



To: HE Katerina Stavreska
Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia in the United Kingdom
Embassy of the Republic of North Macedonia
London

Subject: Request for Bilateral Action on UK - North Macedonia Car Insurance Recognition

Dear Ambassador Stavreska,

I am writing to raise a longstanding and recurring issue that is affecting many members of the Macedonian diaspora in the United Kingdom, and one that I personally face every year as a regular traveller to North Macedonia by car.

Following the recent visit of Minister Timčo Mucunski to the United Kingdom and my subsequent appearance in the media, I have been contacted by a large number of fellow Macedonians living in the UK who have expressed concern about the lack of recognition for UK car insurance policies in North Macedonia. This issue affects not only diaspora families travelling for holidays or to visit relatives, but also those involved in business and humanitarian work.

North Macedonia remains one of the very few countries in Europe where UK motor insurance policies are not recognised, a situation that causes disproportionate difficulty for all British motorists travelling to the country.

As someone who has been driving to Macedonia almost every summer for the past 10 years, I can attest that the Green Card requirement or the need to purchase border insurance remains a persistent and frustrating obstacle.

Currently, British drivers must purchase temporary and third-party only insurance at the border (e.g. Tabanovce) for €50 (15 days) or €75 (30 days), payable only in cash (euros or denars). No card payments are accepted, and the border police withhold passports until the insurance is obtained and presented. This process is unnecessarily stressful. After driving more than 2,500 kilometres across Europe, often over several days, facing delays and uncertainty at the final border due to insurance requirements creates a frustrating and exhausting experience at the very end of a long journey. It does not feel like the warm welcome home that one would expect - especially from a country that aspires to be recognised as open, connected, and European.

In light of this, I respectfully urge the Embassy to initiate or support bilateral discussions with the relevant UK and Macedonian authorities to:

- Negotiate a mutual recognition agreement for motor insurance policies; or
- Explore the possibility of North Macedonia's (re)integration into the Green Card system to secure mutual recognition of UK motor insurance policies.

Such action would:

- Facilitate smoother and safer travel between the UK and North Macedonia;
- Support diaspora engagement, tourism, and economic activity;
- Reflect the government's stated commitment to strengthening ties with Macedonians abroad.

I would be grateful for any updates the Embassy could provide on this matter and would be happy to assist through consultation or collaboration with the wider Macedonian community in the UK.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing service.

Kiko Manevski, July 2025

<https://macedonians.co.uk/>