 September concerning changing the country's name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. According to the State Electoral Commission, 91 per cent of those who voted voted 'yes'. Voter turnout was 36 per cent; less than the 50 per cent needed to make it legally valid. The question was framed in the context of fYROM's desire to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions ("*Are you in favour of EU and NATO membership by accepting the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece?*").

On 17 June 2018, the leaders of fYROM and Greece reached agreement on a new name of fYROM of 'Republic of North Macedonia'. This aimed to resolve a 27-year old dispute over the country's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece has argued that fYROM's constitutional name - the Republic of Macedonia - implies a territorial claim to Greece's northern province of the same name. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed fYROM's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', brokered by the UN and reluctantly accepted by both sides. Greece has blocked fYROM's progress toward both NATO and EU accession. Under the agreement reached in June, if the approval processes are met Greece will support fYROM joining NATO and beginning negotiations on joining the EU.

Australia has used the UN's appellation - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994.

<sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

## Handling Notes

## Media Interest

Moderate.

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post

Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) EUD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Steven Barraclough; AS LB

<b>Distribution</b>
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s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 11:31 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Subject:** RE: DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM): Name change to Republic of North Macedonia - v4 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**For-Official-Use-Only**

Will do.  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director  
Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section (EWS)  
Europe and Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 11:28 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>; Barraclough, Steven <[Steven.Barraclough@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Steven.Barraclough@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM): Name change to Republic of North Macedonia - v4 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**For Official Use Only**

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I read the earlier one (line highlighted in my email below) and thought it was quick work!

If you could let me know, when you do, how the FMO will proceed that'd be great.

Cheers  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)>; Barraclough, Steven <[Steven.Barraclough@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Steven.Barraclough@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM): Name change to Republic of North Macedonia - v4 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**For-Official-Use-Only**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)



No – posts advised that there are a still couple of procedural steps that Greece and FYROM need to go through, including Greece formally advising FYROM (by TPN) that it has completed its obligations under the Prespes Agreement & then FYROM notifying all UN member states that it is now called North Macedonia.

To align more closely with the tenor of statements by other countries, we suggested the FM put out something more simple for now:

\* Australia welcomes the vote by the Greek parliament supporting the change in name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'.

\* We congratulate both countries for resolving this long standing conflict.

We're waiting for a TPN from FYROM advising of the name change. We have submitted a minsub to FM, who will then need to agree to the policy change.

We have sought advice from Protocol Branch on what we need to do from a Protocol perspective.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director  
Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section (EWS)  
Europe and Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:pmc.gov.au)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 January 2019 11:05 AM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)

**Subject:** FW: DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM): Name change to Republic of North Macedonia - v4 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

### For Official Use Only

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Is this done now?

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 47E(d) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dfat.gov.au)

**Sent:** Saturday, 26 January 2019 5:28 AM

**To:** s 47E(d) [@lists.dfat.gov.au](mailto:lists.dfat.gov.au)

**Subject:** DFAT Talking Points - former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM): Name change to Republic of North Macedonia - v4 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
**(FYROM):** Name change to Republic of North Macedonia

**Originating Division:** EUD

**Version Date:** 26/1/2019

**Reason for Update:** Conclusion of Prespa Agreement ratification process

**Version:** 4

**Expiry:** 30/03/2019

## Talking Points

- *Welcome the agreement reached between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the latter to change its name to Republic of North Macedonia*
  - *with parliaments in both countries now having ratified the historic Prespa Agreement reached by Prime Ministers Tsipras and Zaev in June 2018.*
- *Encourage Skopje and Athens to continue to work together to implement the Agreement.*
- *Australia has been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.*
- *We see this agreement as an important step in advancing the region's security and prosperity.*
- *In line with consistent and long-held Government policy, Australia is adopting this mutually agreed name.*

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

## Background

*On 25 January 2019, the Greek Parliament ratified the Prespa Agreement reached by Prime Ministers Tsipras and Zaev on 17 June 2018 to change the name of FYROM to Republic of North Macedonia (the short form would be North Macedonia).*

Greek Prime Minister Tsipras pushed ahead with the ratification of the agreement after narrowly winning a vote of confidence on 16 January 2019. The agreement was tabled in the Greek Parliament on 19 January, slightly earlier than anticipated. <sup>s 33(a)(iii)</sup>

A protest rally in Athens on 20 January attracted at least 100,000 people and was marked by violence.

On 11 January 2019, the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) passed four government-proposed amendments to the constitution. The parliamentary approval process in FYROM comprised three stages that commenced in October 2018. FYROM previously held a referendum on 30 September concerning changing the country's name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. According to the State Electoral Commission, 91 per cent of those who voted voted 'yes'. Voter turnout was 36 per cent; less than the 50 per cent needed to make it legally valid. The question was framed in the context of FYROM's desire to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions ("*Are you in favour of EU and NATO membership by accepting the Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece?*").

Implementation of the Prespa Agreement will resolve a 27-year old dispute over FYROM's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece has argued that FYROM's constitutional name - the Republic of Macedonia - implies a territorial claim to Greece's northern province of

Macedonia. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed FYROM's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', brokered by the UN and reluctantly accepted by both sides. Greece has blocked FYROM's progress toward both NATO and EU accession. Under the Prespa Agreement, now that the approval processes have been met, Greece will support FYROM joining NATO and beginning negotiations on joining the EU.

Australia has used the UN's appellation - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994.

s 33(a)(iii)

### Handling Notes

### Media Interest

Moderate.

Approval	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) EUD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Distribution
s 47E(d)

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## Ministerial Submission

Cleared: Steven Barraclough  
 06 February

FOR: Senator the Hon Marise Payne  
 INFO: Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Action Requested By: 13 February 2019  
 Reason for Urgency: Timely recognition of the name change, and in good company

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: name change to Republic of North Macedonia

**Key Issues:** On 25 January 2019, the Greek Parliament ratified the Prespa Agreement on changing the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) to the Republic of North Macedonia. You welcomed the vote on social media. The Prespa Agreement specifies a series of actions that Greece and fYROM must undertake before it can enter into force. We expect implementation of these steps could take a further week or two. fYROM will formally notify the UN and all UN Member States upon entry into force of the Agreement and request use of the agreed name. Australia has previously stated it would review its position on nomenclature following a mutually agreed solution. Consistent with this position, we recommend you agree Australia adopt the new name once fYROM has notified us of the change, in good company.

**Recommendation:**

That you:

- a) Agree to adopt the mutually agreed name once fYROM has notified us of the name change and in the company of partners.
- b) Agree to issue a media release once Australia has adopted the name change.

**Decision:**

Agreed / Not Agreed

Agreed / Not Agreed

**Domestic/Media Considerations:** The decision to adopt the new name may elicit criticism from parts of the Macedonian and Greek diaspora communities that oppose the Prespa Agreement.

**Action:** Issue a media release. DFAT to update published material and advise Commonwealth departments and agencies, and state and territory governments of Australia's adoption of the new name.

Marise Payne

/ /

**Information:**

Simon Birmingham

/ /

From: Stephen Barraclough, ELD - Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: Mike Byers  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable  
 If the proposal is high risk/high value (over \$100m) Has the concept been approved by the Aid Governance Board? Not Applicable

Consultation: Posts: Athens, Belgrade; DFAT: ILB, PRB, ESB.





## Background:

1. On 25 January 2019, the Greek Parliament ratified the Prespa Agreement, which includes changing the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to the Republic of North Macedonia (the short form would be North Macedonia). You welcomed the vote on social media. The Agreement was reached by Greek Prime Minister Tsipras and FYROM Prime Minister Zaev on 17 June 2018. At that time, then Foreign Minister Bishop welcomed the Agreement as "a significant step towards solving the 27-year old name issue". The FYROM Parliament approved constitutional amendments to implement the Agreement on 11 January 2019.
2. Greece and FYROM must undertake a series of procedural steps before the Prespa Agreement can enter into force: Greece must inform NATO that it supports extension of an accession invitation to FYROM; NATO Member States and FYROM must sign FYROM's Accession Protocol (planned for 6 February); the Accession Protocol will then be sent to NATO Member States for ratification; the Greek Parliament must ratify the Accession Protocol (planned for 8 February); Greece will then notify FYROM that it has ratified the Agreement and the Accession Protocol. On 29 January 2019, the FYROM Parliament decided the name change would be effective seven days after the Agreement enters into force (likely 15 February). Upon entry into force, FYROM will notify all relevant international organisations and UN Member States of the entry into force and request use of the agreed name and terminologies.
3. Australia's policy towards FYROM nomenclature has been consistent and long-standing, using 'former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' in all bilateral and multilateral interactions since 1994. This terminology was adopted by the United Nations on a provisional basis in the context of FYROM's UN membership pending settlement of the name issue. Australia has also stated the Government would review Australia's approach following a mutually agreed solution. Currently a large number of countries use the terminology 'Republic of Macedonia' (e.g. US, UK, Canada) while others join us in using 'FYROM' (e.g. France, Germany, New Zealand).
4. Consistent with this approach, we recommend Australia adopt the new nomenclature once FYROM has notified us of the change, keeping in good company with likeminded partners. Under the Prespa Agreement, Greece and FYROM agree to the use of the terms 'Macedonian' and 'Macedonians' to describe FYROM's language, people and their attributes.

s 33(a)(iii)

6. The 'name issue' is a sensitive issue for parts of the Greek and Macedonian diaspora in Australia. We expect criticism from some quarters should the Government decide to adopt the new name. s 33(a)(iii)

EU accession negotiations with FYROM will commence in June 2019, subject to the name change and on FYROM undertaking a series of reforms.

