



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Olli Rehn  
Member of the Commission  
Andris Piebalgs  
Member of the Commission

Brussels, 23.5.2006  
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Dear Minister,

On 16 May, the Commission presented a Monitoring Report on the state of preparedness for membership of Bulgaria and Romania, on the basis of detailed country reports. Your government's contributions to the report on Bulgaria have been very useful and we would like to thank you again for the information provided, which helped us in drawing up our assessment of your country's preparations for accession.

President Barroso and Commissioner Rehn explained the approach in more details during their visit to Sofia on 17 May.

In the light of the overall progress made by your country, the Commission considers that Bulgaria should be prepared for membership by 1 January 2007, provided that it addresses a number of outstanding issues. Further progress is necessary in the fight against corruption and the reform of the judiciary, as well as in the six areas of serious concern where immediate action is needed, as set out in the report.

In addition to this, the Commission also underlined that increased efforts are needed on the other outstanding issues. More specifically, we should like to draw your attention to the need to step up preparations concerning the commitments to early closure of units 3 and 4 and subsequent decommissioning of units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant.

The Commission will report on Bulgaria's and Romania's progress in addressing the outstanding issues no later than early October. On this basis, the Commission will consider whether the date of their accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007 can be maintained.

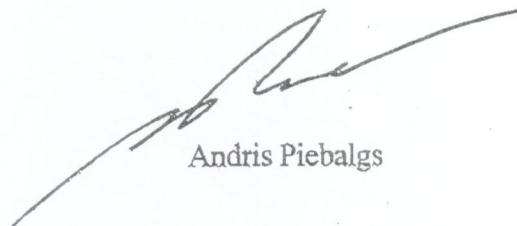
Mrs Meglena Kuneva  
Minister of European Integration  
2 Al. Zhendov Str.  
Sofia - Bulgaria

The Commission is ready to help to achieve further progress in your country. Our services are in contact with yours to clearly identify possible solutions in order to resolve the problems without any delay. We trust your authorities will keep the Commission fully informed of all developments and measures undertaken to correct shortcomings identified. We count on your Government to take the necessary steps on the ground to ensure a smooth accession to the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Olli Rehn



Andris Piebalgs