



BALKAN BORDERS CROSSING GUIDE

Part I



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**BALKAN BORDERS
CROSSING GUIDE**

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BULGARIA – COUNTRY PROFILE

- *Area: 110.910 sq. km / 42.822 sq. miles*
- *Situation: Bulgaria is situated in South East Europe*
- *Population: 7.97 million*
- *Economy: 59% services sector, 29% industry and 12% agriculture*
- *University graduates: 15% of the population*
- *National language: Bulgarian*
- *Foreign languages: English, German, French, Russian*
- *Religion: 83% Eastern Orthodox Christians*
- *State governance form: Parliamentary republic*
- *Currency: Bulgarian Lev (BGN) pegged to the Euro in an exchange rate of 1,95583:1*
- *Membership in: NATO, WTO*
- *Capital: Sofia. Sofia is situated in Western Bulgaria at the foothill of Mt. Vitosha at 550 m altitude.*
- *Borders*
 - *To the North, Bulgaria borders with Romania*
 - *To the South – with Greece and Turkey*
 - *To the West – with Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia*
 - *To the East – with the Black Sea*
- *Main cities: Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas*
- *Time zone: GMT+2*
- *Average altitude is 470 m.*
- *Highest point is Mt. Moussala – 2925 m*
- *Climate – Bulgaria is on the border between the temperate and Mediterranean climatic zone. In the northern parts of Bulgaria, the climate is temperate – continental, while in its southern parts the Mediterranean climatic influence is predominant.*
- *Average winter temperatures – around 0°C, -2°C*
- *Average summer temperatures – around 20 – 22°C*

BULGARIA AND PAN-EUROPEAN CORRIDORS

Two meetings of the European ministers of transport, one of them in Helsinki and the other in Crete, define the ten European transport corridors (ETC), five of which, namely No. IV, VII, VIII, IX and X cross Bulgaria's territory.

European Transport Corridor No. IV

Dresden – Prague – Bratislava – Dyord – Budapest – Arad – Krayova – Sofia – Plovdiv – Istanbul, with branching to Sofia – Kulata – Thessaloniki, is the road linking the Central European countries with the Aegean Sea (Port Thessaloniki). The ETC lot on the territory of Bulgaria (Vidin – Sofia – "Kulata" border crossing point) is 446 km long.

Map of Pan-European transport corridors



European Transport Corridor No. VII

River route "Rhine – Main – Danube". The ETC VII section on Bulgarian territory is the Danube River, as part of the corridor is of international significance. It is about 760 km long.

European Transport Corridor No. VIII

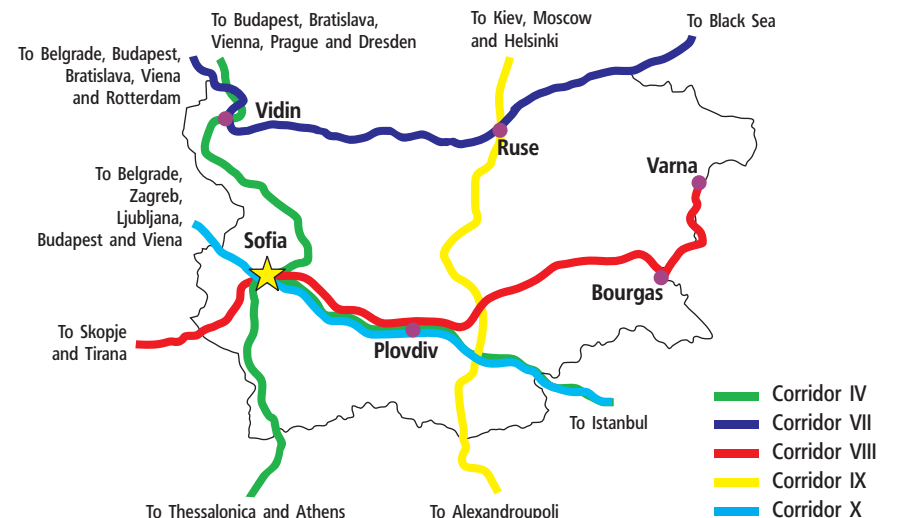
Duress – Tirana – Caftan/Kafasan – Skopje – Deve Bair – Gyuesevo – Sofia – Plovdiv – Bourgas – (Varna) is the link between the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea basin countries, Russia and the Central Asian countries. It crosses Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria.

The corridor's total length on the Bulgarian territory is 639 km ("Gyuesevo" border crossing point – Pernik – Sofia – Bourgas – Varna).

European Transport Corridor No. IX

Helsinki – Saint Petersburg – Pskov – Vytebsk – Kiev – Lyubashevka – Cisinou – Bucharest – Rousse – Dimitrovgrad – Alexandroupolis provides the link between the Northeast European countries via Romania and Bulgaria with the port of Alexandroupolis on the Aegean Sea.

Pan-European Transport Corridors, Crossing Bulgaria



The total length of the road on Bulgarian territory in the Rousse – Veliko Turnovo – Gabrovo – Stara Zagora – Dimitrovgrad – Kurdjali direction is 455 km.

European Transport Corridor No. X

Salzburg – Ljubljana – Zagreb – Belgrade – Nis – Skopje – Veles – Thessaloniki with branch: Gratz – Maribor – Zagreb; Budapest – Novi Sad – Belgrade; Nis – Sofia – Dimitrovgrad – Istanbul, along IV corridor; Veles – Bitolja – Florina – Via Ignatia to Igumenitsa.

This corridor was approved after the Helsinki conference in 1997 as a measure against the isolation of the former FR Yugoslavia and to strengthen peace in the region. It heads towards the direction of the Pan-European highway "North-South" (TEM), following the traditional route in Southeast Europe and the Balkans.

The road's total length on Bulgarian territory towards the "Kalotina" border crossing point – Sofia is 60 km.

BORDER CONTROL AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The border crossing points of the Republic of Bulgaria are government structures for border control allowing only persons, goods and transport vehicles to cross the state border.

