

**Address of Minister of Justice Bojan Marichikj
at the General Debate during the 30th Session of the Commission on
Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice
17 May 2021**

Dear colleagues' ministers,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to address the 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

First, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the continuing support and cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of criminal justice in the Republic of North Macedonia, as part of the UNODC Regional Program for South Eastern Europe (2020-2023).

In perfect compliance with the objectives of our Government, the regional program covers strategic issues related to the rule of law and good governance, especially in the areas of organized crime, cross-border crime, money laundering, prevention of corruption or supporting the development of national crime policies and strategies for their implementation.

As noted in the European Commission's Progress Report, in the past few years, North Macedonia has increased its efforts to deliver tangible results in the key areas such as the judiciary, fight against corruption, organized crime and especially white-collar crime.

At this point, North Macedonia is making efforts to increase its effectiveness in combating illicit financial flows and to strengthen asset recovery capabilities, with a general objective to enhance the capacity of such jurisdictions to recover the proceeds and instrumentalities of crime.

In the forthcoming period, our focus is on the preparation of a new Law on Asset Origin, as well as on the new Criminal Code in which we implement all the latest international standards such as a Directive and other international instrument in the area of fight against terrorism.

Most importantly, North Macedonia is increasingly working on the introduction of the digital courtroom, as the project of digitalization of nearly 200 courtrooms is currently underway.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me once again express my satisfaction as I had the opportunity to share with you our latest challenges in the field of criminal justice. Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of opening the accessions negotiations with the EU, as this process will foster the reforms in North Macedonia.

Thank you for your attention.