



PRESS RELEASE

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## Macedonia: are we to change the name to enter NATO ?

The vast majority of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, 83%, do not agree for changes of the constitutional name of the country, if that is the price to be paid for NATO membership. A similar opinion the citizens have regarding the question of the official name of the country to be used in international communication. Whopping 81% of the citizens do not agree other countries and international organizations to refer to Macedonia with anything else than the constitutional name.

These are some of the results of the survey made by the Center for Research and Policy Making based on a sample of 1100 surveyed persons respecting the regional and ethnic distribution among the population, during the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Among the ethnic Albanians 52% agree to changes to the constitutional name of the country in order to get NATO membership, while 51% of the Macedonian Albanians agree to a different than the constitutional name of the country to be used in international communication (i.e. Macedonia to be referred to differently by other countries and international organizations). On the other hand, 95% of the ethnic Macedonians, are against changes of the name in order to get NATO membership while 91% of them are against to changes of constitutional name of the country to be used in international communication. The other ethnic groups in the country (Turks, Serbs, Roma, Bosniacs, and others) in great numbers refuse any changes of the name to get NATO membership or to be used in international communication.

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The current imbroglio over the Macedonian name and the final outcome of its bid for NATO membership might have repercussions on the perception of the Alliance among Macedonian citizens. Answering to the question “what is the level of your confidence in NATO today compared to the one last year” 16% answered that it is bigger, 22% answered it is smaller, while 35% said that it remains the same.

Although a vast majority of the citizens reject changes of the constitutional name of the country, when asked “in case the country must change the name would you agree to any of the following suggestions” reportedly made by the UN envoy Matthew Nimetz 36% would agree to the name Democratic Republic of Macedonia, 12% would agree to Independent Republic of Macedonia, 3% to Constitutional Republic of Macedonia Уставна, 5% to New Republic of Macedonia. 44% gave no answer indicating that they might be against changes of the name at any cost.

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