The border control is executed by the specialised organs of:

- The Ministry of Interior
- The Ministry of Finances
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
- The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

The following is carried out at the border crossing points:

- Border passport and visa control
- Border customs control
- Border veterinary medical control and quarantine
- Border phytosanitary control and quarantine
- Border sanitary control
- Transport vehicles control

The border crossing points' basic form of work organisation is the shifts on duty, composed of the respective border services' officers. They execute border control functions 24 hours a day.

Border Passport and Visa Control

The border passport and visa control organs of the Ministry of Interior perform the following tasks:

- Execute border passport and visa control of persons and transport vehicles crossing the border of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Reveal, investigate and prevent crimes and offences against the state border security and the passport and visa regulations on the territory of the border crossing point;
- Issue visas at the border in compliance with the provisions of Art. 9, Paragraph 6 of the Law for Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Reveal and counteract organised illegal crossing of the state border, illegal traffic of goods and people;

- Reveal and detain offenders of the state border, wanted persons and vehicles on the border crossing point territory;
- Check up for explosives, fire arms and other hazardous and dangerous objects of persons and transport vehicles at the time of crossing the state border;
- Execute enforced administrative measures, as provided for in the legislation;

Border Customs Control

The organs for border customs control with the Ministry of Finances perform the following main tasks:

- Perform customs supervision and control on goods, transport vehicles and persons in the border crossing point area;
- Calculate, collect or demand security of customs sums and other public state receivables collected by the customs bodies;
- Apply within their competence the tariff measures and the measures of the trade policy of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Organise and execute activities to prevent and reveal customs and currency offences and crimes in compliance and as per the provisions of the Penal procedural code;
- Organise and execute activities for preventing and revealing illegal traffic of narcotic drugs and precursors;
- Apply measures for the protection of intellectual property rights;

Border Sanitary Control

The organs for border sanitary control with the Ministry of Health perform the following essential tasks to protect the country from the import and dissemination of especially hazardous infectious diseases and syndromes of international health significance:

- Control persons and transport vehicles with respect to the necessary documents required by the Order for border sanitary control of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Control transport vehicles with respect to their sanitary and hygienic status and issuing of the respective prescriptions in the case of offences and breaches;

- Prescribe and control deratisation, desinsection and desinfection of aircraft, ships and trains carrying out international travel;
- Isolate sick persons or suspectedly sick persons from especially hazardous infectious diseases as well as their contact persons;
- Ensure transportation of sick persons and suspectedly sick persons from especially hazardous infectious diseases to the nearest infectious department or clinic in a medical establishment;
- Execute any other limitation measures ordered by the Ministry of Health in the case of emergence of an epidemic;

Border Veterinary Medical Control and Quarantine

The organs for border veterinary medical control with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests perform the following essential tasks:

- Control the import, export and transit of animals, animal raw materials and products, fodder, bio-preparations, mixtures, enriched with microelements and vitamins (premixes), semen, embryos, cell cultures etc. that could transfer infectious and parasite diseases.
- Carry out examinations, certify shipment accompanying documents, if necessary, take samples from the imported products and animal raw materials and fodder for laboratory tests;
- Verify the veterinary documents of the transported raw materials, preparations and products as well as the animals' health status in the case of transit shipments;
- Prohibit importation or transit unaccompanied by regular veterinary documents;
- Execute obligatory preventive disinfecting of the transport vehicles, entering the country, carrying live animals, animal raw materials and products and fodder;
- Discharge or impose quarantine on animals to be imported in the country and determine the quarantine's place and term;
- Control and take part in the establishment and usage of immune belts in the border crossing point area;

Border Phytosanitary Control and Quarantine

The organs for border phytosanitary control and quarantine of plants with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests perform the following essential tasks:

- Carry out phytosanitary control and expertise in the import, export or transit of vegetal goods and issue phytosanitary certificates or passports;
- Register all imported and exported vegetal materials
- Place under quarantine and impose bans or limitations for the import or export of vegetal materials;

Border Control of Transport Vehicles, Road Tolls and Licenses

The organs for the border control of transport vehicles, road tolls and licenses with the Ministry of the Regional Development and Public Works perform the following essential tasks:

- Collect tolls as per Art. 10 and Art. 18, paragraph 3, Item 1 of the Law for Roads;
- Control the licenses (permissions) for international transport of the foreign and Bulgarian vehicles passing through the country;
- Organise the re-distribution and control on the use of licenses and permissions for carrying out of international cargo transportation by Bulgarian carriers;
- Control the vehicles' total mass, axis load, and dimensions, as in the case of exceeding the admissible norms request respective permissions and collect the due road tolls and charges;
- Control the entering automobiles with foreign registration whether equipped with the respective accessories.

BORDER CROSSING POINTS ON THE TERRITORY OF BULGARIA

Border Crossing Points with Romania

The Regional Border Service (RGS) Vidin and RGS Rousse execute security and border control at our northern border.

Border Crossing Point **Vidin** is situated along Corridor No. 8, linking Northern Europe with the Balkans. The first ferryboat link between Bulgaria and Romania and the first Ro-Ro terminal on the Danube River were built alongside this corridor. Annually, more than 830 thousand passengers, more than 270 thousand vehicles pass across the border crossing points of RGS Vidin and more than 730 vessels are processed. The flow of passengers through the border crossing points with ferryboat link Vidin and Oriahovo steadily increases, representing 37% of the passenger flow within the area controlled by the RGS-Vidin.

The **Bregovo** Border Crossing Point develops from a point of regional significance into a point of national significance in the future. The Bulgarian citizens prefer this border point with Europe.

The regional border sector **Rousse** is the second structural unit, which executes the security and border control of the river and land border. There are six border crossing points serving annually 1 800 000 passengers, 440 000 vehicles, 11 000 river vessels and 6 000 train compositions. The Border Crossing Point Rousse – Danube Bridge is the largest within the RGS structure. It executes road, railway and river border passport and visa control. It has been operating since 1954 and is situated on the only bridge on the Danube, linking both neighbouring countries – international motorway road E70.

Border Crossing Point Silistra – Kalarash is in the process of construction.

Border Crossing Points with Turkey

The border control of the Republic of Bulgaria with the Republic of Turkey is carried out at the Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo, Border Crossing Point Malko Turnovo and Border Crossing Point Lessovo within the framework of RGS Elhovo.

