

European Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters



Academia Balkanika Europeana



SKOPJE DECLARATION

At a time when leading European nations are reacting to their own internal problems by looking inwards and endangering the whole project of a European Union, there is an opportunity and a duty for smaller countries to pick up the torch and carry it forward. In this context, the countries of South-Eastern Europe – and in particular: Macedonia – have a federating role to play. For too long, the Balkans were the theatre of conflicts due to political disagreements. Today, the peoples of this region have a common aspiration: to create a European family of nations based on shared cultural values, not on economic and commercial rivalries which are the inevitable consequence of the treaties signed so far. We call for a cultural awakening of Europe, for clear statements of the values we all share, for a Parliament with real powers and for the dissolution of the often self-contradictory bureaucratic stratification which has impeded the construction of a true political Union.

In this respect, the *European Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters* supports establishing a new model in which our cultural heritage will provide the real link between nations. We are approaching the sixtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which called on free peoples to unite around the great European project. We recall the famous phrase of Jean Monnet on the need to rebuild the European Union on a cultural basis. This is what we have aimed for in Skopje by bringing together eminent researchers and artists representing ten countries of the region to found the *European Academy of the Balkans*.

The *European Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters* and the *European Academy of the Balkans* together support the project of a new European construction based on shared humanistic and cultural values.

“The Balkans are at the heart of Europe”

Signed in Skopje on 21/02/2017

Jean-Patrick **Connerade**
*President of the European
Academy of Sciences Arts and
Letters*
Jordan **Plevnes**
*Author, Rector of the University
of Audiovisual Arts of Skopje,
Member of the European
Academy of Sciences Arts and
Letters*
Alexandre **Prokopiev**
Author, Skopje

Ion **Caramitru** OBE
*Former Minister of Culture
of Romania, President of the
Academia Balkanika
Europeana*
Svetlana **Broz**
*Author and film director
Director of Gariwo*
Vladislav **Bajac**
*Author, novelist and poet,
Geo poetika, Beograd*

Jasmila **Zbanic**
Film director
Marina **Finci**
*Painter and
graphical artist*
Gradimir **Gojer**
*Author, theatre
director and poet*
All from Sarajevo
Nicolas **Wieers**
*Director Balkan
Trafik Festival
Brussels*

Branislav **Micunovic**
*Former Minister of
Culture of Montenegro*
Aleks **Popov**
Novelist, Sofia
Hristo **Boychev**
Playwright, Sofia
Atanasios **Vistonitis**
Author, Athens
Bashkin **Shehu**
Writer, Tirana
Vaso **Tole**
Composer, Tirana