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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

The Bulgarian EU Presidency and Digital Initiatives

1 January to 30 June 2018

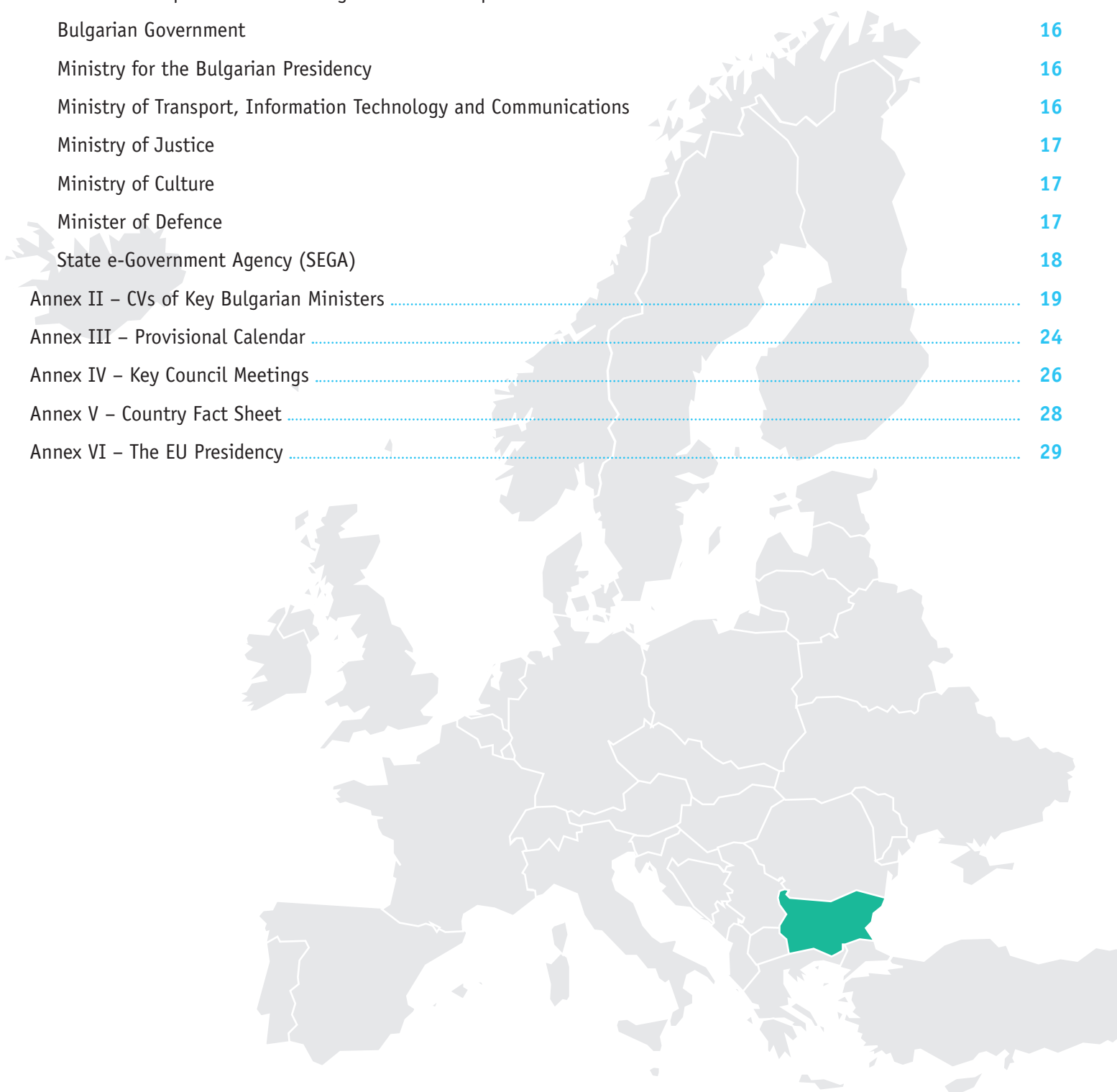
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Digital Single Market Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency

On 1 January 2018, Bulgaria assumed for the first time the role of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The EU is facing a wide range of challenges including: migration, security, Brexit, relationship with the United States and questions on the future of the EU itself.

The EU is continually seeking to improve its competitive position globally and the EU's Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy is a major workstream in this regard. Bulgaria ties digital infrastructure and innovation to the EU's economic competitiveness, and considers the DSM, access to innovation and the link between education and the requirements of the future labour market as cornerstones for technological development.

It is therefore unsurprising that the Bulgarian Presidency has identified the "Digital Economy and skills for the future" as one of its priorities. The other three priorities include: i) the Future of Europe and young people – economic growth and social cohesion; ii) European perspective and connectivity in the Western Balkans; and iii) Security and Stability in a strong and united Europe.

While the Bulgarian Presidency has stated its commitment to advance the work of all DSM initiatives, it is expected that they will give particular focus to the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC), the Free Flow of non-Personal Data, ePrivacy and Cybersecurity.

Key Digital Single Market Initiatives and Legislative Dossiers

The Bulgarian Presidency will take the lead at a critical moment for several key Digital Single Market initiatives.

As for the ongoing files that will have a prominent position in the upcoming digital programme of the Presidency, the Bulgarians has expressed a particular commitment to reach a political agreement on the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) Directive and on the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC) Regulation.

As regards the ePrivacy Regulation, the Bulgarians intend to overcome the current deadlock in discussions in Council and are aiming for a General Approach by the end of their tenure.

The Bulgarian Presidency intends to further the work of all files in the cybersecurity package, launched by the Commission in September 2017. Regarding the “Cybersecurity Act,” it is foreseen that a General Approach will be reached by the end of their term. Moreover, they will continue the work on the Trio Presidency Cybersecurity Work Programme. At the end of their term, the Bulgarian Presidency will provide a report on the implementation progress.