The Border Crossing Point **Kapitan Andreevo** is one of the largest border crossing points. After Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007, it will become also the European Union's outside border. It is situated on two transborder corridors – 4 and 9 – the main roads connecting Western Europe with the Middle East.

The border passport and visa control is also carried out on the railway passage of international trains along the routes Bucharest – Istanbul – Budapest – Istanbul, Sofia – Istanbul and Vienna – Istanbul.

The Border Crossing Point **Malko Turnovo** is the second border crossing point on the Turkish border, with counterpart point Dere Kyoy. More than 50 thousand passengers and more than 8 thousand vehicles cross it every year. Situated at 600 m altitude and in close vicinity to the large industrial centres Varna and Bourgas, this point provides the shortest route to the East European countries. It has been operating since 16 May 1970 and works 24 hours a day.

Since 2005, a new Border Crossing Point has been operating on our border with Turkey. This is the Border Crossing Point Lessovo, which facilitates the two-way cargo traffic.

Border Crossing Points with Greece

Decree No. 327/15.10.2004 renamed the only border crossing point of RGS Smolyan from Novo Selo to "**Kapitan Petko Voyvoda**". This point has been in operation since 05.11.1988 with the main goal to serve as a border crossing point with Greece on one of the main corridors, connecting Helsinki and Alexandropolis. Every year, more than 700 thousand passengers and 100 000 vehicles cross this border crossing point.

Kulata Border Crossing Point is within RGS Petrich and serves as the main direct link with the European Union. This passage is preferred corridor both by passengers and for cargo transportation. The reconstruction and contemporary technical modernisation facilitate the quicker border control.

Ilinden Border Crossing Point is on our border with Greece. It is unique, because for a first time border is crossed in a tunnel.

Border Crossing Points with Macedonia

Security and border control of our state border with Macedonia is carried out at Border Crossing Point Gyueshevo, Border Crossing Point Stanke Lisichkovo and Border Crossing Point Zlatarevo.

Border Crossing Point **Gyueshevo** is the biggest border crossing point on the Macedonian border. The passenger flow has considerably increased during the past two years at Border Crossing Point **Zlatarevo** and Border Crossing Point **Stanke Lisichkovo**.

Border Crossing Points with Serbia and Montenegro

Border Crossing Point **Kalotina** serves the main passenger flow along the Bulgarian Western border with Serbia and Montenegro. This border crossing point is situated on the international motorway E80 as a main road artery from the European corridor 10, linking the Middle East and Western Europe. This point was established 1919 as per the Neuilly treaty and covers an area of 284 dka. Kalotina-West railway station is situated in the point's northern part. It has two tracks for processing and control of international passenger and cargo trains travelling along the line Budapest-Istanbul and Vienna-Istanbul. Almost 2 million passengers and more than 350 000 vehicles cross annually this point.

Border Crossing Point **Strezimirovtsi** and Border Crossing Point **Oltomantsi** operate on this border as well.

Operating Border Crossing Points with Neighbouring Countries

Bulgarian-Serbian border

- Bregovo
- Vrushka Chuka
- Kalotina
- Strezimirovtsi
- Oltomantsi

Bulgarian-Macedonian border

- Gyueshevo
- Stanke Lisichkovo (Logodaj)
- Zlatarevo

Bulgarian-Greek border

- Kulata
- Svilengrad (Novo Selo – "Kapitan Petko Voivoda")
- "Ilinden"

Bulgarian-Turkish border

- Kapitan Andreevo
- Malko Turnovo
- Lesovo

Bulgarian-Romanian border

- Vidin
- Lom
- Oriahovo
- Nikopol (Somovit)
- Svishtov
- Rousse
- Tutrakan
- Silistra
- Kardam
- Durankulak

PASSPORT AND VISA CONTROL AT THE BORDER CROSSING POINTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The National Border Police Service with the Ministry of Interior executes the passport control at crossing the border points of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Regular documents for international travel

A Bulgarian citizen may cross the state border with one of the following documents:

- passport
- diplomatic passport
- business passport
- sailor's passport

If the passport has been lost, destroyed or stolen outside the country, the Bulgarian citizen should obtain provisional passport from the respective Bulgarian consulate office abroad to return to the Republic of Bulgaria.

A foreigner may enter the Republic of Bulgaria with a regular personal identity document for international travel or any other substituting document as well as entry visa, residence permit or transit visa, if required.

A foreigner whose international travel document or substituting document has been lost or destroyed is obliged immediately to inform the territorial units of the "Migration" Directorate with the Ministry of Interior.

During his/her stay in the country, the foreigner's citizenship is considered the citizenship declared at the border crossing point.

Requirements for Bulgarian citizens:

Bulgarian citizens, except for regularity of passports, are checked for visas issued for the countries that the persons intend to visit or transit, if required.

The BCCI and the National Border Police Service recommend to the Bulgarian citizens, prior to their intended travel, to get information from the embassy of the respective country in the Republic of Bulgaria with which there is no-visa regime about any other requirements, terms and conditions for entry and residing on its respective territory.

Requirements for foreigners

It should be taken into consideration that the possession of a visa is not the only requirement a foreigner to enter the Republic of Bulgaria. Additional conditions for transit visitors or for foreigners to enter the country may be:

- necessary subsistence funds;
- necessary funds to leave the country or a return ticket;
- entry or transit visa for the country that the foreigner intends to visit or travel in transit, if required;
- obligatory insurance;
- any other documents provided for in an international treaty or by an act of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Upon entry in the Republic of Bulgaria, foreigners are obliged to declare the purpose of their visit. Art. 13 of the Law for Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria defines the term transit travel: "Transit visa is issued to a foreigner who enters the Republic of Bulgaria from one country and leaves the country within 24 hours en route to another country". This period is 30 hours only for Turkish citizens, in accordance with a visa agreement. In the event of non-compliance with this period for transit travel across the country, foreigners shall be fined up to 500 BGN.