7. Attached is a draft media release (Attachment A) advising of Australia's adoption of the new name, for release once FYROM has notified us and in good company (NATO and EU Member States support this process).  
s 33(a)(iii) – we will work with your office on the timing of the release.



**SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE**  
**Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA – NAME  
CHANGE TO REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Australia welcomes the agreement reached between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the latter to change its name to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'.

I applaud the efforts of Prime Ministers Alexis Tsipras and Zoran Zaev to negotiate and implement their Prespa Agreement.

Australia has been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue. This offers the best prospects for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.

In line with consistent and long-held Government policy, Australia is adopting this mutually agreed name.

**Media Contacts**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

*Authorised by Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia.*



Title: Republic of North Macedonia: new name  
MRN: s 47E(d) s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
To: FAF Posts; STO Offices  
Cc:  
From: Canberra  
(CHCH/DFAT/ELD/ELB)  
From File: s 47E(d)  
EDRMS  
Files:  
References:  
Response: Routine, Information Only

### Summary

Following implementation of the Prespa Agreement between Greece and North Macedonia, the latter country has now notified us of its new name. Australia has now adopted new naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. The country should be referred to as 'North Macedonia', the government as 'of North Macedonia' and the term 'Macedonian' should be used to refer to the people and language of that country. Grateful Posts update any references in their public materials and STOs advise State and Territory governments of the Federal Government's approach.

---

On 14 February (15 February Canberra time), the Government of North Macedonia advised us that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old name dispute over North Macedonia's name.

2. Under the agreement, the short name of the country is 'North Macedonia', adjectival references to the government are 'of the Republic of North Macedonia' or 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), 'Macedonian' or 'citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia' is used to refer to the people, and 'Macedonian' is used to refer to the language of that country.

3. Minister Payne has agreed that Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. Grateful **Belgrade** update Post websites accordingly, and **other Posts** update any references they may have to the country in their materials.

4. Grateful **STOs** advise State and territory governments of the change in Federal Government policy.

5. Should Posts be asked, you may draw on the following talking points:

- Australia congratulates Greece and North Macedonia for resolving their long standing dispute

- Following notification of the new name from the Republic of North Macedonia, Australia is adopting the mutually agreed name.
- Australia has been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.
- This offers the best prospect for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.

6. Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. Greece had argued North Macedonia's then-constitutional name, 'the Republic of Macedonia', implied a territorial claim to Greece's northern province of Macedonia. Greece had blocked North Macedonia's NATO and EU accession. The Prespa Agreement was ratified by Parliaments in Skopje and Athens on 11 January and 25 January, respectively. Greece has lifted its objection to North Macedonia joining NATO and the EU. On 12 February, Foreign Minister Dimitrov announced the Prespa Agreement had entered into force and his country had formally adopted the name 'North Macedonia'.

7. Thanks to **Belgrade** and **Athens** for reporting over an extended period on negotiations between Skopje and Athens and domestic implementation of the Prespa Agreement, to **UNNY** for tracking formal UN notification processes, and to other Posts that reported on like-minded thinking about when to recognise the name change.

text ends

---

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Prepared  
by:  
Approved Barraclough, AS, ELB  
by:  
Special Departmental/General Advice  
Dist:

▼ New Distribution

---

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 February 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @lists.dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** DFAT Talking Points - Republic of North Macedonia: new name - v6 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION:  
STANDARD**

**Topic:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
**Subject:** Republic of North Macedonia: new name

**Originating Division:** EUD

**Version Date:** 19/2/2019

**Reason for Update:** The Republic of North Macedonia has formally advised us of its new name.

**Version:** 6

**Expiry:** 30/04/2019

**Talking Points**

- Congratulate Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia on resolving their long-standing dispute.
- Following notification from the Republic of North Macedonia, Australia is adopting this mutually agreed name.
- Australia has been strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.
- This offers the best prospects for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.
- *If raised: Adjectival references*
- Consistent with the agreement reached between Greece and North Macedonia, we will refer to the government as the 'government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

**Background**

On 14 February 2019 (15 February Canberra time), the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force and it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, the short version is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian') and the term 'Macedonian' should be used to refer to the people and language of that country. Minister Payne has decided to adopt the new naming conventions.

The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old name dispute over North Macedonia's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece had argued that its then-



constitutional name, 'the Republic of Macedonia', implied a territorial claim on Greece's northern province of Macedonia. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed North Macedonia's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' (FYROM), brokered in the UN. Greece had blocked North Macedonia's accession to NATO and the EU.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation - FYROM - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994. Australia has been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution.

Parliaments in Skopje and Athens ratified the Prespa Agreement on 11 January and 25 January, respectively. The parliament in Skopje changed its constitution to reflect the new name. Greek Prime Minister Tsipras pushed ahead with the ratification of the agreement after narrowly winning a vote of confidence on 16 January 2019, and in the face of a protest rally in Athens on 20 January that attracted at least 100,000 people.

On 12 February, North Macedonia Foreign Minister Dimitrov announced the Prespa Agreement had entered into force. On 14 February, North Macedonia formally advised all UN Member States that the Prespa Agreement had entered into force and it had formally adopted its new name.

Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, Greece has withdrawn its objection to North Macedonia joining NATO and the EU. North Macedonia's NATO Accession Treaty was signed on 6 February and ratified by Greece on 8 February. The Defence Minister of North Macedonia, Radmilla Shekerinska, attended a NATO ministerial meeting as an invitee on 13 February.

s 33(a)(iii)

## Handling Notes

## Media Interest

Moderate.

Approval	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) EUD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Distribution
s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

PM&C  
 Secretary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP

**VISIT TO GREEK CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE**

PMO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

<p><b>Purpose:</b> To tour the Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture.</p>	<p><b>Timing and Venue:</b> 2:15pm 14 March 2019, Greek Centre of Contemporary Culture, Level 3, 168 Lonsdale St, Melbourne</p>
---	---

**Our Proposed Objectives:** (Talking points not requested)

- To meet with Melbourne’s Greek community leaders.

**Their Objectives:** (Biographies are at Attachment A)

- To discuss the views of the Greek community.

**Key Points:**

- The Greek Centre of Contemporary Culture houses four levels dedicated to Greek events, culture and education, including an extensive program of public lectures, performances and a film festival.
- The Centre is operated by the Greek Community of Melbourne (GCM) – a non-profit organisation recognised as the peak Greek organisation in Melbourne. It has over 5000 individual members and aims to serve their religious, cultural and educational needs.
- On 8 October 2018, the Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, undertook a tour of the Centre and met with the President of the CGM, Mr Bill Papastergiadis, and other community leaders.

**Sensitivities:**

*Mati Fires*

- GCM has been active in raising funds for the victims of the fires that burned through the village of Mati (near Athens) in August 2018.

*Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia*

- On 14 February 2019, the Governments of North Macedonia and Greece agreed that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would now be known as the ‘Republic of North Macedonia’. This resolved a 27 year-old name dispute over the Republic of North Macedonia’s name.
- Many Greek Australians strongly feel that North Macedonia is part of Greece. Macedonia is also the name of a northern province in Greece.
- Rallies were held by both the Greek and North Macedonian communities in Melbourne to coincide with the resumption of UN-sponsored negotiations regarding the naming issue in early 2018.

s 33(a)(iii)



*[If raised]*

- Australia congratulates Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia on resolving their long-standing dispute.
- Following notification from the Republic of North Macedonia, Australia is adopting this mutually agreed name.
- Australia has been strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.
  - This offers the best prospects for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.
- Consistent with the agreement reached between Greece and North Macedonia, we will refer to the Government as the 'Government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'.

**Background:**

*Commonwealth funding*

- In 2017, the GCM received \$649,000 from the Department of Social Services under the former Diversity and Social Cohesion program.
- In 2011-12, the Australian Government provided \$2 million towards the Greek Centre through the Arts portfolio.

