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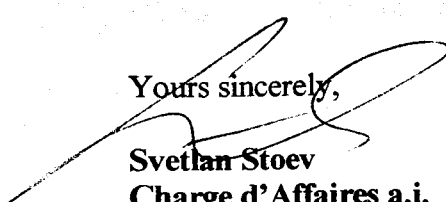
Mr. Claus Larsen-Jensen
Chairman of the
European Affairs Committee
of the Folketing of the
Kingdom of Denmark

Dear Mr. Larsen-Jensen,

Herewith enclosed you can find for your information the Strategy for Accelerating Bulgaria's Negotiations for Accession to the European Union and the Action Plan for the period January – July, 2002.

I hope that you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,


Svetlan Stoev
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

./ enclosure as per text above

Strategy for accelerating Bulgaria's negotiations for accession to the European Union

Introduction

The considerable progress made by the Republic of Bulgaria in the process of accession to the European Union in the period 2000-2001 created a stable basis for building the country's European perspective.

The analysis of the situation permits to identify concrete measures for a successful conclusion of the accession negotiations in 2003, in compliance with the objectives of the government programme.

In its decision of 19.12.2001, the National Assembly clearly confirmed the will and support of all the parliamentary represented political forces to mobilise Bulgaria's efforts and resources towards achieving the primary national objective – Bulgaria's membership in the European Union.

The 2001 Regular Report on Bulgaria's progress towards EU membership and the framework for co-operation outlined in the Accession Partnership document clearly identify the topics that this country will prioritise in a short-term perspective.

The clear political commitment of the Government concerning the struggle against corruption, the reform of the judiciary, and strengthening border control, as outlined in the government's programme of management, fully meets the priorities for EU membership.

The funding of the present Strategy is provided for by the financial framework established by the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, the implementation of which is guaranteed by the national budget, by financial resources allocated through the European Union's pre-accession programmes, and by bilateral co-operation with European Union Member States.

Principles and objectives

The present Strategy brings together the efforts, which Bulgaria will make for the fulfilment of the sector strategies having a direct bearing on the process of the country's accession to the European Union:

- Strategy for reform of the Bulgarian judicial system;
- National strategy for combating corruption;
- Strategy for the establishment of a modern administrative system of the Republic of Bulgaria (draft);
- Communication strategy for Bulgaria's accession to the European Union;

translation of the *acquis communautaire*, and to guarantee the four stages of editing (linguistic, legal, terminological, and final, by the WG). At least 17 000 pages (having the format of the Communities' Official Gazette) must be translated annually.

- Strategy for Bulgaria's participation in the European Union's Structural Funds (draft);
- National strategy for the development of the energy system and energy effectiveness (draft)

Upholding an accelerated pace of the negotiating process and its rapid completion require the implementation of the following strategic objectives as a matter of priority:

- Objective No. 1: Implementing the recommendations of the 2001 Regular Report;
- Objective No. 2: Accelerating the approximation of legislation, strengthening the administrative capacity, and ensuring an effective monitoring of the process;
- Objective No. 3: Ensuring the effective absorption of the pre-accession instruments;
- Objective No. 4: Securing the necessary foreign policy support for the rapid completion of negotiations;
- Objective No. 5: Launching a campaign to acquaint the Bulgarian and international public with the advantages of Bulgaria's accession to the European Union;
- Objective No. 6: Speeding up the work relating to the translation of the *acquis communautaire* in the Bulgarian language.

The updated National Programme for Adoption of the *Acquis* will determine the long-term programming framework for the implementation of these strategic objectives. The short-term objectives will form part of a Plan of Action forming part of the present Strategy, which will be updated every six months – in the beginning of each Member State's successive Presidency of the Union. The co-ordinating mechanism for European integration will exercise monitoring of the implementation of these measures.

Objective No. 1: Implementing the recommendations of the 2001 Regular Report

The Republic of Bulgaria accepts the recommendations of the 2001 Regular Report for implementation of the membership criteria. Their implementation is important for this country's preparation for membership and for the progress of the negotiation process. The Bulgarian Government considers that these recommendations are its main priority, and has the necessary political will for their implementation. Bulgaria relies on the solidarity and support of the European Union in the implementation of the priorities underscored by the Regular Report.