As an exception, if necessitated by the state interests, resulting from extraordinary circumstances or for humanitarian reasons as well as in urgent cases or if provided for in an international treaty, ratified by the Republic of Bulgaria, the border crossing point passport control organs may, after respective coordination, issue single visas for airport transfer, transit travel or for a short-term stay for a period of up to 10 days.

In accordance with the Visa agreement between the governments of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey, the border crossing point passport and visa control organs may issue documents for transit travel across the country to Turkish citizens in the form of a state tax stamp.

A foreigner who enters, resides or transits the country by a motor transport vehicle, must possess:

- permission for entry of the motor vehicle, if required by the Bulgarian legislation and the international treaties signed by the Republic of Bulgaria;
- documents, certifying the motor vehicle's registration;
- documents, certifying the ownership of the motor vehicle, if driven by a proxy;

- obligatory insurance;
- driving license.

Citizens control on the border passport and visa control organs performance

Citizens may report any case of established irregularities and incorrect attitude on behalf of the National Border Police Service officers to the head of the respective border crossing point. "Border Police" Directorate has a 24-hour hot telephone line where problems occurred at the Bulgarian border crossing points could be reported: +359 2 98 831 865.

Enquiries, proposals, request and complaints in writing may be mailed to the following address: Sofia 1202, 46 "Maria Louisa" Blvd., "Border Police" Directorate, Ministry of Interior.

CUSTOMS CONTROL

Control and supervision of goods crossing the Bulgarian State border is entrusted to and is executed by the customs administration. It inspects commodities, as well as shipment, commercial, accounting and other documents of physical persons and legal entities, of transport vehicles, cargoes and other goods carried over across the border.

Each person who carries goods across the state border of the country is obliged to declare certain circumstances as well as to submit particular set of documentation depending on the goods' character and origin, designation, and last but not least the regime under which they fall.

Declaring can be carried out in several ways:

- In writing, using the form of the Unified Administrative Document (UAD) determined by the Minister of Finances.
- Electronically
- Verbally
- By any other act by which the goods holder expresses his wish to place these under customs regime.

The most widely used and popular way to declare goods is by UAD.

The Unified Administrative Document is the official form of a written customs declaration. It has to be filled in for each merchandise, which has an individual tariff number under the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Bulgaria, respecting the regulations placing the goods under the corresponding customs regime.

When the consignment comprises goods with different tariff numbers under the Customs Tariff of the Republic of Bulgaria, and if data required for certain boxes of the customs declaration coincide, one or more Additional Unified Administrative Documents (AUAD) may be attached to the Unified Administrative Document. They form an integral part of the customs declaration and contain the required number of forms for classifying the goods under the respective customs regime.

Both documents (UAD and AUAD) are provided in a set of forms required for the imports, exports and transit of goods. The set of forms of UAD comprises either the full set of ten forms (samples of these forms are not attached herewith) or from five forms with double designation. Respectively, the set of forms of AUAD comprises either the full set of 10 forms (samples of these forms are not attached herewith) or from five forms with double designation.

The set of forms of UAD and AUAD are as follows:

- for export – samples 1/6, 2/7, 3/8 and A/B;
- for export + transit with EAD – samples 1/6, 2/7, 3/8, A/B, 4/5, 4/5 and 2/7
- for transit – samples 1/6, 2/7, 4/5 and 4/5;
- for import – samples 1/6, 2/7, 3/8 and A/B.

In particular cases as provided for in the law, the passengers – local or foreign physical persons – fill in and submit customs declaration for goods. Such declaration should be submitted prior to the customs inspection.

The special form of the customs declaration for goods cannot be used to declare the goods; instead, declaring by UAD is required, in the cases when the passengers – local and foreign persons carry:

- Goods with a commercial character
- Goods subject to specific formalities of the respective regime
- Goods, for which a refund of paid in customs dues or other sums may be claimed

Passengers – foreign persons, declare in writing with UAD temporarily imported personal effects and sports goods of higher customs value.

In all cases and only at the passenger's request, declaring may be done with UAD instead with the special form of the customs declaration for goods.

The forms of the customs declaration for goods are in Bulgarian, English, German, Russian and French. Whenever necessary, the customs declaration for goods may be translated into other languages, too. The passengers may choose a customs declaration for goods in the language they prefer.

If a passenger is under 16 years old, the customs declaration for goods is filled in with his/her data and is signed by one of his/her accompanying persons of age.

1. CUSTOMS CONTROL ON GOODS IMPORTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods to be put under imports regime:

- Filled in customs declaration (UAD) in accordance with Regulation No. 11/23/12/1998 on the order for declaring of goods in writing before customs offices;
- Invoice, stating the goods' description and fixed price on the basis of which the customs value is declared, pro-forma invoice or any other type of invoice for customs purposes;
- Declaration for the value as per Art. 98 of the Rules for Customs Law Application, when required;
- Documents, required for the application of preferential tariff measures or any other measures leading to exceptions from the general rules for levying, with respect to the declared goods (certificate of origin, certificate for the movement of goods, statement of opinions, etc.);
- Shipping documents, if the goods are shipped as unaccompanied parcels and/or documents for the previous customs regime, TIR or ATA carnets;
- Insurance policy, if the goods are insured;
- Certificate, packing list or similar document describing the contents, if necessary;
- Document, issued by a competent state organ, if the goods are subject to a special import regime settled by a law or by another regulative act (certificate for import, licenses, etc.)
- Veterinary, phytosanitary or another kind of certificate respectively for goods from animal, vegetal or another origin;
- Document for the transfer of rights (cession), receipts for detention of goods – if issued.

If the declared goods are placed under the regime of importation, the customs organs may also require other documents, including commercial contract, laboratory analysis, consumption rates and the like. If the goods are in two or more packings, the customs organs may request a packing list or similar document describing the contents of each packing.

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods, imported by passengers – local physical persons

Upon entry in the country, the passengers – local persons, declare in writing in particular cases in the special form of the customs declaration for goods, such as:

a) When importing:

- Goods with a non-commercial character acquired abroad exceeding the duty-free norms
- Goods with a non-commercial character, subject upon importation to prohibitions, restrictions or a specific control

b) When re-importing:

- Goods that have been declared for temporary export in the customs declaration for goods;

Except for the above-mentioned cases, the passengers – local persons, do not fill in customs declaration for goods.

