

Ivanov wins Macedonia presidential vote

by UPI

SKOPJE, Macedonia -- Gjorge Ivanov, candidate of the ruling conservative VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition, won Macedonia's presidential election, officials said Monday.

Ivanov won a five-year mainly ceremonial term as head of what is officially known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the MIA news agency said.

Final election results showed Ivanov won a runoff election Sunday, collecting 437,455 votes, while Ljubomir Frckoski of the Social-Democratic party won 252,195 votes, Aleksandar Novakovski of the state election commission said.

The voter turnout was 42.86 percent, just over the 40 percent limit needed to make the presidential election valid.

Ivanov, who is scheduled to take the office of the president May 12, said three major priorities are his country's intergration into the European Union and NATO and resolving, with Greece, the issue of Macedonia's name.

Greece has opposed the Skopje government's intention to use the name of Macedonia because it has its own province named Macedonia.

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