Due to the quick wrap-up by the Estonian Presidency of the Council’s position on the Free Flow of Data Regulation, the Council is significantly ahead of the European Parliament. In fact, the draft EP report is expected in March and discussions in the respective Parliamentary committees still need to commence. The Bulgarian Presidency is committed to starting the negotiations with the European Parliament.

Policymakers have started negotiations on the two Contract Rules Directives and it is expected that the Digital Content Directive in particular will be given priority as certain elements are linked to the EECC. The Bulgarian Presidency aims to reach an agreement with the European Parliament by the end of their term.

In addition to taking ownership of the existing files that are still currently making their way through the legislative process, the Bulgarian Presidency will also take the lead on several new key initiatives, including a legislative proposal on cross-border access of law enforcement authorities to electronic evidence (e-evidence), initiatives on online platforms, high-performing computing, Financial Technology (FinTech), and Artificial Intelligence and Robotics are expected, as well as REFIT initiatives on Public Sector Information and on the “.eu” domain name.

The key files under the Bulgarian Presidency include:

- > European Electronic Communications Code (EECC)
- > Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- > ePrivacy
- > Cybersecurity
- > Free Flow of non-Personal Data
- > Consumer Protection

European Electronic Communications Code

The review of the Directives establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (the Code) has been one of the priority files of the Estonian Presidency. The Estonians pushed forward the discussion in the Council and have started negotiations with the European Parliament on 'spectrum' and end-user's parts. The Code is one of the core dossiers that the Bulgarian Presidency will continue to work on and will attempt to reach an agreement with the European Parliament by June. It is expected that the key sticking points here will be the issues of 'spectrum' and 'access'.

BEREC

The Estonian Presidency reached a General Approach on the file under its term and has laid solid foundations for the Bulgarian Presidency to build on, particularly given the strong links between this regulation and the Code. The Bulgarian Presidency plans to reach an agreement with the European Parliament during its mandate. The BEREC regulation is one of few digital files where the European Parliament and the Council hold similar positions.

ePrivacy

During the Estonian Presidency little progress was made in the Council, therefore pressure is building from both the European Parliament and the Commission on the Council to speed up proceedings. However, the Bulgarians are expected to follow the same slow pace in the Council leaving the following Austrian Presidency with the responsibility of reaching an agreement with the European Parliament. Many Member States still were not able to finalise their positions due to the complexity of this file and time consuming inter-ministerial coordination at the national level. Moreover, some issues need to be clarified by the Commission in order to facilitate discussions on the most difficult issues such as the interplay between the ePrivacy regulation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), additional grounds for processing data, machine-to-machine communications, cookies policy, privacy settings and data retention.

Cybersecurity

In September 2017, the Commission published the long-awaited cybersecurity package, a comprehensive set of measures aimed at strengthening cyber resilience across the EU. The package attempts to address many cybersecurity challenges and offers comprehensive solutions including a Regulation reforming the mandate of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and the establishment of an EU cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products and services (the "Cybersecurity Act"). The work in the European Parliament on the Cybersecurity Act is progressing rather slowly; the industry committee (ITRE) is leading on the file and their draft report is expected by end February. The Estonian Presidency has moved slightly faster and the Bulgarian Presidency have expressed their commitment to reach a general approach by the end of their term, with a hope to kick-off trilogue negotiations. Additionally, the Bulgarians plan to produce a report on the progress of implementation of the Trio Presidency Cybersecurity Work Programme that was adopted on 12 December 2017.

Free Flow of non-Personal Data

The Free Flow of non-Personal Data has been a top priority for the Estonian Presidency, which managed to secure a general position and a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament at the last Coreper meeting of the year. The European Parliament will only start its work by end February with a view to finalise their position by June. Until then, the Bulgarian Presidency will stand ready to kick off trilogue negotiations.

Data Economy

The Commission is expected to launch the “third data economy package” in Q2 2018 consisting of two legislative acts on the revised PSI directive and on a Domain Name «.eu» regulation, and one non-legislative Strategy on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. The Bulgarians are planning a policy debate on “publicly funded data” during the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE) in June 2018.

Consumer Protection

Proposed in 2015 as the two flagship dossiers of the European Consumer Policy, the Digital Content and the Sales of Goods Directives are still keeping policy makers busy. The Parliament and the Council got to their respective conclusions on the former, establishing new rights for consumer purchasing paid-for or free digital content, after a long and heated debate. Trilogue negotiations started in late 2017 and, on the basis of two productive meetings held under the Estonian Presidency, the Bulgarians are all set to reach a political agreement.

The same thing will not happen for the Sales of Goods Directive. Besides a slow start in the Parliament and Council, negotiations were further delayed by the Commission’s decision to amend the proposal and expand the scope to include all sales of goods. The Bulgarian Presidency will have to tackle controversial issues such as products’ lifespan and the level of harmonization, before advancing the discussions.

Copyright Directive

The Copyright Directive has been the cause of much controversy, specifically regarding the proposal to introduce a neighbouring right for press publishers (Article 11) and the proposal to introduce monitoring and filtering obligations by certain online service providers (Article 13). Ambassadors will have to give a political guidance on these articles in Coreper under the Bulgarian Presidency. Although the Bulgarian Presidency has decided not to prioritise the copyright files, it aims to reach a general approach on the Directive before the end of the mandate. In the European Parliament, negotiations have finally shifted into a higher gear and the vote in the lead committee (JURI) is expected to take place in March but might be delayed even further. Therefore, trilogues are not likely to start during the Bulgarian Presidency.

‘SatCab Regulation’

Since the release of the Commission’s proposal in September 2016, good progress has been made on this file. In the Council, the Estonian Presidency reached a general position and secured a mandate to enter into trilogue negotiations. As for the European Parliament, difficult negotiations have led to a very conservative approach to the final report, much to the dismay of its rapporteur, MEP Tiemo Wölken (S&D, DE). The main point of controversy was the broadened scope of the ‘Country of Origin principle’ set in Article 2, which has been considerably reduced in the final texts of both the Council and the Parliament. Trilogues are expected to kick off in February under the Bulgarian Presidency, which is aiming to reach an inter-institutional agreement before the end of its mandate.

Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)

After more than one year of hard negotiations, the Bulgarian Presidency expects to reach an inter-institutional agreement on the AVMS Directive. Some of the open issues include the decision on whether or not to include social media in the scope of the proposal, which has been the main reason for the deadlock.

Online platforms-to-business

The Commission is expected to publish a legislative proposal in Q1 2018 to deliver concrete actions on unfair contracts and trading practices in platform-to-business relations. The proposal is expected to promote and improve redress mechanisms between online platforms and online traders. The Bulgarian Presidency expects to start discussions on this file and is planning to organise joint COMPET and TELE Working Parties to discuss this issue.

Tackling illegal content online and fake news

The Commission launched several initiatives by end 2017 dealing with different issues related to online platforms, in particular published a Communication on tackling illegal content online laying down self-regulatory guidelines. In the first half of 2018, the Commission is expected to announce further steps on this topic and although legislative measures are unlikely to be tabled, political pressure is expected to remain high. The Commission is also set to kick off discussions on fake news and is expected to hold its inaugural meeting of the High Level Group on fake news in January. Furthermore, a public consultation on fake news, which runs until 23 February 2018, will seek to collect information on: a) a definition of fake information and their spread online; b) an assessment of measures already taken by online platforms; and c) a clarification of the scope for future actions to strengthen quality information and prevent online disinformation. The Bulgarian Presidency is not expected to create a dedicated work stream for these topics, but is expected to produce Council Conclusions.

Intellectual Property Package

In November 2017, the Commission published a Intellectual Property package presenting a set of measures for a more efficient and predictable judicial enforcement regime in the EU. The package includes, among others, a communication clarifying interpretative issues that have arisen during the application of the Directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRED) and Memorandum of Understanding on the sale of counterfeit goods via the internet. The proposed measures will be monitored closely in 2018 and lead to an assessment on the need for further steps. The Bulgarian Presidency is committed to prepare Council conclusions on the IP package. Preparatory work will be carried out in the Working Party on enforcement in February with the possible adoption of the Council conclusions in March.

E-evidence

Following the Inception Impact Assessment on improving cross-border access to electronic evidence in criminal matters that took place last August, the Commission intends to publish a legislative proposal on this matter in January 2018. Subsequently, the Bulgarians will initiate discussions on this e-evidence proposal during their Presidency.

FinTech

The European Commission is expected to release an Action Plan on FinTech in March 2018, containing predominantly non-legislative items and recommendations on how industry should be managing its development. In addition, the Commission will launch a legislative proposal in the field of crowd and peer-to-peer (P2P) finance, for which early feedback following the release of an Inception Impact Assessment in this regard suggests that industry may not be entirely comfortable with the direction of travel proposed by the Commission – a possible mandatory framework for within-scope activities – dampening the likelihood of the file representing a possible quick-win for the Bulgarians.

Payment Services Directive 2 – Level II

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The reviewed Payment Services Directive (PSD 2) entered into force in January 2016 and must be transposed by 13 January 2018, in this regard the Commission published the much awaited final Regulatory Technical Standard (RTS) on secure communication and strong customer authentication (SCA) and common and secure communication (CSC) in November 2017. This opened a 3 month scrutiny period for Council and Parliament, which can be prolonged for another 3 months. It will now fall to the Bulgarians to oversee the Council scrutiny period and the final adoption of the most controversial level 2 measure under PSD2.

Single European Payments Area

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In March 2018, the Commission is expected to launch a REFIT review proposal to extend the scope of the regulation on cross-border payments (SEPA Regulation), which is part of the Consumer Financial Services Action Plan. The SEPA Regulation equalised fees for cross-border and national payments in Euros within the EU and included an opt-in clause for non-euro Member States to join; however, until today this option has only been used by Sweden. This proposal aims to extend SEPA Regulation to all currencies in the EU and therefore bring down the costs of cross-border transactions in all Member States. It will fall under the Bulgarian Presidency to kick-off discussions in the Council and possibly reach a general approach.

Bulgarian Presidency

Digital Single Market Agenda

Digital initiatives planned by the Commission for January – July 2018 (dates indicative)

- > Initiative on Online Platforms, Q1 2018
- > Initiative on High-Performing Computing, Q1 2018
- > Commission guidance on the General Data Protection Regulation, Q1 2018
- > Legislative proposal on cross-border access of law enforcement authorities to electronic evidence (e-evidence), Q1 2018
- > EU framework on crowd and peer to peer finance, Q1 2018
- > Initiative on Financial Technology (FinTech), Q1 2018
- > New Deal for Consumers (consisting of a Review of the Injunction Directive, Measures to improve enforcement of consumer rules and Platform2consumer initiatives), Q2 2018
- > Initiative on fake news, Q2 2018
- > Revision of the Commission guidelines on significant market power in the electronic communications sector, Q2 2018
- > REFIT initiative on Public Sector Information, Q2 2019
- > REFIT initiative on Domain Name «.eu», Q2 2019
- > Initiative on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Q2 2019

Organisation of the Bulgarian Presidency

The Presidency is being coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who are represented in Brussels by the Permanent Representative to the EU Dimitar Tzantchev, and in Sofia by Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ekaterina Zakhariyeva. A special Ministerial post for the Presidency has been created, that of Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018; Liliana Pavlova Nikolova has been appointed to this position, and will be in charge of overseeing the logistics and administration during the Bulgarian Presidency's tenure.