*State Government funding and support*

- In November 2018, the Victorian Government provided \$2.5 million to the GCM to create a centre for seniors and young people, as well as \$370,000 for the installation of a Greek Centre Parthenon frieze and increased funding for the Lonsdale Street Festival.
- In 2016-17, the GCM received \$55,000 towards the Centre for Contemporary Culture Gallery under the Cultural Precincts and Community Infrastructure program.
- In December 2017, the Victorian Government signed an MOU with the Greek Government to bolster Greek language teaching in Victoria. The Victorian Government also committed \$150,000 towards Greek language programs at a number of kindergartens.

*Greek Community Demographics*

- The 2016 Census data indicates that there were 170 446 people with Greek ancestry living in Victoria. Further background on the Greek community in Australia is included at Attachment B.

s 47F(1)  
Senior Adviser  
Immigration, Multiculturalism  
and Disaster Recovery  
March 2019

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Consultation: International Division,  
Home Affairs

NOTED:
Date:

**ATTACHMENT A**

s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Brendan.smyth@act.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Change in Nomenclature to Republic of North Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

To Brendan Smyth  
Commissioner for International Engagement in the ACT Government

Dear Brendan,

s 22(1)(a)(ii) I'm sending this information to you in my new capacity working with Eastern European countries (based in Canberra).

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all Commonwealth Government publications. I would be grateful if the ACT Government would take note these changes and advise relevant directorates accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-fYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer used.

Yours faithfully,  
Steven Barraclough

Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) on behalf of StatsSection  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 3:11 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Country name enquiry: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Australian Government has now officially recognised the name change, Republic of North Macedonia. Notification is currently being drafted for other APS Departments:

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-fYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Statistics Section  
 Office of Economic Analysis  
 Investment and Economic Division

E | s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
 T | s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 W | [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abs.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 January 2019 9:04 AM  
**To:** s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Country name enquiry: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



Many thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> for passing on this quick response from the geographic area which clarifies the steps to be taken before any decision is made in Australia to recognise the new name for FYROM.

Thanks also for offering to keep us informed about this matter.

Regards  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Statistical Standards & Infrastructure | Statistical Infrastructure Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) s 22(1)(a)(ii) (E) s 22(1)(a)(ii)@abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

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s 47E(d) ---31/01/2019 08:44:13 AM---UNCLASSIFIED Good Morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au>  
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abs.gov.au>  
Date: 31/01/2019 08:44 AM  
Subject: RE: Country name enquiry: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

## UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The geographic area was really quick this time!

Advice received:

"There are a couple of steps to go before we formally recognise the name change, including Greece formally advising FYROM (by TPN) that it has completed its obligations under the Prespes Agreement & then FYROM notifying all UN member states that it is now called the Republic of North Macedonia. We plan to advise all departments and agencies of a change in Australian policy once a decision is taken by our Minister to recognise the new name."

I'll keep an eye out for this notification and send it through to you.

Regards  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Statistics Section  
Office of Economic Analysis  
Investment and Economic Division

E | s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
T | s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
W | [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abs.gov.au>  
Sent: Wednesday, 30 January 2019 3:48 PM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au>  
Subject: Country name enquiry: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On Friday 25 January 2019, media reports stated that the Greek Parliament had voted in favour of approving the name 'Republic of North Macedonia' for the area known at the United Nations and in Australia as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) ([www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47002865](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47002865)). The name change has not been formally declared but the Greek Parliament's vote removes one of the last obstacles to its formal recognition.

Does DFAT have a position on whether the Australian Government will recognise the new name for FYROM? If no position has yet been taken, could you keep the ABS informed when a position is taken, what it is and when it takes effect. As you're aware, the ABS maintains the Standard Australian Classification of Countries and we update the classification to reflect country name changes as soon as practicable.

Regards  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Statistical Standards & Infrastructure | Statistical Infrastructure Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) s 22(1)(a)(ii) (E) s 22(1)(a)(ii) @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

**From:** [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 3:38 PM  
**To:** [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Republic of North Macedonia: Advising State and Territory governments [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Thanks very much for this advice [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) much appreciated.

Just confirming that we have advised relevant counterparts in the WA Government

Cheers

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Deputy Director  
 Western Australia State Office  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
[T s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | [M s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | [Voicenet s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Linked In](#)

**From:** [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 12:17 PM  
**To:** [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) dfat.gov.au>; [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Republic of North Macedonia: Advising State and Territory governments [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon STO colleagues,

Further to [s 47E\(d\)](#) we thought it might be helpful to share with you the advice we sent to the ACT Government – for ease of cutting/pasting in to messages to State and Territory governments (with obvious tweaks to the final sentence of the penultimate paragraph). Please see below.

Best regards

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Director | Eastern Europe & Western Balkans Section  
Europe & Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mob:

[Salutation]

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all Commonwealth Government publications. I would be grateful if the ACT Government would take note these changes and advise relevant directorates accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-fYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer used.

[Closing]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 4:11 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Europe Engagement; Barraclough, Steven; s 22(1)(a)(ii) |  
**Subject:** RE: FYROM: Name Change - Please call Home Affairs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks very much for reaching out, and for the useful discussion just now.

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all government publications. We would be grateful if the Department of Home Affairs would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly. Please let me know if you require this advice in a different format.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer used.

I've extracted whole-of-government talking points below, in case you'd like further background. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Thanks and regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Eastern Europe & Western Balkans Section  
 Europe & Latin America Division  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Mob:

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**MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
 DISTRIBUTION:  
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**Topic: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC**

**Originating Division: EUD**

Pages 32-33 removed under s 22(1)(a)(ii) - see duplicate in Document 7

Pages 32-33 removed under s 22(1)(a)(ii) - see duplicate in Document 7

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 1:48 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FYROM: Name Change - Please call Home Affairs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) – this should be a simple query (I hope). I see that our colleagues in Belgrade has received some advice from their DFAT colleagues on the name change to FYROM, and have reached out to us in regards to changing the



name on our Embassy website, and anything else our post needs to do. Do you have any advice we could provide to Belgrade?

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Acting Director, Europe Section  
Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa Branch  
International Policy Division | Policy Group  
Department of Home Affairs  
P: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
E: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 1:28 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>  
**Subject:** FYROM: Name Change - Please call Home Affairs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Could you please call s 22(1)(a)(ii) at Home Affairs about the FYROM name change – s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cheers  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Policy Officer | Northern and Central Europe Section  
EU Political and Strategy Branch | Europe and Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)  
[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:26 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @tourism.australia.com; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @tourism.australia.com  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Change in nomenclature to Republic of North Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all Commonwealth Government publications. I would be grateful if your agency would take note of these changes and update any publications and materials accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely,  
Steven Barraclough

Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:27 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii):@efic.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Change in nomenclature: Republic of North Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all Commonwealth Government publications. I would be grateful if your agency would take note of these changes and update any publications and materials accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours faithfully,  
Steven Barraclough

Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:29 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @acair.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** change in nomenclature: Republic of North Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which will be used all Commonwealth Government publications. I would be grateful if your agency would take note of these changes and update any publications and materials accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely,  
Steven Barraclough

Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Barraclough, Steven  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:30 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @austrade.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Change in nomenclature: Republic of North Macedonia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

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Yours sincerely,  
Steven Barraclough

Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 5:53 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Barraclough, Steven; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Overseas Network Management; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FYROM: Name Change - Please call Home Affairs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 190220 Administrative Circular Republic of North Macedonia FINAL.DOCX

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DFAT Administrative Circular attached, as foreshadowed. It has been cleared in our system and is in the process of being distributed. Please let me know if you need anything further to allow for an update in Home Affairs' systems.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Director | Eastern Europe & Western Balkans Section  
 Europe & Latin America Division  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Tel: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Mob:

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>;  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Barraclough, Steven  
 <Steven.Barraclough@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47E(d)  
 :@homeaffairs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FYROM: Name Change - Please call Home Affairs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks for this useful advice. I have reverted to our colleagues in Belgrade on updating the Embassy's website. Am thinking we may need a formal document from DFAT on the official change of name for our IT and systems areas that my need to update Home Affairs visa and citizenship systems. Would you happen to have something more formal we could use and disseminate, including date of effect etc?

Thanks again

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Acting Director, Europe Section  
 Americas, Europe, Middle East and Africa Branch

Parliaments in Skopje and Athens ratified the Prespa Agreement on 11 January and 25 January, respectively. The parliament in Skopje changed its constitution to reflect the new name. Greek Prime Minister Tsipras pushed ahead with the ratification of the agreement after narrowly winning a vote of confidence on 16 January 2019, and in the face of a protest rally in Athens on 20 January that attracted at least 100,000 people.

