

**DOCUMENT PROVIDED BY BULGARIA**

**NEGOTIATING POSITION  
ON CHAPTER 26  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

***OVERALL POSITION***

The Republic of Bulgaria accepts and will implement in full the acquis in the field of External Relations.

As a working hypothesis, the Bulgarian Government considers that Bulgaria will become a member of the EU on 01.01.2007.

In the field of External Relations Bulgaria does not envisage necessity for derogations or transitional periods.

***OVERVIEW OF THE ALIGNMENT WITH THE ACQIUS***

As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Bulgaria leads a trade policy based on the WTO rules. These rules are also the basis of the Common Commercial Policy of the EU. In the accession process Bulgaria shall actively coordinate its positions with the EU within the WTO, including the multilateral trade negotiations, with the aim to provide for smooth accession to the EU and adoption of the Common Commercial Policy. The Republic of Bulgaria will join all plurilateral agreements and sectoral initiatives within the WTO to which the EU is a party.

All existing and envisaged trade policy laws, measures and regimes are targeted at achieving the closest approximation to the EU rules and at providing for smooth adoption and implementation of these rules upon accession.

Bulgaria might request transitional arrangements, aimed at maintaining the established preferential trade regime with FYROM<sup>1</sup>. This request is justified by reasons of contributing to the association and stabilization process in South-Eastern Europe, launched by the EU, and also of preserving its traditional political, cultural and economic ties with a neighboring country.

Bulgaria appreciates the efforts made by the EU to promote stability in the region in particular by encouraging the establishment of regional organisations for free trade and economic cooperation as a basis for closer integration in the region of South-Eastern Europe. Bulgaria expects these efforts to continue in the future. In this context Bulgaria resorts to the Conclusions of the Helsinki Summit to the effect that: "The prospect of stabilisation and association agreements should enable closer relations to be developed between all of the states in the region in all areas. Support from the Union will depend on the clear and visible commitment of the states of South Eastern Europe to cooperate in order to achieve the common political priorities. The European Council stresses the major importance of improving relations and removing trade barriers and barriers to the movement of people between the countries concerned."

---

<sup>1</sup> Bulgaria has recognized the The Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name  
20144/00 CONF-BG 12/00

Bulgaria will take all appropriate measures to ensure compatibility with the acquis of its agreements, concluded with third countries, until accession.

All necessary institutional infrastructures for the implementation of the EU legislation in the area of External Relations are in place and will be functioning in full conformity with the acquis by the date of accession of Bulgaria to the EU.

\* \*

\*

The Bulgarian Government proposes the negotiations on this chapter to be provisionally closed on the basis of the existing acquis.

Should new elements of the acquis make it necessary, Bulgaria recognizes the possibility of opening supplementary negotiations before the end of the Intergovernmental Conference.