National level – targeted at the Bulgarian public, in order to explain and to attract the citizens of this country towards Bulgaria's "European idea";

International level – targeted at the citizens of the 15 Member States of the European Union, in order to increase the number of the supporters of Bulgaria's membership in the European Union.

The strategy identifies the following **measures**:

- Mobilisation of the available resources
- Taking advantage of events that are planned and held by other organisations and institutions
- Training of the working team
- Work with the target groups

Partners within the strategy are the State institutions, the non-governmental organisations and social partners, the Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria, the embassies of the Member States of the European Union and of the candidate countries, etc.

The strategy seeks to place the issue of communications about Europe's integration on a different principle. If so far it has been a foreign policy objective, our new priority is to present it to the public as a **daily domestic policy point**. Therefore, the messages of Bulgaria's European integration must be translated in a clear language, and be situated in the context of their real daily dimension that is close to every citizen.

On the other hand, the progress of Bulgaria's negotiations for membership in the Union is turning the topic into an important point of public interest. The strategy requires that **all the available resources and institutions are mobilised for the holding of a public debate on European integration**. The debate will certainly meet the need for information, and may prevent a possible disappointment due to certain exaggerated or unrealistic expectations. It aims at winning real support for the policy of the Government in favour of this country's EU membership.

Following such a communication policy would not only satisfy every person's need for information about what the EU membership truly means, but will also make the process democratic and legitimate.

Objective No. 6: Speeding up the work relating to the translation of the *acquis* communautaire in the Bulgarian language

One of the requirements for the candidate countries is that, by the time of their accession, they should have translated the normative acts forming the *acquis* into their national language. Further efforts will be made to increase the administrative capacity of the Centre for Translations and Editing, established in May 2001 to accelerate the

Bulgaria meets the **political criteria**. In the context of the preparations for full membership, and bearing in mind the recommendations made, the following issues will be dealt with as priorities by 2003:

- Strengthening the National Council for Ethnic and Demographic Matters and of the State Agency for Protection of Children;
- Harmonisation of the legislation and the practice regarding the granting of asylum and the treatment of refugees;
- Harmonisation of the legislation by adopting the Prevention of Discrimination Act;
- Effective enforcement of the existing legislation in implementing the Framework Programme for the Integration of the Roma Population.

The resolute implementation of reforms will allow Bulgaria to meet the **economic criteria**, and to be able to meet the competitive pressures of the market forces in the Union in the near future. In this context, the following issues will be dealt with as priorities:

- transparency of privatisation procedures and improving post-privatisation control;
- privatisation of the State-owned minority shares;
- stimulating the development of the labour market policy;
- further liberalisation of prices;
- restructuring of the energy sector;
- improving the administrative procedures for entry to and exit from the market;
- development of the land market;
- strengthening of the banking sector, including improvement of the quality of financial mediation;
- development of the capital markets;
- improving the quality of infrastructure;
- effective implementation of the new legal framework of internal and external financial control, which will result in a real improvement of financial control in the State sector.

Administrative reform and administrative capacity

In the context of the completion of the administrative reform, Bulgaria will adopt a Strategy for the formation of a modern administration and a Plan of Action thereof. In the context of that strategy:

- Additional measures will be adopted for the formation of an effective, professional and motivated administration, which is capable of effectively implementing the Community law.
- Transparency of the work of the administration and its accountability will be ensured.
- Regular training of the administration will be guaranteed.

- Making a maximum use of the possibilities of the so-called twinning with the administrations of the Member States so as to expand the network of co-operation with these administrations and to achieve their closer involvement in this country's efforts towards accession;
 - Actively searching for support, and making an optimal use of the programmes that the Member States offer bilaterally in support of the candidate countries' pre-accession process;
 - Pursuing a persistent information policy in the Member States to ensure the support of the public for Bulgaria's accession to the European Union;
 - Attracting foreign investors from the Member States and actively searching for their support for Bulgaria's faster accession to the European Union.
2. Active contacts with the European Union institutions and with the Presidency:
- Establishment of a regular practice of holding preliminary consultations with the European Commission on the subject matter of negotiations, so as to find solution to the unclear or debatable points and to reduce the schedule for exchange of written documents;
 - Increased Bulgarian presence in the country holding the Presidency of the European Union, and active search for support for the implementation of our internal timetable regarding the pace of negotiations;
 - Active bilateral contacts and consultations with the country which will next hold the Presidency of the Union, in order to lay "favourable grounds" for the pursuit of our national policy in the process of negotiations with the European Union;
 - Active and substantiated declaration of our needs for pre-accession assistance, including additional specific support;
 - Active participation in the political dialogue between Bulgaria and the European Union with a view to fostering Bulgaria's image as a reliable partner with a specific expertise, knowledge and connections in different regions of the world;
 - Intensifying relations with the European Parliament with a view to gaining political support for the enlargement of the Union as an all-inclusive and irreversible process.