On 12 February, North Macedonia Foreign Minister Dimitrov announced the Prespa Agreement had entered into force. On 14 February, North Macedonia formally advised all UN Member States that the Prespa Agreement had entered into force and it had formally adopted its new name.

Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, Greece has withdrawn its objection to North Macedonia joining NATO and the EU. North Macedonia's NATO Accession Treaty was signed on 6 February and ratified by Greece on 8 February. The Defence Minister of North Macedonia, Radmilla Shekerinska, attended a NATO ministerial meeting as an invitee on 13 February.

s 33(a)(iii)

### Handling Notes

### Media Interest

Moderate.

Approval	
Consultation	ESB; Athens Post; Belgrade Post
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii) , EUD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

### Distribution

s 47E(d)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 February 2019 1:48 PM

Pages 40-42 removed under s 22(1)(a)(ii) - see duplicate in Document 11



**Australian Government**  


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**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

## Administrative Circular – cover sheet

**Number:**

**Title:** Republic of North Macedonia: Name change

**Category/ies :**

**Owned by (Branch):** ELB

**Suggested currency period:**

**This circular replaces A/C:** n/a

**To be read in conjunction with A/C:** n/a

**Date:** 20 February 2019

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Approved by

**Branch Head :** Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

**Date:** 19 February 2019

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**FAS:** Cathy Raper

**Date:** 20 February 2019, FAS ELD





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

## Administrative Circular

Canberra ACT 0221

No:

Distribution: s 47E(d)

Cc:

Responsible Branch: ELB

File No: s 47E(d)

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**Subject:** Republic of North Macedonia: Name change

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1. On 14 February (15 February, Canberra time), the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.
2. Under the agreement, the short name of the country is 'North Macedonia', adjectival references to the government are 'of the Republic of North Macedonia' or 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), 'Macedonian' or 'citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia' is used to refer to the people, and 'Macedonian' should be used to refer to the language of that country.
3. Minister Payne has agreed that Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications.
4. Prior to the implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

s 47F(1)

Angela Robinson  
Assistant Secretary  
Executive Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Sue Robertson  
First Assistant Secretary  
International Cooperation Division  
Attorney-General's Department  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton, ACT 2600

Dear Ms Robertson,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Matt Worrell  
Assistant Secretary  
Multilateral Agriculture Policy and Bilateral Branch  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources  
18 Marcus Clarke St  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worrell,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Richard Bullock  
Assistant Secretary  
Strategy  
Department of Communication and the Arts  
2 Phillip Law St  
Canberra, ACT, 2601

Dear Mr Bullock,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-fYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Clair McNamara  
Assistant Secretary  
Global Interests  
Department of Defence  
Canberra, ACT 2600

By email; [clair.mcnamara@defence.gov.au](mailto:clair.mcnamara@defence.gov.au)

Dear Ms McNamara,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Richard Bullock  
Assistant Secretary  
Strategy  
Department of Communication and the Arts  
2 Phillip Law St  
Canberra, ACT, 2601

Dear Mr Bullock,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Travis Power  
Branch Manager  
Quality Frameworks Branch, International Education Group  
Department of Education and Training  
GPO Box 9880  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Power,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Emma Campbell  
Assistant Secretary  
Strategy and Governance Branch  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace  
Parkes, ACT 2600

Dear Ms Campbell,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Gareth Sebar  
Assistant Secretary  
Home and Foreign Affairs Branch  
Department of Finance  
1 Canberra Ave  
Forrest, ACT 2603

Dear Mr Sebar,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Emma Wood  
Assistant Secretary  
International and Commonwealth/State Relations Branch  
Department of Health  
Sirius Building, Furzer St  
Woden Town Centre, ACT 2606

Dear Ms Wood,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Soraya Weber  
National Manager  
Portfolio Coordination  
Department of Human Services  
PO Box 7788  
Canberra Business Centre, ACT 2610

Dear Ms Weber,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Martin Squire  
General Manager  
Trade and International  
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science  
Industry House, 10 Binara St  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Squire,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Alison Hale  
Assistant Secretary  
External and Government Partnerships Branch  
Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Gnabra Building, 21 Genge St  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Ms Hale,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Meredith Fairweather  
Branch Manager  
Communication  
Department of Jobs and Small Business  
GPO Box 9880  
Canberra, ACT, 2601

Dear Ms Fairweather,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Angela McDonald  
Assistant Secretary  
International Division  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
Barton, ACT 2600

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela".

Dear Ms McDonald,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

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Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

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@DFAT





Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

22 February 2019

Martin Squire  
General Manager  
Trade and International  
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science  
Industry House, 10 Binara St  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Squire,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

R G Casey Building John McEwen Cres Barton 0221  
T +61 2 6261 1111

DFAT.GOV.AU  
@DFAT



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

22 February 2019

Lisa Elliston  
Division Head  
International Policy and Engagement Division  
Department of the Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
Parkes, ACT 2600

*Lisa*  
Dear Ms Elliston,

On 14 February, the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force, and that it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old dispute over North Macedonia's name.

Under the agreement, the formal name of the country is the 'Republic of North Macedonia', the short name is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian'), the people are referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia', and the language is referred to as 'Macedonian'.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, has agreed Australia will now adopt these naming conventions, which should be used in all government publications. I would be grateful if your department would take note of these changes and advise portfolio agencies accordingly.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation for the country, namely the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which had been agreed as a temporary name for then-FYROM to join the UN. This appellation is no longer to be used.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Human Services**

Dr Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary, Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch  
R G Casey Building, John McEwen Cres  
Barton ACT 0221

Dear Dr Barraclough

Thank you for your correspondence advising that the Prespa Agreement between the Government of North Macedonia and Greece has come into force and that the Government of North Macedonia will now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'.

The Department of Human Services delivers payments and services on behalf of a range of government departments and agencies and has many internal stakeholders who need to be advised of the change.

I have communicated your correspondence to the relevant stakeholders within the department to ensure they are aware of the Prespa Agreement. These stakeholders will update all the formal naming conventions as indicated in your correspondence.

Should you require any further information please contact [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

[s 47F\(1\)](#)

Sarah Swain  
A/g National Manager  
Portfolio Coordination Division  
Governance and Strategic Policy Division

20 March 2019



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:39 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) letter 8Sept2019.pdf  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks, <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> Looks good to me.  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:18 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Grateful your thoughts on the points below for <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> (VSO) to pass to the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet:

- The Australian Government (along with the United States, United Kingdom and other European Union countries) recognises the Prespa Agreement reached between the Governments of North Macedonia and Greece. We consider this solution offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region.
- This is a sensitive issue for many people, but the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter in any way the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- Community groups are free to express their views as long as they do not break Australian law. The Victorian Police have advised (following a related flag burning incident at the North Macedonian National Day celebration on 8 September) that in the state of Victoria the burning of any flag is not considered an offence. Any allegation of criminal damage (e.g. desecration of the Australian Hellenic Memorial at the Shrine) should be referred to the police.
- We're not aware of any law that would prohibit the use of the Sun of Vergina by any community group in Australia.
- We suggest that complaints related to SBS and ABC be referred directly to those organisations in the first instance and/or the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)  
[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 1:26 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d)

letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47E(d)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 12:09 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d)

letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Vic office received the attached correspondence sent to the Victorian Multicultural Commission, from the s 47E(d)

Would it be possible to provide advice to the Victorian Multicultural Commission? Quite a number of issues raised.

Trust you're well!

Cheers,  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Business Relations  
 Victoria State Office  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au  
 Level 14, 55 Collins Street  
 Melbourne VIC 3000

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 11:58 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
 Subject: Fwd: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d)

letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s 22(1)(a)(ii) as discussed, grateful if you could see what advice Canberra can provide.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, DFAT Victorian State Office

Email sent on mobile device.

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) l@dpc.vic.gov.au>  
**Date:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 at 11:02:37 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) letter 8Sept2019.pdf

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the chat earlier

As discussed, here's the letter that was received from the s 47E(d)

We have sought advice re use of the symbol and the burning of flags but would appreciate any additional advice and guidance with respect to this issue.

The s 47E(d) has conveyed the view that the symbol should not be used by the North Macedonian community (there's a festival coming up in November)... In line with what they are claiming is the agreement by the Republic of North Macedonia

Would be great to catch up in the near future... perhaps with our Chair and Deputy Chair in the first instance and possibly with our Commissioners subsequently... as we discussed there's some overlap between us on some of the issues that we're dealing with.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Office of the Victorian Multicultural Commission  
 Lead Director, Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division  
 Department of Premier and Cabinet  
 Level 16, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000  
 T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | m: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

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Supplementary Budget estimates: 24 October 2019

## 25. Republic of North Macedonia – name change

**Handling Note:** ELD to lead on Republic of North Macedonia name change. Do not use the acronym 'FYROM' in speech.

### Strategic Message

- Following notification from the Republic of North Macedonia, Australia adopted this mutually agreed name.
- We congratulate the governments of North Macedonia and Greece on resolving their long-standing dispute and strengthening the security prospects in the region.

