

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (1 January - 30 June 2018)

THREE MAIN MESSAGES:

1. Bulgaria will seek a broad **CONSENSUS** on:

- Security and Migration
- The Future of the Western Balkans in the European Union
- Sustainable Integrated Approach for the Danube and the Black Sea Regions
- An Efficient, Rapid and Fair Justice

2. Bulgaria will promote **COMPETITIVENESS**:

- A Competitive Single Market - focus on the Digital Single Market
- Promoting Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation - based on digital technology and innovation
- Economic and Monetary Union:
 - Deepening Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
 - Reducing risks in the banking system, completing the Banking Union, and building the Capital Markets Union
- A Sustainable and Future-Oriented Environment
- A Stable European ENERGY Union
- The Future of Work in a Fairer Europe - job opportunities within the Single Market, without misusing social security systems, social dumping or 'brain drain'

3. Bulgaria will work to increase the welfare of all citizens of the European Union by promoting **COHESION**:

- Reformed Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020 - future use of financial instruments
- Cohesion Policy after 2020 - harmonize the rules of the EU's funds and instruments:
 - the right balance between granting aid and financial instruments
 - Investing in economic growth and jobs remains a top priority
- The Future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) – Simplification and Modernization
- Culture as a Strategic Resource for the Better Future of the EU

BULGARIA-EU

HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

February 2018

- High-level conference on Eco-Innovation for air quality: 02/05-06/2018
- High-Level Ministerial Conference - "Tourism and economic growth": 02/13/2018
- "Consumer Rights Protection by Monopoly: National and European context": 02/26/2018

March 2018

- ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting: 03/01-02/2018
- Conference on the future Multiannual Financial Framework: 03/09/2018
- International Conference "Cybersecurity Challenges": 03/26/2018
- Conference on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO): 03/26-27/2018

April 2018

- LeaderSHE@digital conference: 04/12/2018
- International High-Level Conference on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship: 04/16-17/2018
- High-level conference "Clean Energy - the road towards reaching a political compromise": 04/19/2018
- Conference "Education to Do: From Digital Consumers to Digital Creators": 04/19-20/2018
- ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting: 04/25-26/2018
- Eurofin Financial Forum: 04/25-27/2018

May 2018

- EU - USA Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting: May 2018
- Smart Specialization and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth: 05/04-05/2018 (04/12-13/2018/05/07-08/2018)
- Second Investors Roundtable Balkan Gas Hub: 05/05/2018
- E-justice Conference: 14/05/2018

June 2018

- Global Women Leaders Forum 2018: 06/03-05/2018
- High-level conference "EU Cohesion Policy: post-2020 perspectives for convergence and sustainable regions": 06/08/2018
- Meeting of the tourism ministers of the BSEC member countries, Varna: 06/14/2018
- Digital Assembly back-to-back with "European Data Forum" and "Internet – New Challenges": 06/25-26/2018
- WEB IT: 06/27-28/2018

BULGARIA

One of the

EARLIEST

civilizations in Europe.
Heir of Ancient Thrace

Established year

681

Home of

CYRILLIC

alphabet

**EU, NATO
and WTO**

Membership

4th

fastest-
growing
economy
in the EU

2nd

BEST
outsourcing
destination
in Europe

CROSSROAD

between Europe, Asia
and Africa

Market Access to

750 mln

EU / EFTA / RUSSIA
Turkey / Middle East

LOW COST

of doing Business
Competitive
operational costs
and labour

The BEST performing
industry is

ICT Sector

600% revenue
growth for 10 Years

Educated

and
multilingual
workforce

1st

in the world in
the production
of lavender

Bulgaria is the

birthplace of YOGURT

and Lactobacillus Bulgaricus

3rd

largest exporter
of sunflower
seeds worldwide

22nd

in the world of
wine
production

2nd

in Europe

600 mineral water
springs

THE OLDEST

gold treasure
was found in
Bulgaria