

Borissov: Bulgaria, a fine example for others

„Enormous efforts stand behind all of this country’s achievements”, PM Boyko Borissov told BBLF member companies at a meeting

In line with its mission of contributing to making Bulgaria a better place to invest, work and live in BBLF held a meeting with the incumbent government mottoed **Business and Government Team up**. The event took place on 17 October 2017 at Sofia Hotel Balkan and was attended by **Prime Minister** Boyko Borissov, **Deputy Prime Minister** Tomislav Donchev, **Minister of Health** Prof. Nikolay Petrov and **Deputy Minister of Economy** Lachezar Borisov. CEOs and senior managers of **over 40 companies** from BBLF’s community joined the discussion which was moderated by **BBLF Board member Maria Shishkova**.

„We strongly believe the public and private sector share a goal of prosperity and development in a modernised country so we thought it was a good idea to meet the Cavinet to get an insight into their priorities and also to provide a platform for dialogue between the institutions and business, **BBLF Chairman Irvan Hira** said opening the event. Being an association of responsible companies governed by sustainability and business ethics, BBLF seeks to engage leaders in all sectors for positive changes in the economic and social environment, he added.

„Lots of developments are generally taken for granted ignoring the enormous efforts that stand behind them. Bulgaria is a fine example for other countries”, PM Boyko Borissov said. “We have a number of priorities but education is paramount since it is long-term and is backed by the business”, he said.

PM Borissov made **a summary of success**: improved use of EU funds, curbing illegal trade, developing the infrastructure, maintaining good relationships with the EU countries, Turkey and the Western Balkans. He also reviewed the government’s main tasks: reducing administrative burdens, simplifying procedures for foreign employees, enhancing the sense of justice, infrastructure projects. „However, **our No 1 priority is education**”, Borissov said referring to a scheduled increase in salaries meant to motivate teachers and recent measures to make some 10,000 pupils go back to school this academic year only.

BBLF Deputy Chair Zoya Paunova also mentioned briefly this country’s achievements: Eurostat ranked Bulgaria among top 5 achievers in economy, unemployment hit 6%, the lowest level in 30 years, and the World Economic Forum ranked Bulgaria 49th in competitiveness among 137 countries. In his turn, **BBLF Board member Levon Hampartzoumian** said Bulgaria had all the prerequisites to be economically optimistic for the next few years. „Enterprising people are the reason for it”, he added in explanation.

Deputy Prime Minister Tomislav Donchev focused on the need of a shared national goal adding education was a fine choice and would have a great effect on the economy. He committed to discuss any sensible and realistic suggestions coming from the private sector. **Deputy Economy Minister Lachezar Borisov** also joined the first part of the discussion that dwelled on the investment climate.

The second part that focused on the social environment was attended by **Health Minister Prof. Nikolay Petrov**. He pointed out the increased budget of the National Health Insurance Fund and the amendments to the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act made after consulting business circles.

The discussion ended in a series of comments, questions and suggestions from companies across sectors.

The event had a considerable media coverage, and some of the media reports are accessible on the following links: [BTA](#), [bTV](#), [Nova](#), [BNT](#), [Bulgaria on Air](#), [BNR](#), [24 chasa](#), [Trud](#), [Vesti](#), [Darik](#), [Focus](#), [Bgnes](#), [Standart](#), [Sega](#), [Manager](#), [Dnevnik](#), [Investor](#), [Mediapool](#), [Offnews](#), [Club Z](#), [BiT](#), [TV Evropa](#), [Kanal 3](#).

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