### Does Australia now refer to the 'Republic of North Macedonia'?

- Following notification from the Republic of North Macedonia (February 2019), Australia adopted this mutually agreed name.
- Congratulate Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia on resolving their long-standing dispute.
- Australia had always been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.
- This offers the best prospects for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.

### How does Australia now refer to the government, people and language of the Republic of North Macedonia?

- Consistent with the Prespa agreement between Greece and North Macedonia, we now refer to the government as the 'government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'
  - Australia has been consistent in being aligned with the name used by the UN (previous and current).

### What is the government's response to sensitivities/opposition amongst members of Greek and Macedonian communities in Australia about the Prespa Agreement and name change?

- This is a sensitive issue for many people, but the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter in any way the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- Community groups are free to express their views as long as they do not break Australian law
  - the Victorian Police have advised (following a related flag burning incident at the North Macedonian National Day celebration on 8 September) that in the state of Victoria the burning of any flag is not considered an offence
    - : any allegation of criminal damage (e.g. desecration of the Australian Hellenic Memorial at the Shrine) should be referred to the police.



Supplementary Budget estimates: 24 October 2019

### **Reports of intimidation of voters in Australia during the September 2018 name-change referendum held by North Macedonia.**

- Aware of reports that a Facebook group targeted voters in Australia in the September 2018 name-change referendum.
- These reports were referred to appropriate authorities.
- Australians rightly expect everyone in our country, whether or not they are Australian citizens, to obey Australian laws and treat all people with respect and dignity.

### **Background**

On 14 February 2019 (15 February Canberra time), the government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force and it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, the short version is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian') and the term 'Macedonian' should be used to refer to the people and language of that country. Minister Payne decided to adopt these new naming conventions shortly after the agreement came into force, and DFAT websites, including Smartraveller, were updated on 19 February.

The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old name dispute over North Macedonia's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece had argued that its then constitutional name, 'the Republic of Macedonia', implied a territorial claim on Greece's northern province of Macedonia. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed North Macedonia's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', brokered in the UN. Greece had blocked North Macedonia's accession to NATO and the EU.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994 (note: the acronym FYROM had no official standing). Australia was a strong supporter of a negotiated solution.

Parliaments in Skopje and Athens ratified the Prespa Agreement on 11 and 25 January 2019, respectively. The parliament in Skopje changed its constitution to reflect the new name. The then Greek Prime Minister (Tsipras) pushed ahead with the ratification of the agreement after narrowly winning a vote of confidence on 16 January 2019, and in the face of a protest rally in Athens on 20 January that attracted at least 100,000 people.

Supplementary Budget estimates: 24 October 2019

A referendum was held in North Macedonia on 30 September 2018 concerning changing the country's name. The question was framed in the context of integrating into Euro-Atlantic institutions. The main opposition party (VMRO-DPMNE), which supports Euro-Atlantic integration but not the name change, advocated a boycott.

On 29 September 2018, **s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)** a Facebook group that had been identifying individuals voting at the Consulate-General in Melbourne, and labelling them 'traitors'. The incident was reported to the AFP and the Facebook group page taken down. The Minister for Diaspora in Skopje issued a statement on 29 September 2018 noting the case had been reported and would be dealt with under Australian law.

On 12 February 2019, North Macedonia Foreign Minister Dimitrov announced that the Prespa Agreement had entered into force. On 14 February 2019, North Macedonia formally advised all UN Member States that the Prespa Agreement had entered into force and it had formally adopted its new name.

Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, Greece has withdrawn its objection to North Macedonia joining NATO and progressing on EU accession. North Macedonia's NATO Accession Treaty was signed on 6 February 2019 and ratified by Greece on 8 February. A majority of NATO members have ratified the protocol on North Macedonia's accession (23 of 29 as at 16 October 2019).

North Macedonia's bid to start accession talks with the EU have stalled. On 17-18 October 2019, EU leaders were unable to reach agreement to launch enlargement negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia but agreed to revisit the issue again before the EU-Western Balkans summit in May 2020. **s 33(a)(iii)**

The implications of this third postponement of a start date are already evident: the North Macedonian government has called early elections for April 2020, and the Prime Minister has agreed to step down. The current government had put significant political and diplomatic capital into demonstrating it had taken all necessary steps to secure an EU announcement on a start date for accession talks. The opposition is against the name-change – its victory would likely mark a change in policy direction. The failure to launch negotiations also has broader implications for the region **s 33(a)(iii)**

**s 33(a)(iii)**

There are also members of the Greek community who were against the Prespa Agreement. In Greece the name-change deal was a factor in the

Supplementary Budget estimates: 24 October 2019

defeat of the Tsipras Government in Greece in July 2019. There are also sensitivities about the Macedonian community using 'Hellenic' symbols such as the Sun of Vergina.

On 8 September 2019 (Macedonian Independence Day) around 1000 Australian Macedonian community members rallied in Canberra, under the banner 'Never North Always Macedonia', expressing their dissatisfaction with the policies of the current Macedonian government, primarily related to the name change. On the same day, an incident occurred in front of the Macedonian Consulate building in Melbourne: Greek and Bulgarian flags were set on fire, as well as photos of Macedonian Prime Minister Mr Zoran Zaev and Ms Radmila Sekerinska, Minister of Defence. The Chair of the Australian Macedonian Council of New South Wales (among the organisers of the Canberra rally) condemned these actions and said the perpetrators were unconnected to the Council or the Canberra rally. The incident was reported to the police, and Victoria Police advised that flag burning is not an offence under Victorian law.

<b>Division:</b>	ELD		
<b>PDR No:</b>	s 47E(d)		
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Cleared by Branch/Division Head:</b>		
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Steven Barraclough		
Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext: s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Ext s 22(1)(a)(ii)		
Date: 14 October 2019	Date: 18 October 2019		
<b>Consultation:</b> Belgrade Post, ESB			

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 October 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) › letter 8Sept2019.pdf  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope all is well. Please find below some points that you can share with the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet:

- The Australian Government (along with the United States, United Kingdom and other European Union countries) recognises the Prespa Agreement reached between the Governments of North Macedonia and Greece. We consider this solution offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region.
- This is a sensitive issue for many people, but the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter in any way the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- Community groups are free to express their views as long as they do not break Australian law. The Victorian Police have advised (following a related flag burning incident at the North Macedonian National Day celebration on 8 September) that in the state of Victoria the burning of any flag is not considered an offence. Any allegation of criminal damage (e.g. desecration of the Australian Hellenic Memorial at the Shrine) should be referred to the police.
- We're not aware of any law that would prohibit the use of the Sun of Vergina by any community group in Australia.
- We suggest that complaints related to SBS and ABC be referred directly to those organisations in the first instance and/or the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

I hope this helps.

Best regards  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

Policy Officer | Northern and Central Europe Section  
EU Political and Strategy Branch | Europe and Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)  
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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 1:26 PM  
**Pages 71-73 removed under s 22(1)(a)(ii) - see duplicate in Document 19**





s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 September 2021 4:22 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 210728 Brief FM meeting Macedonian community representatives.DOCX

## OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

There has not really been any movement on our position (see below) regarding North Macedonia's name, and the use of the Vergina Sun symbol in particular, since 2019.

FYI, FM Payne met with representatives of the Macedonian community, amongst others, in August 2021. I have attached the brief we prepared for her, in case it is also useful. We would add that Australia has a positive and constructive working relationship with North Macedonia.

- Acknowledge that the name change remains a sensitive issue
  - the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- We are aware there has been controversy in the past regarding the use of a flag with a Vergina Sun symbol by a local government official as well as by members of the public. We realise that is a sensitive and long-standing issue across communities.
- We consider the Prespa Agreement offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region
  - thanks to the new nomenclature, North Macedonia has joined NATO (2020) and is seeking to start talks to join the European Union
  - Australia now refers to the government as the 'Government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'
    - Australia has been consistent in being aligned with the names used by the United Nations.
- The Australian Government is committed to maintaining our open and cohesive society
  - our society is enriched by the contributions of our multicultural population and we welcome the active contribution to our society by all Australians.

Holler out if you need anything further.

Regards, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director

Eastern Europe &amp; Western Balkans Section

Latin America &amp; Eastern Europe Branch | Europe &amp; Latin America Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au





**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 September 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yes, no problem. I have passed your query to the Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section (responsible for Macedonia). We will get back to you shortly.

