Thursday, 7 April 2011 - Strasbourg

Explanation of vote:

*Pino Arlacchi (S&D), in writing*. – I voted in favour of this motion to wind up the debate on statements by the European Council and the Commission on the 2010 progress report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). I believe it is a very balanced motion.

It expresses concern about the current political situation in FYROM, including the boycott of the national parliament by the opposition parties, and about the risk that these developments could adversely affect the country's EU agenda. The motion also congratulates the country on the anniversary of the Ohrid Agreement, which remains the cornerstone of its inter-ethnic relations, and calls on the government to foster a comprehensive dialogue between the ethnic communities. I also appreciated the positive evaluation in the motion on FYROM's continuous efforts to stabilise the region.

[source: www.europarl.europa.eu]