Bulgaria's position in the European Union

Bulgaria was under the influence of the USSR throughout the Cold War. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the first free elections were held in June 1990 and were won by the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP, the renamed Communist Party). A new Constitution was adopted in July 1991 that introduced the positions of a largely ceremonial and directly-elected president, and a prime minister accountable to the legislature. The new system initially failed to improve living standards or create economic growth; the average quality of life and economic performance remained lower than under communism well into the early 2000s. After 2001, economic, political and geopolitical conditions improved greatly and Bulgaria achieved high 'Human Development' status. It became a member of NATO in 2004 and participated in the War in Afghanistan. After several years of reforms it joined the European Union in 2007, with the backing of all major political parties. While not a member of the Eurozone, the Bulgarian Lev is pegged to the Euro. This will be the first time that Bulgaria has held the Presidency of the EU.

Attitude toward the EU

EU membership has been credited with jump-starting the Bulgarian economy following a period of poor growth after leaving the Soviet Bloc. Following the application of a reform agenda in the early 2000s, the country experienced a rise in economic growth, this development was further consolidated with EU membership which the country attained in 2007. Support for EU in the country is relatively high, with 65% of the country reportedly happy with EU membership according to the 2017 Eurobarometer survey, although divisions continue to persist in the country between allegiance to Europe and allegiance to Russia.

Domestic Political Scene

Bulgaria is a parliamentary democracy where the government is led by a collegial Council of Ministers, with a Prime Minister as its leader on a prima inter pares basis. The country's President serves as the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, has executive powers over treaties and international relations, has the right to legislative initiative on referenda, and appoints constitutional judges. Political parties gather in the National Assembly, which consists of 240 members of parliament elected to four-year terms by proportional representation.

The country is currently ruled by Boyko Borisov's centre-right Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB), which has a Coalition Agreement with the conservative United Patriots. The Parliament also contains the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the liberal Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), and the populist Volya Party. GERB has been the ruling party since 2009, and is seen as the party representing business interests and a push towards integration into the EU. The Socialists and DPS, currently the main opposition parties, are also generally supportive of EU integration. The Volya Party and the United Patriots are seen as harbouring soft Eurosceptic sympathies, and advocate closer relations with Russia – however despite the United Patriots being GERB's coalition partners, this has not coloured GERB's stance on the EU in any discernible way.

Bulgaria in the EU

Mariya Gabriel is the Bulgarian Commissioner in the College of Commissioners, holding the portfolio of Digital Economy and Society. She has strong links to the Citizens for European Development Party of Bulgaria, having been an MEP for 8 years and Vice-President of the EPP in the European Parliament for 3 years.

The country's 17 seats in the European Parliament are divided between Citizens for European Development Party of Bulgaria (6 seats, EPP affiliated), Coalition for Bulgaria (4 seats, PES affiliated), Movement for Rights and Freedoms (4 seats, ALDE affiliated), Bulgaria Without Censorship (2 seats, ECR affiliated), and the Reformist Bloc (1 seat, EPP affiliated).

As a member of the ITRE committee, Peter Kouroumbashev is a particularly active MEP on digital files. He is currently shadow rapporteur on the Cybersecurity Act, and has previously been involved in both the digital trade and ePrivacy report. Eva Maydell, another active Bulgarian MEP in the digital realm, is a member of IMCO committee and a substitute on the ECON committee. She was rapporteur of the IMCO ePrivacy opinion, and has been involved in digital content files as well as files related to copyright, FinTech and 'cloud computing'. Sergei Stanishev is Vice-Chair of the LIBE committee and is therefore involved in all digital files that touch upon civil liberties competences including eprivacy, data protection, cybersecurity and free flow of data. In addition Filiz Hyusmenova is member of LIBE a substitute on IMCO.

ANNEX I

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The Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018 is Mrs. Liliana Pavlova Nikolova, member of the Council of Ministers in the third term of the government with Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. She is a member of the Parliamentary Group of GERB, and a former Minister of Regional Development and Public Works.

The Ministry for the Bulgarian Presidency is the main institution responsible for the coordination, and guidance of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018, including organization of the Presidency events, control over the implementation of the coordinated policies during the Presidency. The Ministry also represents the Republic of Bulgaria at the meetings of the General Affairs Council.

Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

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The Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications is Mr. Ivaylo Moskovski. He is a member of the Parliamentary Group of GERB, and has held several positions within the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications in addition to previously being a Member of the National Assembly.

The Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications is the Bulgarian institution responsible for the development and coordination of, and control over the implementation of the state policy in the field of aviation, railways, road and water transport, postal services, IT and communications. In the IT and communications sector the Ministry's policies are focused on improving broadband connectivity and digital inclusion, ensuring cyber security, contributing to the creation of digital single market and fostering innovations.

Bulgarian Ministry of Justice

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The Minister of Justice is Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva Dangovska. She is a politician from Parliamentary Group of GERB, the first woman chairman in the history of Bulgarian parliamentary affairs. Presided over the 41st and 43rd National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of GERB Parliamentary Assembly in the 42nd National Assembly.

The Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria is the link between the executive and judicial branches of power. It directs the writing of new laws related to the judiciary and offers feedback on laws prepared by other government organizations.

Bulgarian Ministry of Culture

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The Minister of Culture is Mr. Boil Banov. He had been the Director of the 'Ivan Dimov' Drama and Puppet Theater – Haskovo for 15 years and a former Deputy Minister of Culture in 2014-2017. He is not a member of any political group.

The Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria is the ministry charged with overseeing, promoting and creating the cultural environment, cultural and religious integrity in the country and preserving its cultural heritage. Also maintaining national archives of cultural work, including public museums, galleries and libraries.

Bulgarian Ministry of Defence

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The Defence Minister is Mr. Krasimir Donchev Karakachanov, who is also a Deputy Prime Minister for Public Order and Security. Previously he was elected Member of Parliament in the 38th, 40th, 43rd, and 44th National Assemblies. In the 43rd Parliament, he was also Vice-President of the National Assembly. He is a member of political group United Patriots.

The Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria was founded in 1879 and Ministry of War and in 1990 renamed to the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry is accountable for its activities to the National Assembly. The organizational structure of the Ministry of Defence is aligned with the priorities of the state policy of Bulgaria in the light of the membership in NATO and the EU. It is the highest military administrative institution in Bulgaria, tasked to protect the state sovereignty and national independence, to guard and defend the territorial integrity of the country, and to uphold the interests of the society of Bulgaria and our national identity.

State e-Government Agency (SEGA)

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State e-Government Agency (SEGA) with the Council of Ministers has been established in 2016.

The agency replaced the “Electronic Governance” Directorate within the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications and the Executive Agency “Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems.”

It is lead by a Chairperson Mr. Rossen Jeliakov, who is appointed for a period of 5 years and supported by two deputies.

State e-Government Agency is responsible for activities in the fields of:

- > Electronic Governance;
- > Electronic Certification Services;
- > Electronic Identification;
- > Network and Information Security;
- > Spatial Information Infrastructure;
- > Public Sector related information in machine-processable open source code.

ANNEX II

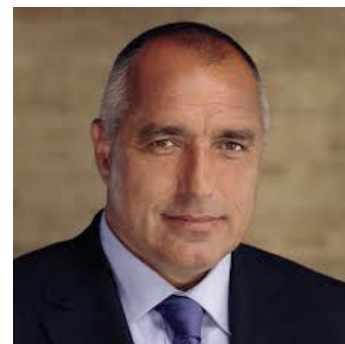
CVs of Key Bulgarian Ministers

Boiko Borisov Prime Minister

Born June 13, 1959

Graduated from the Higher Special School of the Ministry of Interior, majoring in “Anti Fire Equipment and Safety” and attained the rank of ‘Lieutenant’.

Since 2009	Present Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria.
2005-2009	Elected Mayor of the Capital City of Sofia.
2001-2005	Secretary General of the Interior Ministry.
1991	founded IPON-1, one of the largest security companies in the country.
1985-1990	Lecturer at the Higher Institute for Police Officers Training and Scientific Research of the Ministry of Interior.



Ekaterina Zaharieva Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Born 8 August 1975

Master’s Degree in Law from University of Plovdiv, and Bachelors from “Bertholt Brecht” Foreign Language School in Pazardjik

Since May 2017	Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Since March 2017	Member of Bulgarian Parliament
2015-2017	Minster of Justice
2013-2014	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Public Works in the caretaker government of President Rossen Plevneliev
2013-2015	Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria
2012-2013	General Secretary of the Administration of President Rossen Plevneliev.
2009-2013	Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works in the first government of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov
2003-2009	Legal Advisor and Director of the Legal Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Waters
2001-2003	Attorney-at-law practice

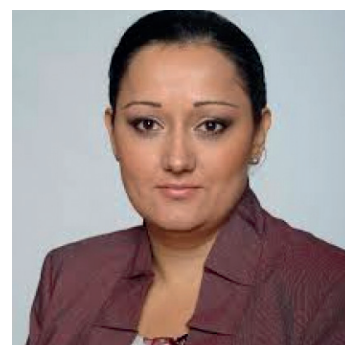


Liliana Pavlova Nikolova

Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018

Born December 6, 1977

Doctor of Economics, Higher Attestation Commission at the Council of Ministers, Master of Public Administration and European Integration, Varna Free University 'Chernorizets Hrabar', and Bachelor of International Economic Relations, University of National and World Economy



Since May 2017	Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018
2014-2017	Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
2011-2013	Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
2009-2011	Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
2002-2009	Head of Department at National Fund Directorate, Ministry of Finance

Monika Hans Panayotova

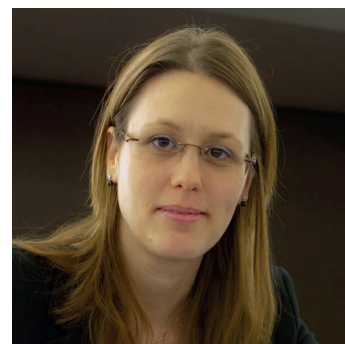
Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018

Born August 19, 1983

Doctor of Political Science.

Master of Economics, MA in International Economic Relations with Specialization in International Project Management, UNWE, 2008

Bachelor of Professional Qualifications in International Relations, UNWE, 2006



Since June 2017	Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council 2018.
2014-2017	Manager of a consulting company.
2016-2017	Independent Expert to the European Commission.
2012-2014	Member of the European Parliament, member of the Committees on Budgetary Control (CONT); Culture and Education (CULT) and substitute member of the Subcommittee on Security and Defense (SEDE).
2009-2012	Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of European Funds at the 41st National Assembly.
2006-2008	Researcher and director, Projects and Public Relations, Institute for Economic Policy.
2003-2005	Marketing, International Marketing and Sociological Research Company.

Ivaylo Moskovski

Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

Born July 19, 1972

Master of Finance Management, Academy of Economics, Svishtov

Bachelors of Public Finances, University of National and World Economy, Sofia



Since May 2017	Minister of Transport, Information technologies and Communications.
2014-2017 & 2011-2013	Minister and Head of the Managing Body of Operational Program Transport at the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications.
2013-2014	Member of the 42 th National Assembly and a member of the Committee on Transport, Information Technology and Communications and the Committee on Energy.
2009-2011	Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications and Head of the Managing Body of Operational Program Transport at the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications.
2003-2009	“BG NIT EOOD” – Manager.
2002-2003	“Balteks Commerce” EOOD - Trade Director.
1999-2002	“Montana” AD - Directors Board Chairman and Member of the Managing Council, “Sata” OOD - Trade Director, “Analytic” AD - Member of the Supervisor Council.
1995 - 1996	“Sofia Ins” Inspector.

