

To:
Mr Boyko Borissov
Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

Copy to:
Mr. Rosen Plevneliev
President of the Republic of Bulgaria
Mrs Rumiana Bachvarova
Deputy Prime Minister for coalition policy and state administration, and Minister of Interior
Mrs Meglena Kuneva
Deputy Prime Minister for coordination of European Policies and Institutional Issues

Mr Tomislav Donchev
Deputy Prime Minister for European Funds and Economic Policies

Mr Ivaylo Kalfin
Deputy Prime Minister for Demographic and Social Policy and Minister of Labour and Social Polices

Mrs Ekaterina Zaharieva
Minister of Justice

Mrs Tsetska Tsacheva
Chairperson of the National Assembly

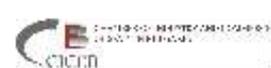
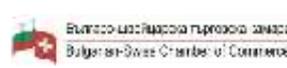
Media
25.01.2016

OPEN LETTER IN SUPPORT OF JUDICIAL REFORM IN BULGARIA

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER,

The undersigned Chambers of Commerce express their concern about the latest developments related to the implementation of the long awaited reform of the judicial system and the increasing impression, both locally and among foreign investors' circles, that there is not enough rule of law in Bulgaria. It is our opinion that the accumulated and unresolved problems in the judiciary are systemic and require a comprehensive approach in order to be eliminated, an approach which ought to be based on the principles of justice, the rule of law and the reform strategy approved by the National Assembly.

The resulting feeling that the reform is not happening leads to uncertainty among investors and the economic entities operating in the country. There is a decline in the willingness to invest in Bulgaria to the benefit of other countries. If there are private investments, there will be a stronger and growing economy. This is the key to Bulgaria's development and to the successful completion of reforms in other sectors such as healthcare, education, energy, infrastructure etc. Without the economy and without added value, created through legal means and investments, one cannot expect a positive



and sustainable development of the country. This is a price the whole society pays and will continue to pay. Ultimately, one of its most valuable resources is being depleted - trust.

The Chambers of Commerce believe that the judicial system should be able to count on high quality professionals, distinguished by their impeccable morals and integrity, specialists who are familiar with the problems and have the will for change, experts working for effective and fair jurisprudence and defending justice and the good name and reputation of Bulgaria's judicial system. The Chambers express their solidarity with the efforts to promote real change from within the judicial system, ensuring the needed independence of judges and magistrates. The Chambers believe that the latter have the knowledge and the ability to complete these very necessary reforms.

In conclusion, the undersigned chambers would like to emphasise that no reform of the justice system would be possible without the political will to enforce the law. The meaning of reform is not just in law making but also in implementation and enforcement of legal norms — this will increase Bulgarian society's and business' confidence in the judicial system.

Sincerely,

AmCham, Krassimira Chemishanska, President

Belgium-Bulgaria-Luxembourg Business Club, Frank Jansen, President

British-Bulgarian Business Association, David Hampson, Chairman

Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Boni Bonev, Chairman

Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Spain in Bulgaria, Albert Marco Gomez, Chairman

Confindustria Bulgaria, Roberto Mascali, Director

Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria, Koos Schouten, Chairman

French-Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Stéphan Delahaye, President

German-Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Mitko Vassilev, Chief Executive

Italian Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria, Marco Montecchi, President