Objective No. 5: Launching a campaign to acquaint the Bulgarian and international public with the advantages of Bulgaria's accession to the European Union

The Council of Ministers adopted a Communication Strategy for Bulgaria's preparation for membership in the European Union.

The implementation of a communication strategy aims to better acquaint the Bulgarian citizens with the daily dimensions of the EU membership, and at the same time it envisages efforts targeted at increasing the knowledge of the European citizens about Bulgaria. This is why the campaign is thematically divided in two main areas, depending on the objectives and on the public:

The judiciary

The Republic of Bulgaria adopted a National Strategy for Reform of the Judiciary and A Plan of Action, which envisage:

- Strengthening of the judiciary;
- Guaranteeing its independence, impartiality and professionalism;
- Increasing the effectiveness of the judiciary;
- Ensuring the human and administrative capacity and the financial support of the judiciary;
- Improving the access to justice.

Struggle against corruption

The Republic of Bulgaria adopted a National Strategy for Combating Corruption.

Objective No. 2: Accelerating the approximation of legislation, strengthening the administrative capacity and ensuring an effective monitoring of the process

In order to maintain the pace of negotiations and bring the negotiating process to a successful completion, Bulgaria must give its European partners a clear signal about its determination to implement the reforms, which go together with the negotiating process and which are sometimes very costly and unpopular.

The long-term framework of the implementation of the Strategy will be determined by the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, which will be respectively updated.

In order to guarantee the regular implementation of commitments, the Government will adopt a Plan of Action comprising detailed measures for the solution of open negotiating issues, harmonising the legislation and administrative capacity-building. The Plan of Action will be updated every six months (at the take-over of the Presidency of the Union).

The co-ordinating mechanism for European integration will exercise monitoring of the implementation of the commitments of the Bulgarian side.

The measures that will be adopted for the implementation of the commitments per chapters of the future Treaty of the Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union are described below.

Chapter 1: Free movement of goods

Following the progress made in harmonising the domestic legislation with the acquis communautaire in the area of free movement of goods, the main emphasis will be laid

for ensuring foreign policy support for Bulgaria's efforts towards membership in the European Union.

In the context of an intensified dialogue with the Member States of the European Union, including on a summit and on top levels, Bulgaria will undertake:

- To present its vision of the course of the negotiations – its internal road map;
- To insist that the Commission's new road map for Bulgaria should reflect as best as possible this country's vision of the course of the negotiations;
- To arrive at such a text on the enlargement, as part of the decisions of the forthcoming meetings of the European Council (Seville, Copenhagen), which is more favourable for Bulgaria;
- To insist on the full implementation of the principle of catching-up, based on an equal treatment and own merits.

Concrete foreign policy activities

Development of active co-operation with the Union's Member States in order to clarify our positions on the individual negotiating chapters, in search of active support for Bulgaria during the process of negotiations.

Bulgaria will keep following an active policy of regional co-operation in order to affirm its positions as a factor of stability in the Balkans, and as a valuable and reliable partner of the European Union in the region.

In the context of the debate about Europe's future, Bulgaria will actively participate in the Convent defending the positions of a reliable and constructive partner in an enlarged European Union.

Foreign policy activities will concentrate in two main areas:

1. Intensive bilateral contacts with the Member States, with a view to:

- Strengthening the specialised capacity of this country's diplomatic missions in the European capital cities in the area of European integration, in order to stimulate their participation in ensuring foreign policy support for Bulgaria in the course of its accession negotiations;
- Making active efforts to prevent at an early stage possible problems in individual negotiating areas, and to search for ways and means for their quick and effective settlement;
- Encouraging contacts and consultations between experts and circles related to the formation of the Member States' national positions on individual items; in particular, it shall encourage the inter-departmental/sectoral co-operation, relations with non-governmental organisations, with interested business circles, etc.

on the implementation of legislation and on strengthening the respective administrative structures. In this connection, also to accelerate negotiations on Chapter 1, special efforts will be made in the following areas:

- Separating the activities related to standardisation, certification, and market monitoring.
- Speeding-up the pace of the adoption of harmonised European standards to achieve membership in CEN and CENELEC.
- Removing the system of pre-market evaluation in the area of foodstuffs and cosmetics, and speeding-up the introduction of food safety legislation. Restructuring and adjustment of laboratories in line with EU requirements.
- Establishment of an effective network of independent certification bodies and laboratories.
- Special attention will be paid to the development of the national system for conformity of certificate, in particular of the certification agencies that play an important role in the procedures of conformity of certificate, pursuant to a Global Approach.
- Introducing appropriate customs certification of conformity with the safety requirements of products at the external borders.
- Achieving full harmonisation with the principles of the European Union in the area of public procurement.

Chapter 2: Free movement of persons

In order to accelerate the negotiations on chapter 2, the following activities will be pursued:

- Preparations for analysis of the necessary amendments to the Constitution as regards the requirements of the European Union, and resolving the issue of the voting rights of the citizens.
- Ensuring the equal treatment of foreign workers in Bulgaria.
- Making a clear distinction between academic and vocational recognition of qualifications.
- Concluding agreements for co-operation with the Member States in the social security area.

Chapter 3: Freedom to provide services

The main priorities in the area of the freedom to provide services are:

- Making progress in the domestic legislation by introducing measures related to a better protection of creditors and to bank insolvency.
- Making progress in the area of insurance, and development of a more competitive insurance market.

sector, and implementation of internal and external audit pursuant to the principles of the European Union.

- Adoption of measures for strengthening the administrative structure and the capacity of the State Internal Financial Control Agency, and increasing the qualification of the personnel operating in the financial control system.
- Identifying a central contact unit, which will be responsible for the co-operation with the structures of the European office for fraud prevention (OLAF).

Chapter 29: Financial and budgetary provisions

- Improving the analysis of goal-directed policies, programmes, and projects to the extent that State expenditures are planned on the basis of the means available.
- Expanding the scope of the unified account system and the financial management information system.
- Furthering the efforts at reducing the number of budget authorising officers and the number of extra-budget accounts.
- Introducing a centralised co-ordination of the appropriate collection, monitoring, transfer and control of the funds coming from and into the Union's budget.
- Improving the co-ordination between the institutions engaged in the implementation of a self-sustained system.

Objective No. 3: Ensuring the effective absorption of the pre-accession instruments

A major priority of the Bulgarian Government is strengthening the programming and monitoring capacity in the framework of the European Union's pre-accession financial instruments – Phare, ISPA, and SAPARD. In order to ensure the effective absorption of the pre-accession instruments, Bulgaria will undertake:

- To strengthen the administrative capacity for absorption of the pre-accession funds of the European Union by giving emphasis to the inter-departmental co-ordinating mechanisms for the purpose of optimising the entire programming cycle;
- To strengthen the institutional framework of the respective administrative capacity for monitoring of the assimilation of the pre-accession funds;
- To guarantee a reliable co-financing of the projects in the framework of the pre-accession funds;
- To develop programmes for the training of experts who will implement the overall programming cycle, and for the creation of administrative conditions for incorporating the strategic planning methods and the programming approaches in the activities of the administration.

Objective No. 4: Securing the necessary foreign policy support for the rapid completion of negotiations

The country's domestic policy for EU membership and the conclusion of the accession negotiations will be supported by active, purposeful and persistent diplomatic activities

- Adoption of measures for the development of the capital market in Bulgaria. The creation of a legislative framework for the operation of the capital market, pursuant to the acquis communautaire, is one of the chief prerequisites for its gradual development, encouraging foreign investors and the market orientation of the country's economic system.

Chapter 4: Free movement of capital

- Harmonisation of legislation in the area of payments, payment systems and securities settlement;
- As a matter of priority, BNB must transpose the requirements concerning gross settlement systems in real time. Projects are developed for amendments to the legal framework concerning the introduction of a real-time Gross Settlement System.