The goods, subject to declaring, are described in the customs declaration for goods by their most characteristic features, numbers and own value, enabling their definition and customs processing.

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods, imported by passengers – foreign physical persons

Upon entry in the country, the passengers – foreign persons, declare in writing in particular cases in the special form of the customs declaration for goods, such as:

- For the importation of goods with a non-commercial character, subject upon importation to prohibitions, restrictions or a specific control;
- For the temporary importation of goods with non-commercial character, subject upon temporary importation to prohibitions, restrictions or specific control.

Except for the above-mentioned cases, the passengers – foreign persons, do not fill in customs declaration for goods.

The goods, subject to declaring, are described in the customs declaration for goods by their most characteristic features, numbers and own value, enabling their definition and customs processing.

The certified customs declarations for goods are kept by the passengers-foreign persons, during their stay in the Republic of Bulgaria and are to be presented to the customs organs upon leaving the country for customs control purposes.

2. CUSTOMS CONTROL ON GOODS EXPORTED FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods to be put under exports regime:

- Filled in customs declaration (UAD) in accordance with Regulation No. 11/23.12.1998 for the order for declaring of goods in writing before customs offices;
- Invoice or pro-forma invoice or any other similar document indicating the value of the goods;
- Documents designated for the country of import (certificate of origin, license etc.)
- Shipping documents, if the goods are shipped as unaccompanied parcels;
- Documents for the previous customs regime, if any /TIR or ATA carnets/;
- Specification, packing list or any other similar document describing the contents, if necessary;
- Document, issued by a competent state organ, if the goods are subject to a special export regime settled by a law or by another regulative act (certificate for export, licenses, etc.)
- Veterinary, phytosanitary or another kind of certificate respectively for goods from animal, vegetal or another origin;
- Document for the transfer of rights (cession), receipts for detention of goods – if issued.

In order to apply the regulations for placing the declared goods under exports regime, the customs organs may also require other documents, including commercial contracts, laboratory analysis, consumption rates etc.

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods, exported by passengers – local physical persons

Upon leaving the country, the passengers – local persons, declare in writing in particular cases in the special form of the customs declaration for goods, such as:

a) When importing goods with a non-commercial character, subject upon exportation to prohibitions, restrictions or a specific control;

b) When temporarily exporting:

- Goods with a non-commercial character of higher value which they intend to re-import in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Goods with non-commercial character, subject upon temporary exportation to prohibitions, restrictions or specific control.

Except for the above-mentioned cases, the passengers – local persons, do not fill in customs declaration for goods.

The goods, subject to declaring, are described in the customs declaration for goods by their most characteristic features, numbers and own value, enabling their definition and customs processing.

The certified customs declarations for goods are kept by the passengers-local persons, during their travel and residing abroad and are to be presented to the customs organs upon returning to the country for customs control purposes.

Documents, required by the customs authorities for goods, exported by passengers –foreign physical persons

Upon leaving the country, the passengers – foreign persons, declare in writing in particular cases in the special form of the goods customs declaration, such as:

- For the export of goods with a non-commercial character, subject upon exportation to prohibitions, restrictions or specific control;
- For the re-exportation of goods that have been declared for temporary import upon entry in the special form of the customs declaration for goods.

Except in the above cases, the passengers-foreign persons are not requested to fill in goods customs declaration.

Goods subject to declaring are described in the customs declaration for goods by their most characteristic features, numbers and own value, enabling their definition and customs processing.

PHYTOSANITARY CONTROL

The phytosanitary control at the border crossing points of the Republic of Bulgaria is executed by the organs of the National Service on Plant Protection with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

The following are subject to phytosanitary control:

- Plants, including seedlings and seeds
- Vegetal produce
- Nutrient media
- Plant protection preparations
- Transport vehicles
- Packages of/by plants, vegetal and other products

1. PHYTOSANITARY CONTROL ON GOODS EXPORTED FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Plants, vegetal and other products designated for exports, are subject to obligatory phytosanitary control, when required by the importing country legislation.

The exporter should, at least three working days prior to shipment, submit a request for the execution of phytosanitary control and issuing of respective phytosanitary certificate to the director of the respective Regional service on plant protection from whose region the respective goods originates as well as to submit the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

The phytosanitary inspectors inspect the plants, vegetal and other products designated for exports in order to establish:

- a) their identity;*
- b) exported quantities;*
- c) absence of pests;*
- d) compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.*

On the basis of this inspection, a phytosanitary certificate is issued, if found out that the plants, vegetal and other products satisfy the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

Re-export of plants, vegetal products and others, subject to phytosanitary control

A phytosanitary certificate for re-export is issued for a consignment or part of it,

imported to Bulgaria and designated for re-export to another country. The original certificate or its duly certified copy, issued by the phytosanitary organs of the country of origin of the consignment is attached to the certificate for re-export.

2. PHYTOSANITARY CONTROL ON GOODS IMPORTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The phytosanitary control on imports includes verification of documents, identification of the plants, vegetal and other products and the establishment of their phytosanitary status. The inspection is carried out at the import's border crossing point or until the point of designation.

The importer should at least two working days prior to the goods crossing the border point to declare it and to pay a fee at one of the Regional service on plant protection as per the tariff approved by the Council of Ministers.

Documents, required by the phytosanitary control organs for the import of plants, vegetal products and others subject to phytosanitary control:

- a) Certificate for import, issued by the regional services on plant protection.*
- b) Phytosanitary certificate, issued by an authorised organ of the country of origin of the plants or products, or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.*

Transit crossing of the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of plants, vegetal and other products, subject to phytosanitary control.

Transit crossing through the country of plants, vegetal and other products bearing phytosanitary risk is allowed without carrying out of phytosanitary inspection of the goods if the phytosanitary inspectors decide that consignments are in packing excluding any risk from dissemination of pests. Shipments non-complying with this requirement are processed as in the case of imports.

