



NEWS RELEASE

Bulgaria Belongs to the Eurozone

Bulgaria's joining the single European currency will be beneficial to citizens and business

Sofia, 9 April 2019

Following the success of the initiative's previous editions the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum (BBLF) held the **Fourth Annual BBLF-Ambassadors Meeting** earlier today. The event that gathers the private sector, the diplomatic corps and senior members of the executive was mottoed **Bulgaria in the Eurozone** and was attended by **Ekaterina Zaharieva**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Ognyan Zlatev**, European Commission Head of Representation in Bulgaria, **Stamen Yanev**, Invest Bulgaria Agency Executive Director, and **H.E. Stefano Baldi**, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy. The event convened ambassadors and senior diplomats from **45 embassies** of countries from across the world, and top executives of **BBLF member companies**.

„We at BBLF share the aspiration of working to make Bulgaria a country that provides economic opportunities, provides decent jobs and living standards. To this end we engage different shareholders in a debate to outline policies and measures that would enhance the business and social environment”, BBLF Chairman **Iravan Hira** said.

„We believe it is important to talk about our further integration into the EU as Bulgaria belongs to the eurozone”, **Maxim Behar**, BBLF Board member who moderated the discussion said.

„Bulgaria's joining the eurozone will boost security and encourage investment. It is not by accident that it is high on the incumbent government's agenda. In August 2018 we approved a plan for ERM II membership application that would hopefully be successful in July“, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs **Ekaterina Zaharieva** said. Joining the eurozone as soon as possible is the right choice for Bulgaria, she added.

H.E. Stefano Baldi, Italian Ambassador to Sofia was this year's diplomatic partner of the meeting. “The eurozone ensures stability and predictability of the environment; it is a process that calls for proactivity and effort as the so-called waiting room is not a place where you wait but a stage that you reach in result of hard work”, he said. Eurozone membership is mutually beneficial and brings benefits to all, he stated.

Deputy Prime Minister **Zaharieva** and Invest Bulgaria Agency director **Stamen Yanev** informed guests on the steps that Bulgaria had undertaken on the road to the eurozone, while **Ognyan Zlatev**

from the EC Representation dwelled on the advantages of the single European currency for the public and companies.

The discussion was also joined by **Anton Panayotov**, Alaric Securities CEO, **Vladimir Penkov**, chairman and senior partner at Penkov, Markov & Partners law firm, and **Levon Hampartzoumian**, BBLF Deputy Chairman. Members of the business community discussed the positives of Bulgaria's accession into the eurozone and diplomats shared the experience their countries had.

The meeting was open to the media and was extensively covered by the likes of [BTA](#), BNT ([here](#) and [here](#)), BNR ([here](#) and [here](#)), [Nova TV](#), [Bloomberg TV](#), [Focus Agency](#), [Investor](#), [economy.bg](#), [economic.bg](#), [Banker](#), [Trud](#), [novinite.com](#), [Sofia Press](#), [Dnes +](#), [dir.bg](#), [novini.bg](#) and many more.

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