



# Council of Presidents of BusinessEurope

16-18 | 05 | 2018

InterContinental Hotel | Sofia, Bulgaria

**BUSINESSEUROPE**



eu2018bg.bg  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



**BULGARIAN  
INDUSTRIAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Union of the Bulgarian Business





Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is a real pleasure for me to welcome you cordially to the capital of Bulgaria. At this moment, when our country is presiding the EU Council, we are happy and honored to host the Council of Presidents of BusinessEurope for the first time in Sofia.

The Bulgarian Industrial Association – Union of the Bulgarian Business is kindly offering you this welcome pack containing useful information about the overall programme during these two days, about Sofia and its sightseeing opportunities, including modest gifts for each delegate.

Lunches on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May and gala dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> May will be offered and served for delegates and accompanying persons at the Intercontinental hotel (restaurant and ballroom on Mezzanine floor).

Please wear the badges provided herein to access the meeting rooms and restaurants booked for our meeting.

Hoping that you will enjoy your stay in Sofia, please feel free to contact the staff of BIA for any guidance or organizational questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bojidar Danev'.

**Bojidar Danev**

Executive President

# Programme

## 16 May 2018

Hotel accommodation of delegates

Dinner for permanent delegates and other guests arrived already

## 17 May 2018

Hotel accommodation of delegates

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch at Intercontinental hotel

14.00 - 15.00 Meeting with the President of Bulgaria with Heads of Delegations  
*Bus from the hotel to the Presidency at 13.30*

14.30 - 16.30 Walking Sightseeing tour in Sofia for other delegates, permanent delegates and partners  
*start from the Intercontinental hotel*

15.30 - 17.00 Meeting of BusinessEurope Vice-Presidents at Intercontinental hotel

19.30 Welcome drinks

20.00 Gala dinner  
*The gala dinner will take place at the Ballroom of the Intercontinental hotel /  
hosted by the Bulgarian Industrial Association*

## 18 May 2018

Venue: Ballroom of the Intercontinental hotel

08.30 - 13.00 **Meeting of the Council of Presidents**

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break

13.00 Family photo

13.10 Lunch

## AGENDA

### 1. Final minutes of the Council of Presidents meeting on 1 December 2017

*(the final approved text is attached for ease of reference)*

### 2. Report by the President and Director General

- discussions in the Group of Vice Presidents
- key developments since the last meeting

### 3. Political and economic outlook in Member States

- exchange of information on topical national developments

### 4. Priorities for the EP election and for the next Commission

- key milestones in the EU election processes
- main issues expected in the public debate
- strategic discussion on the priorities to be promoted by business and process of work in BusinessEurope

### 5. Exchange of views with Mrs Pavlova, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency

### 6. Brexit

- up-date on negotiations and on the work of BusinessEurope
- report by CBI on the situation in the UK
- discussion

### 7. International relations

- up-date on international relations with special focus EU-US relations
- discussion

### 8. BUSINESSEUROPE a.i.s.b.l. General Assembly

- a. BusinessEurope President
- b. Approval of Accounts 2017
- c. Discharge of BUSINESSEUROPE's Executive Committee
- d. Updated list of Vice-Presidents
- e. Updated list of Executive Bureau
- f. Updated list of Executive Committee/Board of Directors
- g. Updated list of companies member of the Advisory and Support Group