Chapter 5: Company law

- Improving the normative framework in the area of the protection of the intellectual and industrial property rights so as to secure, by the date of accession, such a level of protection of these rights, which is equal to that in the European Union.
- Improving the legislative implementation and inter-departmental co-ordination in the area of the protection of the intellectual and industrial property rights by strengthening the administrative and judicial capacity and by respective training.
- Finalising the harmonisation of the Bulgarian legislation with the requirements of the directives of the European Communities in the company law sector so as to achieve uniformity of the conditions for commercial activities in Bulgaria with those in the European Union Member States.
- Preparations for effective introduction, by the date of Bulgaria's accession to the EU, of procedures corresponding to those in the Member States, regarding the jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters.

Chapter 6: Competition policy

- Development of an effective system of notification allowing for ex ante control of allocated state aids.
- Incorporating the aids allocated in the form of tax concessions in the framework of the state aids register and in the annual report.

Chapter 7: Agriculture

- Introducing the elements of the Union's Common Agricultural Policy in Bulgaria: development of a legal framework, ensuring the necessary funds, and preparing the accreditation of an intervention and payment agencies with State Fund Agriculture;
- Adoption of the European Union's periodic price reporting mechanism of agricultural products; strengthening and expanding the market information system;

- Ensuring compliance of R. Bulgaria's commitments regarding its access to the market and trade in services in the WTO with those in the European Union, in the framework of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations;
- Strengthening the administrative capacity so as to improve exports control;
- Training of administrative personnel in matters relating to the Union's policy for development and humanitarian assistance, with a view to ensuring those people's participation in the working bodies of the European Union from the date of accession.

Chapter 27: Common foreign and security policy

- Active policy in support of the CFSP of the European Union, pursuant to the commitments made in the framework of the accession negotiations.
- Policy of active joining of declarations, démarches and Common positions of the European Union:
 - Active participation in the political dialogue with the European Union;
 - Active policy in support of the European **Common foreign and security policy** – an important stage of the long-term political strategy of the European Union, and national **contribution to the achievement of its objectives**;
 - Active participation in the permanent mechanism for dialogue and consultations on all levels
- Development of the qualitative aspects of the additional input to the European crisis management capacity by military means, namely:
 - Contribution to the Union objectives regarding the civil aspects of crisis management, pursuant to the proposed modalities for participation by third countries
 - Full participation in joint exercises in the framework of the European Union's Exercises Policy and the 2001-2006 Exercises Programme
 - Participation in the framework of the enhanced co-operation of the defence industries of the Member States of the European Union
- Co-operation with the European Union in the framework of the international organisations and in its relations with third countries;
- Co-operation with the European Union in the area of the diplomatic and consular protection in third countries;
- Putting in place of an effective system of control of foreign trade activities involving arms, goods and technologies of possible dual use, and effective implementation of EU negative measures against third countries;
- Active role for the achievement of stability and co-operation in the region, and contribution by transferring the common European democratic values in the context of the region.

Chapter 28: Financial control

- Putting the new model of external and internal financial control in operation. Building and operation of financial management and control systems in the public

- Harmonisation of agricultural statistics, development of a legal framework, and undertaking an agricultural census in 2003; introducing the agricultural accounting data system (FADN);
- Establishment of a control system in the "Wines and Spirits" sector compatible with European Union requirements; development of an information system, a register of wine growers and a vine register;
- Introducing the EU classification system of slaughterhouse carcasses of bovine animals, small farm animals and swine in Bulgaria;
- Adoption of measures for the implementation of the Strategy for Food Safety;
- Strengthening the veterinary and phyto-sanitary control inside the country and along the future external borders of the European Union;
- Resolving the problems related to the lack of private capital and investments in the agricultural sector;
- Identification and implementation of measures for the establishment of a functioning and transparent land market.

Chapter 8: Fisheries

- Harmonised and effective implementation of the secondary legislation in the sector; strengthening the capacity for inspection and supervision on the central and local levels;
- Creation of an operational information system covering the activities in the area of fisheries;
- Introducing the requirements for the provision of adequate statistical and market information;
- Implementation of the system for licensing of industrial fishing and registration of persons breeding fish and other water organisms;
- Restoring Bulgaria's fishing rights at the NAFO;
- Putting in place of a satellite system for the monitoring of trawlers in 2003-2005;
- Strengthening and accreditation of SF Agriculture as a payment agency in the area of fishing.