Cheers,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Acting Assistant Secretary, EU Political and Strategy Branch  
Europe and Latin America Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)



**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 September 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Advice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

the perennial issue of conflict between North Macedonian and Greek groups about Macedonian identity has come up again in Victoria. s 33(a)(iii), s 47G(1)(a)

The Commission understands well the Australian Government's position and has been grateful for the points provided in the past. They've asked if we have an update to what we gave in 2019 (see below).

It would be much appreciated if someone in your team can let us know if there has been **any update to our talking points?**

FWIW I've also suggested they engage the respective CGs in Melbourne, s 33(a)(iii), s 47G(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

State Director, DFAT Victoria State Office

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@vmc.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 September 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Advice

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Great talking to you earlier

Here's the advice we received in late 2019 and was checking to see if it remains the same or whether there are any changes

I'll forward the recent email that provides the current context and issues

altho

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Senior Adviser

Victorian Multicultural Commission

m: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

e: s 22(1)(a)(ii)@vmc.vic.gov.au

w: <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/>

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past and present.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2019 4:10 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find some additional points from Canberra, hope they are useful.

- The Australian Government (along with the United States, United Kingdom and other European Union countries) recognises the Prespa Agreement reached between the Governments of North Macedonia and Greece. We consider this solution offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region.
- This is a sensitive issue for many people, but the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter in any way the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- Community groups are free to express their views as long as they do not break Australian law. The Victorian Police have advised (following a related flag burning incident at the North Macedonian National Day celebration on 8 September) that in the state of Victoria the burning of any flag is not considered an offence. Any allegation of criminal damage (e.g. desecration of the Australian Hellenic Memorial at the Shrine) should be referred to the police.
- We're not aware of any law that would prohibit the use of the Sun of Vergina by any community group in Australia.
- We suggest that complaints related to SBS and ABC be referred directly to those organisations in the first instance and/or the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

State Director, DFAT Victoria State Office

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 12:43 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: s 47E(d) letter 8Sept2019.pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Lovely to chat. We have sought advice from Canberra whether they can provide any additional information. In the meantime, just for your background, attached below is our generic high level talking points on this issue.

## Talking Points

- Congratulate Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia on resolving their long-standing dispute.
- Following notification from the Republic of North Macedonia, Australia is adopting this mutually agreed name.
- Australia has been strong supporter of a negotiated solution to the name issue.
- This offers the best prospects for strengthening the security and prosperity of the region.
- Consistent with the agreement reached between Greece and North Macedonia, we will refer to the government as the 'government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'.

## Background

On 14 February 2019 (15 February Canberra time), the Government of North Macedonia advised that the Prespa Agreement between it and Greece had come into force and it would now be known as the 'Republic of North Macedonia'. Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, the short version is 'North Macedonia', the government is referred to as 'of North Macedonia' (not 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian') and the term 'Macedonian' should be used to refer to the people and language of that country. Minister Payne has decided to adopt the new naming conventions.

The Prespa Agreement, signed in June 2018, resolved a 27-year old name dispute over North Macedonia's name. Since declaring independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, Greece had argued that its then-constitutional name, 'the Republic of Macedonia', implied a territorial claim on Greece's northern province of Macedonia. Greece's opposition to the name 'Republic of Macedonia' delayed North Macedonia's accession to the UN. It ultimately joined in April 1993 under the temporary name 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' (FYROM), brokered in the UN. Greece had blocked North Macedonia's accession to NATO and the EU.

Prior to implementation of the Prespa Agreement, Australia had used the earlier UN appellation - FYROM - in all bilateral and multilateral dealings since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994. Australia has been a strong supporter of a negotiated solution.

Parliaments in Skopje and Athens ratified the Prespa Agreement on 11 January and 25 January, respectively. The parliament in Skopje changed its constitution to reflect the new name.



On 12 February, North Macedonia Foreign Minister Dimitrov announced the Prespa Agreement had entered into force. On 14 February, North Macedonia formally advised all UN Member States that the Prespa Agreement had entered into force and it had formally adopted its new name.

Consistent with the Prespa Agreement, Greece has withdrawn its objection to North Macedonia joining NATO and the EU. North Macedonia's NATO Accession Treaty was signed on 6 February and ratified by Greece on 8 February. The Defence Minister of North Macedonia, Radmilla Shekerinska, attended a NATO ministerial meeting as an invitee on 13 February.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

State Director, DFAT Victoria State Office

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dpc.vic.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 October 2019 11:02 AM

Section removed under s 22(1)(a)(ii) - see duplicate in Document 21



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 47E(d)

**Subject: Meeting with representatives of the Macedonian-Australian community**

Note: This community is very sensitive to use of the terms 'North Macedonia' or 'Republic of North Macedonia', preferring to use 'Macedonia'. The Greek community is vigilant on the correct use of these terms. Overall, we have a very warm and positive relationship with North Macedonia.

**Key messages**

- Australia and North Macedonia share a warm and positive bilateral relationship
  - strong people-to-people links (98,000 people claim Macedonian ancestry [2016])
  - shared values and commitment to human rights and democracy
    - : visible in our multilateral cooperation.
- The Government is grateful to North Macedonia for the help it has provided to Australians:
  - generous donation (AUD158,000 to the NSW RFS) during the 2019-20 bushfires
  - assistance evacuating stranded Australians on humanitarian flights at the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The Australian Government is committed to maintaining our open and cohesive society
  - our society is enriched by the contributions of our multicultural population and we welcome the active contribution to our society by all Australians.
- *(if raised) Name change to North Macedonia (2019) / Prespa Agreement (2018)*
- Acknowledge that the name change remains a sensitive issue
  - the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- We consider the Prespa Agreement offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region
  - thanks to the new nomenclature, North Macedonia has joined NATO (2020) and is seeking to start talks to join the European Union
  - Australia now refers to the government as the 'Government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'
    - : Australia has been consistent in being aligned with the names used by the United Nations.
- *(if raised) Does the impact of the Prespa Agreement on the Macedonian-Australian community, s 33(a)(iii) amount to foreign interference? [Home Affairs lead]*
- Australia takes a country agnostic approach to countering foreign interference - we are not focussed on any particular countries that may pose a threat
  - rather, our focus is on strengthening the resilience of sectors of Australian society which are at risk from foreign interference.

Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Date cleared: 27 July 2021

Consultation: ISD, LGD / Home Affairs



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Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

PDR ID: s 47E(d)

## Background

The Australian Macedonian Council of New South Wales (AMC NSW) was established in April 2018 as a peak representative body of the Australian Macedonian community in NSW. AMC NSW actively focuses efforts and resources on advocating for the protection and maintenance of the ethnic Macedonian national identity, Macedonian language, and the human rights of Australians of ethnic Macedonian descent within NSW and Australia.

### *Prespa Agreement*

The Government adopted the term 'North Macedonia' following ratification of the Prespa Agreement by the parliaments of both North Macedonia and Greece, and their notification of the United Nations on 12 February 2019. The Prespa Agreement (signed 17 June 2018) has widespread support, including from the United States, United Kingdom, and the European Union. The Agreement saw Greece lift its long-standing veto on North Macedonia joining NATO and the European Union.

Australia's recognition of the Republic of North Macedonia remains a contentious issue within the Macedonian community in Australia. s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Date cleared: 27 July 2021

Consultation: ISD, LGD / Home Affairs

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 47E(d)

**LEX 10955 - Document 22**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Date cleared: 27 July 2021

Consultation: ISD, LGD / Home Affairs

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Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Steven Barraclough, AS ELB

Date cleared: 27 July 2021

Consultation: ISD, LGD / Home Affairs

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Australian Government

## MEETING BRIEF FOR GOVERNOR-GENERAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**YOUR MEETING WITH: Ms Biljana STEFANOSKA SEKOVSKA (*Stif-an-OSKA Sik-OVSKA*), Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Macedonia, 9 August 2021.**

## Main Issues/Talking points:

- Australia and North Macedonia share a warm and positive bilateral relationship
  - strong people-to-people links (98,000 people claimed Macedonian ancestry in the 2016 census)
    - : prominent Macedonian Australians include: Peter Daicos – AFL legend, ‘Silverchair’ rock musician Chris Joannu, and National Gallery of Australia director Nick Mitzevich.
  - shared values and commitment to human rights and democracy
    - : visible in our multilateral cooperation and support for candidacies (e.g. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation)
    - : positive parliamentary cooperation, including delegations meeting at IPU General Assembly in 2019 (Belgrade)
    - : first bilateral Senior Officials’ Talks later this month
    - : MOU on Counter-terrorism cooperation (signed 2018) allows us to work together on fighting the scourge of terrorism.
- Congratulate North Macedonia on becoming NATO’s 30<sup>th</sup> member
  - Australia is a long-standing and committed partner of NATO
  - we continue to support your EU membership aspirations.
- Australia provides small grants to support grassroots projects in North Macedonia
  - e.g. women’s empowerment, disability support, inter-ethnic community relations (insider mediation)
  - and works with UNICEF to provide expert support in education.
- We were grateful for the generous donation from North Macedonia during the 2019-20 bushfires (AUD158,000 to NSW RFS)
  - and assistance evacuating stranded Australians on humanitarian flights at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - convey deepest sympathies over the loss of lives due to Covid-19 in North Macedonia.

