

POSITION PAPER

Country: Kingdom of Denmark

Committee: H-NATO: Historical North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Topic: North Macedonia Ethnic Rivalry (2001-2003)

Denmark is one of the 12 founding members of NATO which is the pioneer contributor to universal peace. Therefore, there hasn't been any major ethnic tension intrastate throughout the history of Denmark. Taking the demographics of Denmark into account, there are many ethnic groups (such as the Polish, the Turkish etc.) living together. However, this hasn't caused any tension; on the contrary, they keep on living amicably.

As a member of NATO, Denmark is in charge of looking for ways to overcome the tension, as well as to demonstrate a solution to the problem. Due to Macedonia's nationalism, there has been ethnic rivalries between Albanians and Macedonians. Albanians keep hold of being the largest minority group in the region. The fact that the Macedonian Constitution describes the country as "a state of ethnic Macedonians and other citizens" and considers Macedonian Albanians as "minorities" rather than "constitutive nation" were some of the reasons of the rising tensions. The frequent rejection of Albanian aspirations by the Macedonian political elite and the disregard against the Albanian language has led to the crisis as well.

VMRO-DPMNE (The International Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) was based on the national liberation and full independence of the Macedonian people. There were also parties that represented the ethnic Albanians; for instance, DUI (Democratic Union for Integration) and PDSH or DPA (Partia Demokratike Shqiptare, Democratic Party of Albanians). Apart from the political side of the crisis, NATO had three operations (Operation Essential Harvest, Operation Amber Fox and Operation Allied Harmony) in the region.

In order to solve the given problem, all ethnic groups or minorities should have equal rights regardless of their nationalities. They should be stated as "constitutive nations" and be able to provide the necessary education in their own language.

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/declassified_162357.htm

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Denmark

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/denmark/>

