

**EUROPEAN UNION COMMON POSITION  
(Replaces doc. 20161/01 CONF-BG 15/01)**

**Chapter 3: Freedom to Provide Services**

This position of the European Union is based on its general position for the Accession Conference with Bulgaria (CONF-BG 2/00), and is subject to the negotiating principles endorsed by this Conference (CONF-BG 14/00), in particular:

- "- any view expressed by either party on a chapter of the negotiations will in no way prejudice the position which may be taken on other chapters;
- agreements - even partial - reached during the course of the negotiations on chapters to be examined successively may not be considered as final until an overall agreement has been established".

The EU underlines the importance for Bulgaria of compliance with the Association Agreement as well as the Accession Partnership, which constitute basic elements of the enhanced pre-accession strategy. The EU encourages Bulgaria to continue the process of alignment with the *acquis* and its effective implementation.

The EU recalls that Bulgaria, in its position (CONF-BG 3/01) accepts the *acquis* under chapter 3 as in force on 31 December 2000 and that Bulgaria declares that it will be able to implement it by the date of accession, with the exception of a request for a transitional period in the field of investment services. The EU takes note of the additional information provided by Bulgaria (CONF-BG 23/01, 41/01, 53/01 and 67/01).

As an overall response to Bulgaria's request for a transitional period, the EU recalls its general negotiating position that transitional measures are exceptional, limited in time and scope, and accompanied by a plan with clearly defined stages for the application of the *acquis*. They must not