

Series of debate on “The Crisis and the EU candidate countries”

A closely followed debate on the origins of the financial crisis in Europe

The first of a series of debates devoted to the financial crisis and its effects on the EU candidate countries took place on Friday March 1st 2013 at the EU’s Information Centre.

With the support of the French Institute of Paris (Fonds d’Alembert) and the Robert Schuman Foundation, the French Institute of Skopje invited Mr Franck Lirzin, a specialist of the European economy and of monetary policy.

This debate brought together around 100 people, mainly young economy and political science students, together with guest specialist Mr Franck Lirzin and Mr Ivica Bocevski, former Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European integration.

The aim was firstly to provide clear information to the Macedonian audience about the origins of the crisis and secondly to show that in spite of the financial turbulence and severe difficulties experienced to manage this, solidarity and dialogue have always prevailed, both within the euro zone and in the European Union. The strength of the Franco-German couple during this period and its ability to maintain dialogue were highlighted on several occasions by the speakers and also by the participants.

In conclusion all agreed on the idea that Europe would emerge strengthened by this crisis because “solidarity” would prevail over national egotism.

During this debate Mr Lirzin also gave two interviews to the local media.