Chapter 9: Transport policy

- Further efforts are required in connection with harmonisation in respect of technical requirements, safety requirements and fiscal harmonisation in the first place;
- Bringing the Bulgarian tolls and road taxes system in line with European standards;
- Further restructuring of the railway sector;
- Making further efforts for the transposition of the majority of the *acquis* in the air transport sector prior to the entry of the European Common Aviation Area Agreement (ECAA) into effect;
- The need for adoption of supplementary legislation in the area of sea safety – the Commercial Navigation Code;

- Strengthening the administrative capacity in the area of visa policy, migration, border control, police co-operation, co-operation between customs and judicial co-operation.
- Adoption of the entire legal framework concerning the visa classification and the automated information system.
- Expanding the Border Control Strategy to include all the institutions, which are connected with the border control of the future external borders of the European Union¹.
- Refurbishing of the larger part of the technical equipment for border control, and in particular the telecommunication systems.
- Harmonisation of the legislation in the asylum area, especially regarding the procedures for consideration of asylum applications.
- Development of the infrastructure for accommodation of refugees, and adoption of additional measures for their fuller integration.
- Improving the statistics of examined cases of trafficking of people.
- Development of a Unified National Strategy for Combating Drugs.
- Strengthening the administrative capacity of the Financial Intelligence Bureau, and improving the co-ordination between the Bureau and other law enforcement structures connected with money laundering.

Chapter 25: Customs union

- Increasing the administrative and operational capacity of law enforcement.
- Further harmonising of legislation, outside the Customs Code.
- Increasing the level of co-ordination on all levels between the activities of the customs administration and the other law enforcement border services.
- Building a reliable communication infrastructure with a view to boosting the development of the customs information system based on a central server, and meeting the requirements for membership in the Community transit, including a connection with the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS);
- Enhancing information communications between the customs administration and the Ministry of Interior by developing mechanisms for integrating the information in real time between the two structures.
- Building the TARIC system; this will allow for reducing and ignoring the subjective factor in the implementation of the customs policy.

Chapter 26: External relations

- Bringing the international agreements of the Republic of Bulgaria in the area of trade, scientific and technical co-operation, transport, etc., in line with the *acquis*;

¹ This priority objective is fully in line with the priority mentioned in chapter 25 "Customs union" concerning the increasing of co-operation between different border control services. Progress in this area will be reported in both chapters.

- Preparations must be made for major investments in road infrastructure.

Chapter 10: Taxation

- Complete harmonisation of the VAT legislation concerning the scope of taxed supplies, place of delivery, basis for taxation and special schemes for some types of goods, possibly using an agreed derogation about the threshold of exemption from the compulsory VAT registration
- Complete harmonisation of the structure, scope and size of rates with Community rates, possibly using agreed transitional periods about the introduction of some minimal excise duties

Chapter 11: Economic and monetary union

- Making progress in respect of the *acquis communautaire* as regards the possibilities for privileged access by state institutions to financial institutions.
- Harmonisation of the government's financial statistics with the European Union requirements.

Chapter 12: Statistics

- Improving the methodology, quality, and scope of statistical data to achieve compliance with the *acquis*.
- Additional training of staff is required in the area of information technologies (especially in regional statistical infrastructure) for an effective utilisation of the technical equipment and the software;
- Further efforts are needed for the implementation of the normative basis related to the macroeconomic statistics and for improving the quality and completeness of national accounts. Improving the communication between the NSI, BNB, and the Ministry of Finance regarding the preparation of the financial accounts.
- Improving the statistical tools and methodology for the carrying out of statistical studies in structural business statistics by including new statistical indicators.
- Improving the quality of regional accounts, in particular in economic accounts and labour resources

Chapter 13: Social policy and employment

- Making progress in the area of safe and healthy conditions of labour.
- Stimulating the policy of the National Employment Service related to the labour market.
- Speedy adoption of a comprehensive and effective anti-discriminatory legislation and of legislation in the area of equal treatment of women and men. Establishment of a National Council of Equal Opportunities of Women and Men and appointment of an Ombudsman.

Chapter 20: Culture and audio-visual policy

- Ensuring the transparency of licensing criteria and procedures.

Chapter 21: Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments

- Adoption of urgent measures for development of the respective structures for the introduction of the Structural funds such as are necessary for their management after the accession.
- Marking progress in the territorial organisation and regional statistics.
- Building an evaluation and monitoring system.
- Preparation for transfer to a multi-annual planning of the budgetary system.
- Development of the partnership with the regional and local authorities, economic and social partners, and increasing the transparency of processes in the regions.
- Improving the co-ordination and implementation of projects financed by the pre-accession funds. Strengthening the internal audit structures. Improving the financial management and control systems.
- Completing the process of decentralisation of the management of the Phare and ISPA programmes, and preparation for Bulgaria's participation in the Structural funds following its accession to the European Union.