*If raised: increasing Australia's diplomatic representation in North Macedonia?*

- Australia’s Embassy in Belgrade is able to serve the relationship with North Macedonia effectively, including through regular visits
  - supported by our longstanding Honorary Consul in Skopje (Mr Zoran Kostovski)
  - there is no scope to open Australian Government offices elsewhere in North Macedonia.

*If raised: paucity of trade and investment ties?*

- Understand the greatest potential is in mining
  - Australian businesses are always on the lookout for a competitive, predictable and transparent operating environment
  - But any growth in trade and investment will need to be organic and led by business.

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s 47F(1)

Steven Barraclough  
Assistant Secretary  
Latin America and Eastern Europe Branch

For information to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Consultation: Belgrade Post, Candidacies

EDRMS File No: s 47E(d)

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## OFFICIAL

**BACKGROUND**

Australia recognised the then-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) in February 1994 and established diplomatic relations on 20 October 1995. Australia's Ambassador to Serbia is accredited to North Macedonia and Montenegro. Through the Embassy in Belgrade, Australia provides small grants (direct aid projects) with developmental benefits for local communities: e.g. women's empowerment, disability support, inter-ethnic community relations (insider mediation). Then Foreign Minister Bishop visited Skopje in 2017. North Macedonia has a friendship group with Australia but the number of federal parliamentarians who have indicated interest in establishing a Parliamentary Friendship Group with North Macedonia has not yet reached the required level.

Australia welcomed the implementation of the Prespa Agreement in February 2019, under which fYRoM changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. The resident Australian population claiming Macedonian ancestry (2016 census) was 98,444. A sizeable proportion of that community does not support the government and has been vocal in opposition to the name change.

North Macedonia has consistently supported Australian candidates in multilateral forums, s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Given North Macedonia's small population, its foreign policy focuses on joining large entities for greater security: it became the 30<sup>th</sup> member of NATO on 27 March 2020. Its contribution to the military alliance is modest. In 2018, it spent only one percent of its GDP on defence and had 8,000 active-duty soldiers. EU integration remains a priority for North Macedonia, but rising scepticism in the EU at further enlargement is making the accession process difficult. s 33(a)(iii)

North Macedonia's economy is closely tied to the EU: almost half of its exports go to Germany, which along with the United Kingdom, are the main importers to North Macedonia.

As of 8 July, 12 per cent of the adult population in North Macedonia had been vaccinated against COVID-19. North Macedonia has received Pfizer vaccines (through COVAX) and Sinovac vaccines. North Macedonia in early July saw a sharp drop in new cases to less than ten cases daily. It has recorded 156,000 cases with 5,489 fatalities.

The political system of Republic of North Macedonia is a parliamentary republic comprising a unicameral Assembly of 120-123 members. s 33(a)(iii) Former Prime Minister Gruevski (2006-16) fled to Hungary in 2018 to avoid prison for corruption. He also faces charges of election irregularities, and abuse of office; these originate from a wiretapping scandal where the phone conversations of more than 20,000 people were illegally recorded.

The last parliamentary elections in July 2020 resulted in a narrow victory (46 of 120 seats) for the incumbent Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) party which had to form a coalition government s 33(a)(iii)

The government is led by prime minister Zoran Zaev. In the foreign affairs space, the deputy prime minister & minister for European affairs is Nikola Dimitrov, while the Minister for Foreign Affairs is Mr Bujar Osmani. He is the first ethnic Albanian politician to serve as Minister of Foreign Affairs (30 August 2020). From June 2017, he was Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European affairs. The Head of state - President Stevo Pendarovski - had held office since 2019.

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s 47E(d), s 47F(1)

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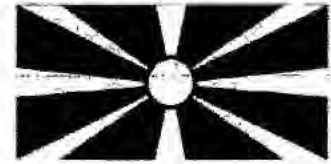
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Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

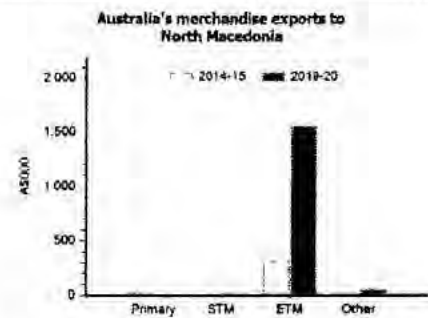
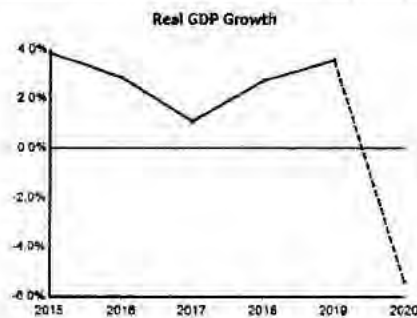
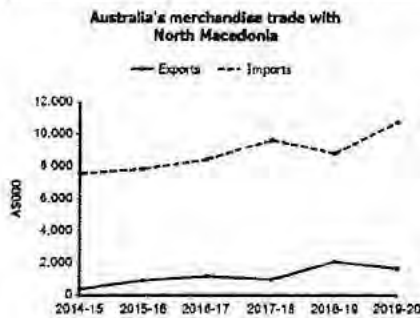


## General information

Fact sheets are updated biannually, August and February

<b>Capital:</b>	Skopje	<b>Head of State</b>	
<b>Land area:</b>	25,220 sq km	President HE Mr Stevo Pendarovski	
<b>Official language(s):</b>	Macedonian	<b>Head of Government</b>	
<b>Population:</b>	2.1 million (2019)	Prime Minister HE Mr Zoran Zaev	
<b>Currency:</b>	Denar		

Economic indicators (a)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP (US\$b) (current prices)	10.1	10.7	11.3	12.6	12.7	12.5
GDP per capita (US\$)	4,860.4	5,153.0	5,462.4	6,085.8	6,109.0	6,018.8
GDP PPP (Int'l \$b)	28.8	31.4	32.5	34.1	36.0	34.5
GDP per capita PPP (Int'l \$)	13,885.0	15,127.6	15,640.3	16,438.8	17,313.0	16,609.3
Real GDP growth (% change yoy)	3.9	2.8	1.1	2.7	3.6	-5.4
Current account balance (US\$b)	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.6
Current account balance (% GDP)	-2.0	-2.9	-1.0	-0.1	-2.8	-4.7
Inflation (% change yoy)	-0.3	-0.2	1.4	1.5	0.8	0.9
Unemployment (% labour force)	26.1	23.8	22.4	20.7	17.3	20.2



## Australia's trade and investment relationship with North Macedonia (b)

Australian merchandise trade with North Macedonia, 2019-20 (A\$000)	Total share	Rank	Growth (yoy)	
Exports to North Macedonia	1,652	0.0%	163rd	-20.6%
Imports from North Macedonia	10,749	0.0%	113th	22.0%
Total merchandise trade (exports + imports)	12,402	0.0%	138th	13.9%

### Major Australian exports, 2019-20 (A\$000)

Measuring & analysing instruments	443
Specialised machinery & parts	395
Telecom equipment & parts	141
Textile & leather machinery & parts	68

### Major Australian imports, 2019-20 (A\$000)

Edible products & preparations, nes	3,445
Vegetables, prepared or preserved	2,119
Made-up textile articles, nes	745
Cereal preparations	657

### Australia's trade in services with North Macedonia, 2019-20 (A\$m)

	Total share	Rank	Growth (yoy)	
Exports of services to North Macedonia	19	0.0%	94th	-17.4%
Imports of services from North Macedonia	28	0.0%	87th	-17.6%

### Australia's investment relationship with North Macedonia, 2019 (A\$m)

	Total	FDI
Australia's investment in North Macedonia	0	0
North Macedonia's investment in Australia	np	0

## North Macedonia's global merchandise trade relationships

### North Macedonia's principal export destinations, 2019

1 Germany	48.7%
2 Serbia	8.5%
3 Bulgaria	4.9%
39 Australia	0.1%

### North Macedonia's principal import sources, 2019

1 United Kingdom	11.5%
2 Germany	11.4%
3 Greece	8.1%
65 Australia	0.0%

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Note from DFAT Travel "this map is not current and the global travel advice is currently set to do not travel. The map does not reflect the current risks to safety and security in North Macedonia"

OFFICIAL



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 November 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) International - Americas and Europe  
**Subject:** RE: For review today | Letter regarding Prespa Agreement, Sun of Vergina [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We have found some additional words [below] that were cleared in January 2020 that could be useful for you.

s 47C(1)

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Prespa Agreement required the Government of North Macedonia to remove the Vergina Sun symbol from all public sites and public usages in the territory of North Macedonia. While Australia supports the Prespa Agreement and we would encourage all persons to respect the Agreement which has been ratified by the Governments of Greece and North Macedonia, it is a bilateral agreement between Greece and North Macedonia and it has no legal force in Australia.