Tsetska Tsacheva Dangovska

Minister of Justice

Born May 24, 1958

Graduated from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of law



Since May 2017	Minister of Justice.
2014-2017	Chairwoman of the National Assembly and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the National Assembly in the Interparliamentary Union.
2013-2014	Deputy Chairwoman of the GERB Parliamentary Group, Member of the Energy Commission, the Legal Affairs Committee and Deputy Head of Delegation to the Interparliamentary Union.
2009-2013	Chairwoman of the National Assembly and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the National Assembly in the Interparliamentary Union.
Since 2008	She has been in the Management Board of the Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Association. Founder of the Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Association and Political Party GERB in Pleven.
Since 1 May 1992	Attorney at Pleven Bar Association.

Boil Banov Minister of Culture

Born May 26, 1971

Master's degree in 'Drama Theater Directing', the 'Krastyo Sarafov' National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts,

Graduated from the Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' – specialty 'Cultural Studies'.

Since May 2017 Minister of Culture.
2014-2017 Deputy Minister of Culture.

Director of the 'Ivan Dimov' Drama and Puppet Theater – Haskovo.

He has directed productions in various theaters in the country – the 'Ivan Vazov' National Theater, the 'Salza i Smiah' Theater, the Satirical Theater, the 'Ivan Dimov' Drama and Puppet Theater – Haskovo, etc.



Krasimir Donchev Karakachanov Deputy Prime Minister for Public Order and Security and Minister of Defence

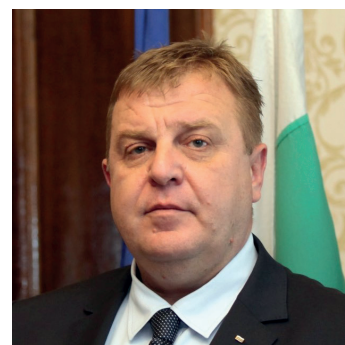
Born March 29, 1965

Doctor in International Law and International Relations

Master's Degree in History at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Since May 2017 Deputy Prime Minister for Public Order and Security
and Minister for Defence.
2014-2017 Vice-President of the National Assembly.
2005-2009 Member of Parliament in the National Assembly.
1997-2001 Member of Parliament in the National Assembly.

Chairman of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Bulgarian National Movement.



Rossen Jeliazkov

Chairperson of the State e-Government Agency (SEGA)

Born April 5, 1968

Master's Degree in Law at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Since Sept. 2016 | Chairperson to the State e-Government Agency. |
| 2014-2016 | Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Administration and Electronic Government issues. |
| 2011-2013 | Chairperson to the Board of the Institute of Public Administration and a representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in Maastricht, the Netherlands. |
| 2009-2013 | Secretary General to the Council of Ministers. |
| 2003-2009 | Secretary to Sofia Municipality. |
| 1998-1999 | Deputy mayor under the "Legality and Control" Department of "Lozenets" residential district of Sofia Municipality. |
| Since 1995 | An attorney in civil and commercial law, member to Sofia Bar Association. |
| 1994-1995 | A Counselor, a Senior Counselor, and later a Secretary and a Deputy Mayor of "Sredets" residential district of Sofia Municipality. |



Krasimir Simonski

Deputy Chairperson of the State e-Government Agency (SEGA)

Doctor of Computer Networks at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Master in Computer Sciences, Technical University of Sofia

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Since Sept. 2016 | Deputy Chairperson to the State e-Government Agency. |
| 2013-2016 | CEO of Executive Agency "Electronic communication networks and information systems" (EA ECNIS). |
| 2012-2013 | Project manager for "Development of high-speed broadband access in Bulgaria through setting up critical, secure, safe and reliable public ICT Infrastructure" of the Executive Agency "Electronic communication networks and information systems" (EA ECNIS). |
| Since 2009 | Free-lanced consultant. |
| 2007-2009 | Deputy Chairperson to the Information Technology and Communications State Agency. |
| Since 2007 | Head and a Coordinator of the Bulgarian project teams of the European Commission. |
| 2006-2008 | Worked on several projects related to IT, United Nations Development Program. |
| 2004-2007 | Managed the "Telecentres" project of UNDP and the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications. |
| 1991-2002 | Computer and Communications Director with the American University of Blagoevgrad. |



ANNEX III

Provisional Calendar

	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Mon	1	New Year's day				
Tue	2					
Wed	3					
Thu	4	PSC (poss.)	1	BG Presidency opening concert - Brussels PSC Informal COMPET (BG)	1	EP Plenary (Brussels) PSC ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (BG)
Fri	5		2	Coreper I Informal COMPET (BG)	2	Coreper I ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting (BG)
Sat	6		3		3	BG National Holiday
Sun	7		4		4	
Mon	8		5	EP Plenary	5	ENVI
Tue	9	PSC	6	EP Plenary PSC	6	FAC Defence
Wed	10	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I	7	EP Plenary Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I	7	Coreper II/ Coreper I/PSC
Thu	11	Opening Ceremony (BG) Visit by the College of Commissioners – Sofia PSC	8	EP Plenary PSC	8	JHA PSC
Fri	12	Visit by the College of Commissioners – Sofia	9	Coreper I	9	JHA Coreper I Ministerial Conference on the future Multiannual Financial Framework (BG)
Sat	13		10		10	
Sun	14		11		11	
Mon	15	EP Plenary	12		12	EP Plenary EUROGROUP COMPET
Tue	16	EP Plenary PSC	13	PSC Ministerial Conference "Tourism and economic growth" (BG)	13	EP Plenary ECOFIN COMPET PSC
Wed	17	EP Plenary Coreper I/ PSC	14	Coreper II/ Coreper I	14	EP Plenary Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I/PSC
Thu	18	EP Plenary Coreper II	15	GYMNICH EYCS (Education) PSC	15	EP Plenary EPSCO (Social) Coreper II (poss.)
Fri	19	Coreper I	16	GYMNICH Coreper I	16	Coreper I
Sat	20		17		17	
Sun	21		18		18	
Mon	22	EUROGROUP FAC	19	EUROGROUP AGRIFISH	19	FAC AGRIFISH
Tue	23	ECOFIN PSC	20	ECOFIN Informal FAC/Development (Brussels) PSC	20	GAC /GAC (art. 50) PSC
Wed	24	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/Coreper I	21	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I/ PSC	21	Tripartite Social Summit Coreper I
Thu	25	PSC Informal JHA (BG)	22		22	EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Fri	26	Coreper I Informal JHA (BG)	23	Informal leaders' meeting (Brussels)	23	EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Sat	27		24		24	
Sun	28		25		25	
Mon	29	AGRIFISH GAC (art. 50)	26	FAC Informal FAC/Trade (BG)	26	
Tue	30	PSC	27	GAC/GAC (art. 50) PSC Informal FAC/Trade (BG)	27	PSC
Wed	31	Coreper II/ Coreper I Informal COMPET (BG)	28	EP Plenary (Brussels) Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I Informal EYCS (Culture) (BG)	28	Coreper II/ Coreper(art. 50)/ Coreper I
Thu					29	MAUNDY THURSDAY
Fri					30	GOOD FRIDAY
Sat					31	

