

## Republic of North Macedonia President

Courtesy translation!

Skopje, 25 March 2021

Distinguished Madam President,

On the occasion of the National Holiday of the Hellenic Republic, it is my special honor and pleasure, on behalf of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and on my personal behalf, to extend to you heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes for further prosperity and well-being of your country and welfare of the friendly Greek people.

At this solemn moment, as you celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Hellenic Republic, I would like to express my conviction that the relations of friendship, understanding and cooperation established between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Over the years, we have gone through many challenges, and today, we stand side by side as equal members and allies in the North Atlantic Alliance and continue to work to achieve the goals, interests and values we share as peaceful and democratic societies.

At the same time, I am deeply convinced that in the coming period we will witness an intensified, fruitful and open bilateral political dialogue, in the interest of our friendly peoples, as well as in the interest of the stability and security of the region.

In this regard, we highly value your country's support for the formal start of the accession negotiations of the Republic of North Macedonia with the European Union because it is not only an investment in the development of our bilateral relations, but also an investment in the further democratic development of the Western Balkans.

In the end, with all my sincere wishes for your personal happiness and good health, in anticipation of our recent meeting in Athens, allow me, Your Excellency, to extend to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Stevo Pendarovski

Her Excellency Mrs. Katerina Sakellaropoulou President of the Hellenic Republic

ATHENS