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 November 2021 4:17 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: For review today | Letter regarding Prespa Agreement, Sun of Vergina [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks for sending these through s 22(1)(a)(ii) – really appreciate your quick attention on this today.

Is there anything more we're able to say about the flag? E.g. would it be possible to say something along the lines of

s 47C(1)

Just conscious it would be good to say something that clearly states what the Australian Government's role is here and where s 11C(1)(a) should direct s 11C(1)(a) concerns.

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Adviser | US & Americas  
 International Division | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
 m. s 22(1)(a)(ii) p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) | e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) .@pmc.gov.au



**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 November 2021 3:06 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: For review today | Letter regarding Prespa Agreement, Sun of Vergina [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Below are some TPs on North Macedonia which may be useful if you wish to add more content to the PMs reply. The TPs include a point on the Vergina Sun symbol. This has been raised in recent years, including by s 11C(1)(a)

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Eastern Europe and Western Balkans Section  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Acknowledge that the name change remains a sensitive issue
  - the Australian Government's adoption of the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement does not alter the rights of any persons in Australia of either Greek or Macedonian heritage.
- We are aware there has been controversy in the past regarding the use of a flag with a Vergina Sun symbol by a local government official as well as by members of the public. We realise that is a sensitive and long-standing issue across communities.
- We consider the Prespa Agreement offers the best prospect of strengthening security and prosperity for the people of North Macedonia and the region
  - thanks to the new nomenclature, North Macedonia has joined NATO (2020) and is seeking to start talks to join the European Union
  - Australia now refers to the government as the 'Government of North Macedonia' and to the people and language of North Macedonia as 'Macedonian'
    - Australia has been consistent in being aligned with the names used by the United Nations.
- The Australian Government is committed to maintaining our open and cohesive society
  - our society is enriched by the contributions of our multicultural population and we welcome the active contribution to our society by all Australians.

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 November 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>  
**Subject:** For review today | Letter regarding Prespa Agreement, Sun of Vergina [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I hope you're well. s 22(1)(a)(ii) suggested I get in touch with you regarding some correspondence to the Prime Minister on the Prespa Agreement and IP of the Sun of Vergina.

Unfortunately PMO has asked we turn this one around quite quickly – you can see it's dated 9 August but only just came to our team yesterday. The letter is below. I've attached our draft response but would welcome your review and sharing of any additional TPs you may have (in particular, is there an entity where **s 11C(1)(a)** can direct **s 11C(1)(a)** concerns, and is there anything we can say about the Sun issue).

Would be grateful for anything you can share with us by **COB today**. Apologies for this tight turnaround.

Kind regards

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Adviser | US & Americas

International Division | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

m. **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** | p. **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** | e. **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:dpmc.gov.au)

---

**s 11C(1)(a)**

s 11C(1)(a)

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au  
**Cc:** VSO  
**Subject:** RE: Advice re hate speech / local government and use of Macedonia and Vergina Sun [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.jpg](#)

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**OFFICIAL**

Dear s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thank you for getting in touch and apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

As discussed just now, and to answer your questions below, the [Prespa Agreement](#) between Greece and North Macedonia states that “Macedonia” [...] shall cease to be used to refer to the Second Party [North Macedonia] in **any official context**’.

Article 6 of the agreement also calls on each party (Greece / North Macedonia) to discourage misuse of terms by private entities which are likely to incite revisionism against the other party. Australia adopted the naming conventions under the Prespa Agreement but is not a party to the agreement.

For the purpose of responding to the enquiry you received, we’d suggest the below language.

I hope this helps, and please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Warm regards,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Business Liaison Officer  
Victorian State Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au) | [Twitter @DFATVic](https://twitter.com/DFATVic)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 April 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** VSO <[vso@dfat.gov.au](mailto:vso@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Advice re hate speech / local government and use of Macedonia and Vergina Sun

Hi,

I am asking for assistance in responding to an issue that has been raised to our Council in Hobsons Bay, Melbourne.

It is correspondence that is focussed on spreading ‘hate speech’. I have made contact with embassies and consular officials, and felt that potentially DFAT may be able to assist.



A group, the Macedonian Australian Cultural Orthodox run a festival each year that is called the Macedonian Festival.

1. Council has received a complaint that groups must not use the term Macedonia. Is this correct?

The festival uses the Vergina Sun in its work.

1. Council has received a complaint that groups using the term Macedonia must not use this imagery. Is this correct?

I would appreciate your advice.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Visit our website



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Manager Arts, Culture and Community

Arts, Culture and Community

T s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Arts At Your Door



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Message protected by MailGuard: e-mail anti-virus, anti-spam and content filtering.

<https://www.mailguard.com.au/mg>

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: NORTH MACEDONIA - New naming guidelines [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 22 May 2023 2:22:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks s 22(1)(a)(ii) appreciate your help!

Kind regards,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Policy Adviser | Economic Development and International Branch  
Department of Premier and Cabinet | Level 15, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000  
**Ph:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) | [www.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au) | [www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future.



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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 May 2023 9:17 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: NORTH MACEDONIA - New naming guidelines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Unfortunately, we don't have anything specific by way of a brief or circular. However, we'd recommend referring directly to the [Prespa Agreement](#), in particular clause 3(b). We also have a formal, public-facing [fact sheet](#) on North Macedonia, which states that Australia welcomed the Prespa agreement. Combined, these two documents should hopefully provide a reliable resource for any future stakeholders that might have questions. We'd also be more than happy to reconfirm Australia's position by email whenever useful.

Cheers,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 May 2023 9:02 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dpc.vic.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: NORTH MACEDONIA - New naming guidelines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks very much for this! I was wondering if you have any more formal-looking documents (eg a brief or circular) on this that we could keep on file to share with stakeholders in future?

Kind regards,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| Policy Adviser | Economic Development and International Branch  
Department of Premier and Cabinet | Level 15, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000  
**Ph:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) | [www.dpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au) | [www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future.



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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 May 2023 8:59 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dpc.vic.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dpc.vic.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: NORTH MACEDONIA - New naming guidelines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Just to formally close the loop following our meeting yesterday, the advice you shared remains exact. Citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia can be referred to as 'Macedonian'.

We still take our cue from the Prespa Agreement:

3. Pursuant to those negotiations the following have been mutually accepted and agreed:

a) The official name of the Second Party shall be the "Republic of North Macedonia", which shall be the constitutional name of the Second Party and shall be used *erga omnes*, as provided for in this Agreement. The short name of the Second Party shall be "North Macedonia".

b) The nationality of the Second Party shall be Macedonian/citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia, as it will be registered in all travel documents.

c) The official language of the Second Party shall be the "Macedonian language",

Cheers,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dpc.vic.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 May 2023 2:51 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@dpc.vic.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL: NORTH MACEDONIA - New naming guidelines

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. Please see attached the document I referred to, we'd be grateful for DFAT's advice confirming whether the community should be referred to as 'Macedonian' or 'North Macedonian (we believe the former is correct) as soon as possible this afternoon.

Kind regards,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| Policy Adviser | Economic Development and International Branch  
Department of Premier and Cabinet | Level 15, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000  
**Ph:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) <[www.dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@www.dpc.vic.gov.au) | [www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to them, their culture and their Elders past, present and future.



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s 11C(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Foreign Minister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 December 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** PDMS-Support  
**Subject:** s 11C(1)(a) Macedonian Cultural Festival  
**Attachments:** Screenshot\_2023-09-28-09-47-39-00\_40deb401b9ffe8e1df2f1cc5ba480b12.jpg  
**Categories:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

Info only thanks.

Kind regards,  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Office of the Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
Email: [foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au)

**From:** Wong, Penelope (Senator) <Senator.Wong@aph.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 October 2023 4:38 PM  
**To:** Foreign Minister <foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: MC23-002855

s 11C(1)(a)

s 11C(1)(a)

s 11C(1)(a)

LEY 40955 Document 27



s 11C(1)(a)

LEY 40055 Document 37

s 11C(1)(a)