		APRIL		MAY		JUNE
Sun	1	EASTER				
Mon	2	EASTER MONDAY				
Tue	3		1	Labour Day		
Wed	4		2	EP Plenary (Brussels) Coreper II/ Coreper I/ PSC		
Thu	5		3	EP Plenary (Brussels) PSC		
Fri	6	ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY	4	Coreper I Informal FAC/Defence (BG)	1	Coreper II Trip/ Coreper I
Sat	7		5	Informal FAC/Defence (BG)	2	Coreper II Trip
Sun	8	ORTHODOX EASTER	6	BG National Holiday	3	Informal AGRI (BG)
Mon	9	ORTHODOX EASTER MONDAY	7		4	JHA (Luxembourg) Informal AGRI (BG)
Tue	10	PSC Informal ENVI (BG)	8	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I/ PSC	5	JHA (Luxembourg)/PSC Informal AGRI (BG)
Wed	11	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50) (poss.)/ Coreper I PSC Informal ENVI (BG)	9	Europe Day	6	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I PSC Trip
Thu	12	GAC Cohesion (Luxembourg)	10	ASCENSION	7	TTE (Transport) (Luxembourg) PSC Trip
Fri	13	Coreper I	11	ASCENSION	8	TTE (Telecoms) (Luxembourg) PSC Trip High-Level Conference "EU Cohesion Policy: post 2020 perspectives for convergence and sustainable regions"(BG)
Sat	14		12		9	
Sun	15		13		10	
Mon	16	EP Plenary AGRIFISH (Luxembourg) FAC (Luxembourg) Ministerial Conference on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship (BG)	14	AGRIFISH (poss.) GAC/GAC (art. 50)	11	EP Plenary TTE (Energy) (Luxembourg)
Tue	17	EP Plenary AGRIFISH (Luxembourg) GAC (poss.) /GAC (art. 50) (poss.) (Luxembourg) PSC Informal EPSCO (Social) (BG)	15	Coreper II/PSC	12	EP Plenary PSC
Wed	18	EP Plenary Coreper II/Coreper I Informal EPSCO (Social) (BG)	16	Coreper I	13	EP Plenary Coreper II/ Coreper I
Thu	19	EP Plenary JHA (poss.) (Luxembourg) Informal TTE (Energy) (BG) PSC Ministerial Conference "Clean Energy – negotiating the way ahead" (BG)	17	EU-Western Balkans SUMMIT (Sofia) Coreper I Trip /PSC	14	EP Plenary Coreper II (poss.) / PSC
Fri	20	Coreper I Informal TTE (Energy) (BG)	18	Coreper I Trip	15	Coreper I
Sat	21		19	COREPER I Trip	16	
Sun	22	Informal EPSCO (Health) (BG)	20	PENTECOST	17	
Mon	23	Informal EPSCO (Health) (BG)	21	WHIT MONDAY	18	AGRIFISH (Luxembourg)
Tue	24	PSC	22	FAC Trade (a.m.) FAC Development (p.m.) EYCS PSC	19	AGRIFISH (Luxembourg) Coreper II (poss.) PSC
Wed	25	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (BG)	23	EYCS PSC EU - US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting (poss.) (BG)	20	Coreper II/ Coreper (art. 50)/ Coreper I/ PSC
Thu	26	PSC ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting (BG)	24	BG National Holiday EUROGROUP Coreper II	21	EUROGROUP (Luxembourg) EPSCO (Social) (Luxembourg)
Fri	27	Coreper I Informal ECOFIN (BG)	25	ECOFIN Coreper I	22	ECOFIN (Luxembourg) EPSCO (Health) (Luxembourg)
Sat	28	Informal ECOFIN (BG)	26		23	
Sun	29		27		24	
Mon	30		28	EP Plenary FAC COMPET	25	FAC (Luxembourg) ENVI (Luxembourg)
Tue			29	EP Plenary COMPET Coreper II/ PSC	26	GAC/GAC (art. 50) (Luxembourg) PSC
Wed			30	EP Plenary Coreper II Trip/ Coreper I	27	Coreper I
Thu			31	EP Plenary Coreper II Trip / PSC	28	EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Fri					29	EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Sat					30	

*The Council Sessions will be confirmed in the light of provisional agendas for Council Meetings during 1st Semester 2018.

ANNEX IV

Key Council Meetings

Informal meetings will take place in Bulgaria. In April and June Council meetings will take place in Luxembourg. All other meetings will take place in Brussels.

