**NORTH MACEDONIA ON ITS EUROPEAN PATH**

**TRADE & INVESTMENT**
- The EU is North Macedonia’s biggest trading partner.
- The EU’s contribution to total Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia was €495.2 million in 2018.
- Volume of trade with the EU was €10 billion in 2019.

**MOBILITY & EMPOWERMENT**
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009.
- Pre-accession support has modernised sections of the Pan-European Corridor X motorway and railway Corridors VII and X.

**SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS 2014-2020 (€633 MILLION)**

**EU FUNDING**
- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia.
- €818 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999.
- €181.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, leveraging investments of estimated €2.1 billion.

**CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE**
- From IPA 2014-2020, €66 million in bilateral assistance for North Macedonia to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 provided regionally for an economic reactivation package.
- In addition, €160 million was approved by the EU in Macro-Financial Assistance for North Macedonia and the European Investment Bank is providing a €1.7 billion package of assistance to the region.

**SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION**
- Strengthening Democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights.
- Reforming public administration.
- Strengthening competitiveness and supporting business development.
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food.

**KEY MILESTONES**

- **OCTOBER 2009**
  - First recommendation to open accession negotiations.

- **DECEMBER 2009**
  - Entry into force of visa liberalisation.

- **APRIL 2018**
  - Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations.

- **JUNE 2018**
  - The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations.

- **MARCH 2020**
  - EU decides to open accession negotiations.

- **JULY 2020**
  - Presentation of draft negotiating framework.

**Source:** EU data