# List of participants



Mrs Emma MARCEGAGLIA  
BusinessEurope



Mr Markus BEYRER  
BusinessEurope



Mr Jacek KRAWCZYK  
EESC, Group 1



Mr Bojidar DANEV  
Bulgaria



Mr Georg KAPSCH  
Austria



Mr Bernard GILLIOT  
Belgium



Mr Jaroslav HANAK  
Czech Republic



Mr Torben DALBY LARSEN  
Denmark



Mr Lars Peter SOBYE  
Denmark



Mr Taneli LAHTI  
Finland



Mr Pierre GATTAZ  
France



Mr Ingo KRAMER  
Germany

# List of participants



Mr Dieter KEMPF  
Germany



Mr Theodore FESSAS  
Greece



Mr Ákos NIKLAI  
Hungary



Mr Shane LYSTER  
Ireland



Mr Vincenzo BOCCIA  
Italy



Mr Vitalis GAVRILOVS  
Latvia



Mr Tomas VASILEVSKIS  
Lithuania



Ms Angela LO MAURO  
Luxembourg



Mr Franck FARRUGIA  
Malta



Mr Anton BORG  
Malta



Mr Hans de BOER  
Netherlands



Mrs Kristin SKOGEN LUND  
Norway

# List of participants



Mrs Henryka BOCHNIARZ  
Poland



Mr Antonio SARAIVA  
Portugal



Mr Stefano CECCATO  
Repubblica di San Marino



Mr Miroslav Kiralvarga  
Slovak Republic



Mrs Patricia Cirez  
Spain



Mr Frederik PERSSON  
Sweden



Mr Valentin VOGT  
Switzerland



Mr Erol BILECIK  
Turkey



Mr Kudret ÖNEN  
Turkey



Mr Paul DRECHSLER  
United Kingdom



Mr Eyjolfur Arni RAFNSSON  
Iceland



# About BIA



The Bulgarian Industrial Association – Union of the Bulgarian Business was founded in 1980 as the first non-governmental business organization in the former socialist block. From its very establishment, even in a time of planned economy and strong political coercion, BIA has succeeded in implementing some market principles which were modern for its time and are still regarded as such today.

Later on during the political transition, BIA took an active part in the processes of regulation change which occurred in the economic sphere and the launch of social dialogue in the country.

BIA facilitated Bulgaria's accession to the EU by setting up an EU-Bulgaria Joint Consultative Committee and functioned as a co-chair on the Bulgarian part for as long as two mandates.

The Association played a crucial role in the foundation, support and recognition of the branch, regional, business and employers' organizations in Bulgaria. The establishment of regional industrial associations and chambers started back in 1982. During 1990s BIA encouraged and rendered methodological support to the processes of setting up branch (sector) chambers, unions and associations, applying the experience of the advanced European states.

BIA is the only national business organization in Bulgaria that has attracted large scientific organizations and universities for its members, which is of particular importance for the processes of technological renovation and innovations, and for establishing a more direct link between science and business. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the biggest Technical Universities in Bulgaria are our undisputable partners in this endeavor.

Ever since its foundation, BIA has kept a close contact and partnership with the representatives of the Cooperative Movement in Bulgaria, which has over a hundred-year history.

During its thirty-year history BIA has proved to be the leading business organization in Bulgaria, recognized both nationwide and worldwide, a reliable and trustworthy partner, incorporating the efforts and visions of the country's entire business and scientific spectrum concerning the competitive economy development. Nowadays, it is fair enough to say that BIA's professionalism and ability to maintain its positions, by simultaneously respecting the opponents' opinion, has turned BIA into a widely acknowledged and respected partner both on a national and international level.

BIA actively participates in the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). BIA has signed cooperation agreements with over 80 national business and employers' organizations from the most developed countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA.

[www.bia-bg.com](http://www.bia-bg.com)



# Practical note

## Important Numbers

Emergency calls 112

## Time Zone

GMT/UTC + 02:00 hour (March-October)

## Currency

The currency in Bulgaria is the Lev (1 Euro = 1.95583 lev)

## Using Money in Bulgaria

Money can be exchanged in banks and change bureaus. Ask the hotel reception to recommend a bank or bureau nearby. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are accepted at almost every establishment that accepts payment by credit card. If any of the following logos appear on your card: MasterCard, VISA, AMEX, Diners Club or Discover you will be able to withdraw money from the ATMs in Sofia. It is important to check whether your home bank has authorized your card for international use if you plan on using a debit card.

## Power Supply

220V ±10% electrical supply. Supply frequency is 50Hz

Plug socket in use is the two-pinned Type F, also known as "Schuko"

## Contact person

### **Martin Stoyanov**

International organisations and programmes

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1958 2018 **60** YEARS



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