European Council

- > 22-23 March
- > 28-29 June

Foreign Affairs (FAC) Council

- > 22 January
- > 7-8 February Informal Defence meeting
- > 20 February Informal Development meeting
- > 26-27 February Informal Trade meeting
- > 26 February
- > 6 March (Defence)
- > 19 March
- > 16 April
- > 4-5 May Informal Defence meeting
- > 22 May (Trade + Development)
- > 28 May
- > 25 June

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council

- > 7-8 June: general approach on ePrivacy, and Cybersecurity Act, Policy debate on PSI directive, information on the Code, BEREC, Free flow of non-personal data, top level domain.eu and DSM state of play

Justice and Home affairs (JHA) Council

- > 25-26 January Informal meeting
- > 8-9 March: Policy debate on e-evidence, general approach on non-cash fraud Directive
- > 19 April (possible)
- > 4-5 June: Policy debate on TGD and data retention, Political agreement on DCD, partial general approach on e-evidence, presentation of reports on counter-terrorism issues

Competitiveness (COMPET) Council

- > 31 January -2 February Informal meeting
- > 12-13 March
- > 28-29 May: poss. general approach on platforms to business and high-performance computing, progress on implementation of Digital Single Market (DSM), State of play on copyright and SatCab, information from the Commission on new deal for consumers' package

Events in Bulgaria

- > February - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- > February - International round table "Digital transformation in tourism"
- > 15-16 March - Conference - Intellectual Property
- > 18-19 March - second meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol
- > 26 March - International Conference "Cybersecurity Challenges"
- > 27-28 March - Official Meeting of CSIRTs Network
- > 13 April - Informal Meeting of Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
- > 17-18 April - Working Group on Digital Skills and Competences
- > 19-20 April - Presidency conference "Education to Do: From Digital Consumers to Digital Creators"
- > 20 April - High-level forum for the digital agriculture "Together for digital agriculture"
- > 29-30 April - Consumer law and policy today. Can we do better?
- > 2-3 May - Informal Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX) meeting
- > 3-4 May - Meeting of Europol Management Board
- > 4-5 May - EU - US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting (poss.)
- > 14 May - Conference in the field of e-Justice
- > 16 May - euLISA Roundtable with the IT Industry
- > 25-26 June - Digital Assembly Europa
- > 26-27 June - Webit.Cybersecurity Summit
- > 26-27 June - Digital Entertainment & Media Summit (DEMS)
- > 27 June - Attaches Trip Telecommunication
- > 27 June - Digital Economy Leadership Summit
- > 27 June - Bulgaria Digital Summit

ANNEX V

Country Fact Sheet

Introduction

“The Bulgars, a Central Asian Turkic tribe, merged with the local Slavic inhabitants in the late 7th century to form the first Bulgarian state. In succeeding centuries, Bulgaria struggled with the Byzantine Empire to assert its place in the Balkans, but by the end of the 14th century the country was overrun by the Ottoman Turks. Northern Bulgaria attained autonomy in 1878 and all of Bulgaria became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908. Having fought on the losing side in both World Wars, Bulgaria fell within the Soviet sphere of influence and became a People’s Republic in 1946. Communist domination ended in 1990, when Bulgaria held its first multiparty election since World War II and began the contentious process of moving toward political democracy and a market economy while combating inflation, unemployment, corruption, and crime. The country joined NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2007.”¹

Geography

Location:	Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea
Area:	110,879 sq km
Capital:	Sofia

People

Population:	7,101,510
Median age:	42.7 years
Population growth rate:	-0.61% (2017 est.)
Religions:	Eastern Orthodox 59.4%, Muslim 7.8%, other (including Catholic, Protestant, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, and Jewish) 1.7%, none 3.7%, unspecified 27.4% (2011 est.)
Languages:	Bulgarian (official) 76.8%, Turkish 8.2%, Romani 3.8%, other 0.7%, unspecified 10.5% (2011 est.) ¹ .

¹ CIA, The World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bu.html>

ANNEX VI

The EU Presidency

The Role of the EU Presidency

The main function of the Presidency of the Council of the EU is to preside over the legislative and political process, ensuring continuity of the EU agenda. The Presidency rotates every six months, and the hosting Member State has two tasks. Firstly, the Presidency is tasked, to plan, organise, and chair meetings in the Council, its preparatory bodies, and in various EU meetings. The Council comprises of Government Ministers, with different representatives in the various formations of the Council. For instance, economic, finance and tax affairs are covered by ministers in the ECOFIN Council. Secondly, the Presidency represents the Council in relations with other EU institutions, for instance in the EP. In this context, it is responsible for promoting initiatives for integration, the smooth functioning of EU institutions, and ensuring consistent European policy.

How the EU Presidency works

The Council of the EU is one of the decision-making institutions of the EU, and assuming the Presidency is an important role. The Presidency presides over all Council configurations, except the Foreign Affairs Council, which is chaired by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Lisbon Treaty served to reduce the role of the Presidency by officially separating the European Council (Heads of State and Government) from the Council of the European Union (Ministers). The European Council since 1 December 2014, sets the strategic direction of the EU, while the Council of Ministers is the formal legislative body representing Member States. President of the European Council is Donald Tusk (Poland), was re-elected for a second term until 30 November 2019. Another important change introduced in 2007 means that the Presidency programme is now shared by three Member States over an 18-month period to improve consistency and realism in EU policy priorities. The Bulgarian Presidency is the second of its trio, which includes Estonia (H2 2017) and Austria (H2 2018).

Voting rules

Within qualify majority voting (QMV), a new voting system has been applicable since 1 November 2014. In order for a legislative act to be adopted under the new arrangements, it must have the support of at least 55 % of the EU Member States (i.e. 15 Member States in a Union of 28), representing at least 65% of the population. A blocking minority must represent Member States with at least 35% of the EU population, plus one member, meaning that at least four Council members are required. When the Council acts on its own initiative, the qualified majority shall be defined as at least 72% of the members of the Council, representing Member States comprising of at least 65% of the population of these States. Until March 2017, any Member State may request that the old voting system, based on size and population, be applied instead of the new system.