

## President Ivanov receives award at Crans Montana Forum

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**Skopje, 18 October 2014 (MIA)** - Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov is the recipient of the 2014 Prix de de Foundation, presented in the framework of the Crans Montana Forum.

President Ivanov is given the award for his personal contribution in activities and achievements in all fields of society, as well as his commitment in the defense of fundamental freedoms.

"I am proud that Macedonia is doing what the world will face in the future, because all societies will be multiethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual in years to come. We need leaders who will know how to cope with diversity, not destroy it. What we see in the Middle East is a result of a enclosed mindset, people who cannot recognize diversity and live with it. We live in a fast-changing world. Global media and internet bring a process of global ethnic revival. New communities are created daily on the web, Facebook, Twitter. Territory loses meaning. These new communities live in their own worlds. We need to give the young people a world where diversity is respected and lived with. Switzerland is a positive model of respecting diversity, while Macedonia is building a similar, specific model on the Balkans. We must promote the respect of diversity so that we avoid events occurring in today's hotspots, which contribute to the infecting of young people", said Ivanov, adding the prestigious award recognized Macedonia and its citizens.

This year's laureates also include UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Bosnia&Herzegovina Presidency chairman Bakir Izetbegovic, former Senegal Prime Minister Aminata Toure, and posthumously to Herve Gourdel.

The Prix de la Foundation has been presented since 1989 as recognition for social responsibility and controbution to global growth and development. **ik/11:56**