TRUMP SENDS US CONGRESS REPORT ON NORTH MACEDONIA JOINING NATO

- 28.03.2019

Sputnik News (28 March 2019)

The letter was sent to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House and Senate Committees on Foreign Affairs or Relations and the House and Senate Committees on the armed forces, the White House said.

The representatives of 29 NATO members on 6 February signed a protocol on Macedonia's accession to the alliance. The Balkan state is set to become the alliance's 30th member after all allies ratify its accession.

The Republic of North Macedonia, formerly known as simply Macedonia, changed its name under the 2018 Prespa agreement with Greece, which had been opposing its neighbor's use of the name "Macedonia " for years because it was also the name of a region in Greece.

The parliament of Macedonia approved on 11 January amendments to the constitution that would change the country's name to North Macedonia after a long dispute with Greece, clearing the way for the former Yugoslav republic to join NATO. The Greek parliament ratified the agreement on 25 January.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in February that the alliances enlargement to the east was not a provocation against Russia, dismissing such assessments as the concept of spheres of influence that should be left behind.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated that Moscow considers NATO's policy of enlargement in Europe a relic of the Cold War, an erroneous and destructive military and political strategy.

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