Charges paid for border phytosanitary control

The charges collected for the phytosanitary control are set by Tariff of Charges Collected by the National Service on Plant Protection with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

For more information:

National Service for Plant Protection

1606 Sofia, 17 "Hristo Botev" Blvd.

Tel. 9173 702, Fax: 952 0987

<http://www.nsrz-bg.com/index.html>

VETERINARY MEDICAL CONTROL

At Bulgarian border crossing points, the veterinary-medical control is a responsibility of the National Veterinary-Medical Service (NVMS) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (Regulation No. 4 of 12.03.2002 for Border Veterinary Medical Control). These are the Border Inspections for Veterinary-Medical Control and Quarantine of the border inspection veterinary points.

The border veterinary-medical control covers:

- Verification of documents
- Identity check
- Physical check
- Transport vehicles check;
- Disinfecting of transport vehicles entering the country.

1. VETERINARY MEDICAL CONTROL ON EXPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Terms and conditions for export

Exports are allowed provided that:

- Border Inspections for Veterinary-Medical Control and Quarantine have received veterinary-medical permission for exportation, issued by the General Director of the NVMS.
- Original veterinary-medical certificate accompanies every consignment for exportation, issued by a governmental veterinary physician of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- Veterinary inspections with satisfactory results have been carried out.

Conditions for issuing of veterinary medical export license:

NVMS general director issues the veterinary medical export license after the submission of an application as per the respective sample to the NVMS with attached:

a) For live animals: veterinary medical certificate for export depot, approved by the respective Regional Veterinary-Medical Service (RVMS);

b) For live fish, fishing material, live birds and breeding eggs: certificate as per Art. 32, paragraph 1 of the Veterinary Law for a registered object;

c) For animal raw materials and products: certificate as per Art. 94, Paragraph 3 of the Regulations for the application of the Veterinary Law. (State Gazette No. 55 of 2000).

Within a 10-day period as of the date of submission of the application, the general director shall issue the export license.

No veterinary medical export license is required for:

- Single pets and decorative animals;
- Animal raw materials and products, additives, fodder and fodder additives, provided that designated for scientific purposes, exhibitions, donations, humanitarian aid, diplomatic representation offices;
- Animal products for personal consumption of up to 5 kg weight;
- Thermally processed products for personal consumption of up to 1-kg weight.

Veterinary certificate

The veterinary certificate has a sample form approved by the NVMS General Director and is issued by governmental veterinary physician, appointed with RVMS director order in the regions of origin of the exported objects.

2. VETERINARY MEDICAL CONTROL ON IMPORTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Terms and conditions for import

Importation is allowed provided that:

- Border Inspections for Veterinary-Medical Control and Quarantine have received veterinary medical export license, signed by the NVMS General Director.
- Original veterinary-medical certificate, accompanying every consignment for exportation, issued by a governmental veterinary physician in the country of origin.
- Veterinary inspections with satisfactory results have been carried out.
- No prohibitions have been imposed in accordance with Art. 49, Paragraph 1 of the Veterinary Law.
- All due veterinary charges have been paid.

Veterinary medical import license

The NVMS general director issues the veterinary medical import license after the submission of an application as per a sample form.

The following documents shall be attached to the application:

a) *For live animals:*

- veterinary medical certificate for quarantine premises, approved by the respective RVMS or a certificate by the Quarantine base – Rousse for ensured premises for carrying out the quarantine in the case when the animals are designated for breeding purposes;
- certificate by the slaughter house that will accept the animals designated for immediate slaughtering

b) *For breeding eggs – veterinary medical certificate for poultry incubator, approved by the respective RVMS;*

c) *For live fish and fishing material – certificate by approved fishery, issued by the RVMS on whose territory is the fishery;*

d) *For animal products and raw materials, fodder and fodder components – veterinary sanitary certificate for approved importer's warehouse, issued by the respective RVMS or lease agreement for the renting of approved warehouse;*

e) *For medications and bio-preparations:*

- a copy of the registration certificate of the veterinary medical preparation in the country;
- a copy of the veterinary medical preparations wholesale trade license.

NVMS general director shall issue the license within 10 days of submission of the application.

After being issued, the import license shall be sent ex officio to the respective border inspection point prior to import.

No veterinary medical import license is required for:

- Single pets and decorative animals;
- Animal raw materials and products, additives, fodder and fodder additives, provided that these are designated for scientific purposes, exhibitions, donations, humanitarian aid, diplomatic representation offices;
- Animal products for personal consumption of up to 5 kg weight;
- Thermally processed products for personal consumption of up to 1-kg weight.

Transport vehicles

Vehicles with animals, products and materials of animal origin or fodder are also subject to veterinary-medical control, comprising: check of the vehicle for its hygiene, cooling regime, norms of loading (Regulation No. 4 of 10.02.2000 for the veterinary medical requirements for humane treatment of animals during transportation). Transport vehicles that do not satisfy the veterinary sanitary requirements with respect to strength, quality and hygiene during transportation or with improper documentation are not allowed to import animals and animal products.

The regional veterinary medical services annually approve the transport vehicles for the transportation of animals and raw materials and products from animal origin. A certificate is issued to the approved transport vehicles, a copy of which is kept at the RVMS.

The transport vehicles, entering the country, are subject to obligatory preventive disinfecting by the organs of the National veterinary medical service against payment of respective charge as fixed in the Tariff for charges collected by the NVMS.

3. TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA OF ANIMALS, RAW MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS FROM ANIMAL ORIGIN, ADDITIVES, FODDER AND FODDER ADDITIVES AND VETERINARY MEDICAL PREPARATIONS

Terms and conditions for transit:

Transit of animals is allowed, provided that:

- A written permission for transit has been received at the border inspection veterinary point, issued as per Art. 79 of the Regulations for the application of the Veterinary Law
- A veterinary certificate accompanies each consignment.
- Documentation has been verified.
- All veterinary medical charges have been paid.

Transport vehicles for the transit transportation of raw materials and products from animal origin, additives, fodder, fodder additives and veterinary medical preparations shall not be opened unless when needed, agreed upon with the customs organs.

In the case of accident of the transit transport vehicle, transporting objects as per Art. 1, Item 1, re-loading to another specialised transport vehicle shall be allowed

in the presence of the person in charge of the truckload, government veterinary physician and customs organs representative. The governmental veterinary physician shall note on the veterinary certificate the number of the transport vehicle of re-loading as well as the reasons for re-loading. S/he shall certify by his/her signature and the seal of the respective RVMS that such re-loading was carried out under his/her supervision and control.

