



Hungarian American Coalition

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the events of the past year and a half have proven, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains an important institution for promoting security, spreading liberty, and protecting a Europe, whole, free, and at peace. On behalf of the Hungarian American Coalition, I am writing to urge you to consider the interests of the Euro-Atlantic community and express your clear support towards Macedonia by encouraging member-states of the Alliance to extend a formal invitation to the Republic of Macedonia to join NATO at the upcoming May 2012 Chicago Summit.

Macedonia has been a vital ally of NATO, since gaining its Membership Action Plan in 1999 at the Washington Summit. Macedonia currently is the fourth largest contributor per capita to NATO's ISAF mission, working diligently to provide security for the Allied forces in Kabul. Likewise, Macedonia continues to host the logistics supply headquarters for NATO's KFOR mission, and has safely given protection to 360,000 Kosovar refugees. Macedonia has also shown its commitment to world peace and to the values of NATO by serving in Allied missions in Iraq, Lebanon, and Bosnia.

NATO's existence following the post-Cold War transitional period was possible because of its ability to adapt to changes in the security environment and to keep the enlargement process active and dynamic – working to create a Europe, whole, free, and at peace. This dynamism has safeguarded European security after the dissolution of the Iron Curtain, and the end of the Cold War, allowing for the development of democracy, free market economics, stability, and security in Eastern Europe.

NATO has swiftly recognized the importance of integrating countries meeting the criteria for accession, something that we proudly obtained in 1999. We are aware, however, that enlargement continues to be of the utmost importance for the Alliance, and that there are numerous countries nearing key milestones to obtain membership. Macedonia has met all of the technical requirements for membership since 2008. However, due to the intransigence of the Greek government regarding the name-issue, Macedonia has yet to be offered its rightfully earned seat at the table. The ruling of the International Court of Justice this past December, noting that Greece had violated the UN Interim Accord by vetoing Macedonia's membership on the basis of their opposition to Macedonia's constitutional name, is important to consider in the administration's policy regarding enlargement moving forward. Macedonia has completed all necessary requirements, has proven itself a committed ally to NATO, and has international law on its side, as regards the name issue.

The emergence of NATO membership as a national aspiration for the countries of the Western Balkans has proven extremely beneficial in pacifying a region formerly engulfed in strife. The only way to perpetuate this peace and security in the Western Balkans is to disseminate the collective values of the Alliance, and work closely to bring these nations closer to NATO, thus institutionalizing international security.

We, at the Hungarian American Coalition, support Macedonia's membership into NATO, and we hope that you will be able to assist in ensuring Macedonia receives a formal invitation at the upcoming Chicago Summit next month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Teleki', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maximilian Teleki
President