

## **U.S.–North Macedonia Strategic Partnership**

### **I. Current Partnership**

North Macedonia has made an explicit and durable strategic choice to align tightly with U.S. interests across trade, security, and foreign policy.

#### **A. Zero Tariffs on American Goods and Services**

- Status: implemented
- North Macedonia has unilaterally opened its market to the United States.
- Zero tariffs apply to all U.S. goods and services.
- Designed to increase American exports and support American jobs.
- Commitment: North Macedonia is prepared to take visible political decisions that demonstrate trust and long-term commitment with the United States.

#### **B. China Policy – Fully Coordinated with Washington**

- Status: in effect
- In consultation with the Department of State, North Macedonia established a dedicated inter-agency working group that tracks Chinese engagement, investment and influence in the country and in the wider region.
- Within these working groups, all significant decisions involving Chinese entities in strategic sectors are discussed with U.S. partners in advance, including:
  - Critical infrastructure
  - Telecommunications
  - Digital networks
  - Sensitive investments
- Aim: avoid strategic dependencies and to ensure that long-term choices are fully compatible with U.S. and NATO interests.

#### **C. Voting record**

- Status: ongoing
- North Macedonia’s voting record reflects its consistent alignment with partners of the United States. North Macedonia supports decisions and resolutions initiated by the United States in:
  - Ukraine
  - Israel-Palestine
  - Cuba

#### **D. Strategic Mindset**

- North Macedonia views the United States as a primary security, economic, and political partner.
- North Macedonia is prepared to make necessary decisions to achieve closer alignment with the United States.

### **II. Prospective Partnership**

On this foundation of political alignment, North Macedonia proposes a structured government-to-government (G2G) package between President Trump and Prime Minister Mickoski. This package is designed to:

- Turn North Macedonia into a gateway for U.S. LNG and energy investment into Southeastern Europe.
- Reserve hundreds of millions of dollars in ICT and cyber contracts exclusively for U.S. companies.
- Give U.S. defense and major IT companies preferential access to a growing NATO market.
- Anchor U.S. strategic presence in a stable, pro-American government in Southeast Europe.

The proposed package consists of three main pillars:

### **Pillar I: Energy Security and the American LNG Corridor (1.5 billion USD)**

North Macedonia is already constructing a gas interconnector with Greece, creating a route for American LNG (delivered to Greek terminals) to reach North Macedonia's market.

To build on this, North Macedonia proposes:

- **North Macedonia-Serbia Gas Interconnector**
  - Preferential access for U.S. companies for the design, construction, financing and, where appropriate, operation of the new North Macedonia-Serbia pipeline.
  - Use of U.S. financing instruments (DFC, EXIM and others) to de-risk the project and accelerate implementation.
  - Full compliance with EU energy rules while maximizing the role of American LNG and American technology.
- **Čebren-Galište Hydropower Complex**
  - A large pumped-storage and hydroelectric project that stabilizes the regional grid.
  - Exclusive or preferential partnership opportunities for U.S. energy companies in development, financing and operation.

The strategic impact for the U.S. would be:

- A genuine American energy corridor from Greek LNG terminals through North Macedonia to Serbia and further into Central and Eastern Europe.
- Reduced regional dependence on Russian gas.
- Long-term commercial relationships for U.S. companies in energy infrastructure, technology, and services.

This proposal is especially timely amid recent geopolitical shifts in the Middle East, underscoring the importance of allied partnership in securing access to resilient and reliable energy routes.

### **Pillar II: Cyber and Digital Security Package (700 million-1 billion USD)**

Joint assessments with U.S. partners indicate that North Macedonia must significantly upgrade and centralize its government cyber and ICT systems. North Macedonia seeks to do this exclusively with American technology and expertise. North Macedonia proposes:

- Concluding a government-to-government agreement under which North Macedonia will procure at least 500 million USD and up to 700 million USD in products, services, and solutions from U.S. companies.
- Base Macedonia's core government ICT architecture on exclusively American hardware and software.
- Implement a centralized, secure government ICT model, modernizing and consolidating systems across ministries and key agencies (fully interoperable with U.S. and NATO standards).

In parallel, North Macedonia is prepared to:

- Grant preferential status to large U.S. IT companies wishing to establish data centers, cloud infrastructure, development hubs or regional headquarters in our country.
- Work with U.S. partners on tailored incentives to make North Macedonia a regional platform for American digital companies serving Southeast Europe.

### **Pillar III: Defense Industrial Partnership and Krivolak Training Center**

Defense and security have become central issues across Europe. North Macedonia is currently increasing defense spending – with a trajectory of up to 5% of GDP.

In this regard, North Macedonia proposes to:

- Establish a framework that gives preferential access to U.S. defense companies in North Macedonia's procurement.
- Utilize priority consideration in procuring U.S. defense sector products.
- Establish structured G2G agreements for key systems.
- Maintain long-term service, training, and maintenance contracts.

Furthermore, North Macedonia proposes establishing the **Krivolak Joint Training and Readiness Center** as a bilateral Macedonian–U.S. facility, as Krivolak is NATO's largest and most advanced training area in Southeast Europe. Under this partnership:

- The U.S. Department of War would assume a lead role in infrastructure, digital simulation systems, and logistics.
- The training and readiness center will serve as a U.S. hub for multinational training, rapid response exercises, and regional security coordination.

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