Transport vehicles, entering the country, are subjected to obligatory preventive disinfecting by the NVMS organs.

Charges, Collected for the Border Veterinary – Medical Control

The charges collected for the veterinary – medical control are set by Tariff for NVMS collected charges. (Tariff for the charges collected by the National veterinary medical services as per the Law for veterinary medical activity).

For more information:

National Veterinary Medical Service

Sofia 1606, 15A "P. Slaveykov" Blvd.

Ph. 915 98 20; Fax 954 95 93

<http://www.mzgar.government.bg/NacSlujbi/NVMS/HVMS.htm>

SANITARY CONTROL

The Minister of Health carries out the operational management of the nationwide border sanitary control.

The sanitary measures provided for in the Regulation are carried out by permanent, functional and temporary units for border sanitary control of the "Anti-epidemic Control" department of the Hygienic and Epidemiological Inspections (HEI).

The permanent units for border sanitary control are situated at the border crossing points.

The sanitary measures, implemented by the HEI border sanitary control units include:

- Control of the persons and transport vehicles with respect to the documents, required as per Art. 15;
- Control of the transport vehicles sanitary and hygienic status, and, in the case of breaches – issuing of respective prescriptions;

- Prescribing and control of aircraft and ships' deratisation, disinsecting and disinfecting;
- Isolation of a sick or suspiciously sick persons from diseases;
- Ensuring transportation of the sick or suspiciously sick person from the diseases to the nearest infectious department or clinic at a medical institution for hospital help;
- Execution of other limitation measures

The persons, subject to border sanitary control, should submit an international immunisation certificate in a sample form.

The persons in charge of the transport vehicle, subject to border sanitary control, should submit the following documents:

- General marine declaration;
- Marine sanitary declaration as indicated in Appendix No. 3;
- Certificate for ships' deratisation or weaver from deratisation as per the sample form in Appendix No. 4;
- Crew list and passengers list;
- General aircraft declaration on sanitary issues.

ROAD TOLLS AND VEHICLES DOCUMENTS, REQUIRED FOR CROSSING THE ROAD BORDER CROSSING POINTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Executive Agency "Roads" collects road tolls and requires the respective documents from vehicles with Bulgarian and foreign registration at crossing the road border points of the Republic of Bulgaria.

1. ROAD TOLLS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR VEHICLES LEAVING THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Documents required for Bulgarian vehicles leaving the Republic of Bulgaria.

The border control organs of "Roads" Executive Agency require the following documents for Bulgarian vehicles:

a) For trucks:

- Vehicle's certificate for international transport, issued by "Automobile Administration" Executive Agency;
- Original reservation set of permits, if needed
- Preliminarily activated TIR-carnet, ATA-carnet, customs document or another document, specified in the reservation set;
- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network or parts of it;
- Permission for the country of designation or transit, if necessary;
- The total mass and/or axis load are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected.

b) For buses:

- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it;
- The total mass and/or axis load are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected

c) For passenger cars:

- regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it;

Documents required for foreign vehicles leaving the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria

The border control organs of "Roads" Executive Agency require the following documents for foreign vehicles:

a) For trucks:

- Licence for the respective type of transport, if necessary
- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it
- The total mass and/or axis load are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected

Charges, Paid for Vehicles

Road toll is paid, as set by Tariff No 14 on the charges collected within the system of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, upon leaving the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. ROAD TOLLS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR VEHICLES ENTERING THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

After passing the Bulgarian border, Bulgarian and foreign trucks and buses are measured for size, total weight and axis loading. The charges for the weighting, for surpassing the overall weight and axial load are paid at the desks of Directorate Road Tolls and Licences, which collects all other charges on vehicles as well.

Documents required for Bulgarian vehicles entering the Republic of Bulgaria

The border control organs of "Roads" Executive Agency require the following documents for Bulgarian vehicles:

a) For trucks:

- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it
- The total mass and/or axis load are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected

b) For buses:

- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it
- The total mass and/or axis load are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected

Documents required for foreign vehicles entering the Republic of Bulgaria

The border control organs of "Roads" Executive Agency require the following documents for foreign vehicles:

a) For trucks:

- Licence for the respective type of transport, if necessary
- The total mass, axial load and rear light size are not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected
- Regular vignette sticker for using the republican road network of parts of it
- Accessories for driving in snow, for the winter

b) For buses:

- Licence for the respective type of transport, if necessary
- Original schedule and route for shuttle transport

- The axial load should not to be exceeded. Otherwise, the due charges are collected
- Accessories for driving in snow, for the winter
- Road toll according to the bilateral agreements
- A list of the group of passengers. In the case of random transportation, a travel list is required from the “Interbus” type

Charges, Paid for Vehicles

Road toll is paid, set by Tariff No 14 on the charges collected within the system of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, upon leaving the Republic of Bulgaria.

For more information:

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

17-19 “St. Kiril and Metodii” Str.

Telephone exchange: 9405 9

e-mail: press@mrrb.government.bg

<http://www.mrrb.government.bg>

REQUIREMENTS FOR CROSSING AND SOJOURN IN BULGARIA’S NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

GREECE

Visa requirements:

The Republic of Greece is member of the European Union and the Schengen Agreement. Visiting this country Bulgarian citizens must have a passport, valid at least six months after the date of entry. Since 10.04.2001, no visa is required to enter Greece for the purpose of tourism or visit. Stay of up to ninety days within six months from the first entry date is allowed.

Members of artistic companies on exchange visits to Greece for cultural or educational events under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture or of local governance organisations are admitted into the country after obtaining visas with validity equal to the duration of the event.

In accordance with decree No. 3011/2/1f of 11.01.1992 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Greece, upon entry in the country, it is required to prove that the visitor has at his/her disposal 5 000 Greek Drachmas or its equivalent in another currency per each day of stay. The minimum required amount, independently on the length of stay, is 35 000 Greek Drachmas. This amount is 50% less for minor family members. The border authorities are entitled to request additional document for pre-paid tourist services (voucher). In the case of visit, an invitation by a Greek citizen or a foreigner - legal resident in the Republic of Greece is required, filled in on a special form and duly certified.