Chapter 22: Environment

- Implementation of the legislation and development and implementation of investment and financial strategies;
- Adoption of legislation in the area of genetically modified organisms, in the area of noise from machines & equipment, and in the sectors of waste management, air purity, nature protection, radiation protection, industrial pollution and risk control;
- Holding regular consultations with the industry sector about the responsibilities and duties concerning the required investments for implementing the harmonised legislation.

Chapter 23: Consumers and health protection

- Strengthening the institutional structure for consumer protection on both the national and local level.
- Creation of conditions for effective implementation of consumer protection legislation.
- Creation of conditions for improving the access of consumers to justice, including out-of-court arrangements for settlement of consumer disputes.

Chapter 24: Co-operation in the field of justice and home affairs

- Speeding up the adoption of legislation in the area of labour and health safety. Increasing the efforts to reduce the unequal access to medical care, and to improve the comparatively low health status of the population. Development of the social dialogue in the public sector.
- Promoting the dialogue with the social partners. Starting the activities of the newly founded National Institute of Reconciliation and Arbitration. Accelerating the process of setting up an Economic and Social Council.
- Development of a National Employment Strategy, following the completion of the current joint review of the employment policy in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- Development of the Strategy for social services and their standards.
- Development of a national Strategy for improving the quality of living of the elderly.
- Development of a national Plan of Action to combat poverty and social isolation, which must identify the tasks for dealing with poverty and social isolation on the national level.
- Development of a national Strategy for equal possibilities for the disabled. The Strategy will formulate the main trends of this country's policy towards integrating the disabled persons in all areas of the economic and social life of the country.
- Speeded-up development of new legislation in the area of public health.

Chapter 14: Energy

- Accelerating the process of restructuring of the energy sector.
- Harmonisation of the legislation in the area of the mandatory supplies of oil and oil products.
- Introduction and implementation of the normative regulations concerning the opening of the market pursuant to the European requirements in the gas and electric power sector.
- Maintaining a high level of nuclear safety.

Chapter 15: Industrial policy

- Further development and stepping-up the efforts aimed at the creation of a favourable economic environment through further optimisation of the regulatory regimes, creation of a public register of the licensing, authorisation and registration regimes on the central and local level, spreading the practice of the "single-counter" services, and ensuring regular contacts with the line organisations
- Completing the process of liquidating the nonviable State enterprises. Amending the insolvency and liquidation procedures to facilitate and expedite the process.
- Completing the privatisation of BTC and Bulgartabak; privatisation of the energy distributing companies and of parts of the railway transport.
- Creation of a legal framework to promote entrepreneurial funds of risk investments.

Chapter 16: Small and medium-sized undertakings

- Creation of a business environment for a sustainable development of SMEs with a view to reaching indicators allowing for a standardisation of the SME definition with that of the European Union;
- Reducing the administrative barriers to the establishment and operation of a company in Bulgaria;
- Improving the co-ordination of activities financed by the budget or by donors in the SME sector;
- Setting up an SME Guarantee Fund.

Chapter 17: Science and research

- Adoption and implementation of a Strategy for scientific research and technological development.
- Adoption of urgent legislative measures to promote research, high-tech parks and activities.
- Increasing the GDP share allocated for research and technological development.
- Preparation for inclusion and active participation in the Sixth Framework Programme for Science, Research and Technological Development of the European Union. Development of tools for the creation of a favourable environment for innovations.

Chapter 18: Education and training

- Ensuring effective participation in the Community programmes.
- Taking measures for introducing in the domestic legislation of the European requirements for education for the children of migrant workers.
- Implementation of a comprehensive reform in the system of vocational education and training.
- Development of the vocational education and training on the regional level, and reform of the system with a view to increasing the qualification of teachers.
- Adoption of measures to promote co-operation between enterprises and schools, and increasing the participation of the social partners in vocational education and training.

Chapter 19: Telecommunications

- Further efforts at transposing and implementing Community legislation in the area of telecommunications, and in particular in respect of the pricing orientation of operators having a major presence on the market, transferability of numbers, etc.
- Improving the effectiveness of BTC.
- Development of the information society and allocation of larger financial resources into that area.