Bulgarian citizens who wish to visit the Republic of Greece should bear in mind the practice of the Greek border officers to determine a 30-day period of stay within 6 months for Bulgarian citizens, notwithstanding that this period as per Article 5 of the Convention settling the application of Schengen is up to 90 days within 6 months. This is based upon the documents, presented by each traveller (invitation, subsistence money, valid passport, medical insurance), very often without prior notification to the Bulgarians, entering Greece about the enforced limitations. The latter is especially important, as failing to observe and comply with the so fixed period leads to charging fines and penalties and often to including persons in arrears in the black lists.

For a longer stay than the above-mentioned 90-day period, upon entry in the country, permission must be obtained from the foreigners’ police with the Ministry of public order without the possibility of changing the purpose of the visit.

If the permitted time period is exceeded, penalties shall be imposed – monetary fine upon leaving the country. The offenders may be arrested and consequently extradited; as also this person is prohibited to visit for a certain period the countries –signatories of the Schengen agreement.

A visa, issued by the country’s diplomatic missions is required to enter Greece with the purpose of studying at Greek educational establishments, professional qualification, participation in various programmes, work (seasonal and for a longer period of time), gathering of divided families.

The addresses of the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Greece in Bulgaria are as follows:

Embassy of the Republic of Greece:

Sofia, 33 San Stefano Str.

Tel.: +359 2/ 946 1027, 9461030, 9433453, 9461564, 9434096, 9434571

Fax: +359 2/ 9461249

Working time: 09.00 – 16.30

General Consulate:

4000 Plovdiv, 10 "Preslav" Str.
Ph.+359 32/ 232003 and 238788
Working time: 08.30 – 15.30

Customs requirements:

The Greek customs regulations do not limit the amount of imported currency but it should be declared.

Duty-free import of goods amounting up to 50 000 Greek Drachmas is allowed.

Special attention should be paid when importing medicines. Some of the medications sold over the counter in the Bulgarian pharmacies and containing minimum quantities of narcotic substances fall under special control in the Republic of Greece and its unregulated import is forbidden. If such medications are found, charges for narcotics smuggling can be imposed leading to all possible negative consequences.

Upon entry in the Republic of Greece it is not advisable to transport other persons luggage with unknown contents.

When driving to the country, it is necessary to submit to the Greek customs authorities the vehicle's documents, valid driving license as well as international insurance (green card) with validity corresponding to the period of stay in the Republic of Greece. The vehicle should be exported within the fixed term. Exceeding of this term is penalised with rather high monetary fines.

If the case of loss of the international passport where the transport vehicle is inscribed, the police should be immediately informed and a protocol asked for, with which the vehicle could be exported later.

Work:

One can work only with the permission of the competent Greek organs – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Organisation for Workforce Employment. Without their permission working in Greece is considered illegal and both the employer and the employee shall be penalised with financial fine, forced extradition from the country with enforced prohibition to enter it for a particular period of time and in some cases even imprisonment.

Contagious diseases:

No special vaccination is needed to enter the country.

Threats:

As a maritime country, weather in some particular regions in Greece can rapidly change, especially on the islands. That is why it is important to follow meteorological forecasts during travel. It should be kept in mind that in the continental part of the country it could start suddenly raining, rains are torrential and cause floods in urban areas and on the roads.

If a problem arises:

If there is a health problem, one should bear in mind that the governments of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece have signed a Cooperation agreement in the field of health care. Under this Agreement, both countries undertake to provide free medical help to the other country's citizens sojourning on their territory in the event of acute ailment or an accident has happened. Needed medical help is free until the time when the ill person's return home becomes possible, without any hazard for his/her life or deterioration of condition. In case this person wishes to continue his/her healing, s/he should pay for the provided medical services. To get such free medical assistance, the respective person should have legally entered and sojourns in the country.

Drive cautiously, roads are slippery. Be attentive of motorcyclist who drive with high speed and often do not observe overtaking rules.

If any other problems arise during your stay that you are not in position to resolve alone, you can turn to our diplomatic missions:

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria:

GREECE, 15452 ATHENS
33-A, Stratigou Kallari Str., Paleo Psychico
Tel.: 0030210/67 48 106; 67 48 107; 67 48 708
Fax: 0030210/67 48 130
e-mail: embassbg@otenet.gr

General Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria

GREECE, THESSALONIKI
Consulat General de la Republique de Bulgarie
Nikolau Manou No. 12 Str.
Tel. 00302310/829 210; 829 211; 869 505; 869 510; 869 5210
Fax: 00302310/85 40 04
e-mail:genconsul@otenet.gr

MACEDONIA

Visa requirements:

No visa is required for visits of up to 30 days. Thus only a valid international passport is needed to enter the country and stay within the above-mentioned period.

Local legislation stipulates that a foreigner, entering Macedonia, must possess enough financial means to support his/her stay in the country. No officially promulgated document specifies the fixed amount of such funds. Usually the customs officer requires proving the possession of specific sum, most often in the range of 50 to 100 DM per day. If impossible to physically show such amounts, Bulgarian citizens are sent back. In such cases sometimes the passport is stamped with the so-called "thin seal", forbidding entering the country for 24-hour period.

The address of the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia is:

Sofia

17 Frederic Joliot-Curie Str., block 2, Apt. 1

Tel. +359 2 701560, 705098

Fax: +359 2 9712832

Working time: 09.00-13.00 and 14.00-18.00

Customs requirements:

The local legislation provides that upon entry in the country personal effects are not levied with customs duty, without specifying their quantity. This enables the customs officer alone to decide what to be levied with customs duty as well as its the amount. In the event of refusal to pay the requested amount, litigation procedure and fast track court ruling might result.

Work:

The Macedonian Embassy in Sofia can issue a work permit. Foreign citizens, working illegally in Macedonia are subjected to enforced extradition. It should be kept in mind that sometimes jobs offered by coffee bars to young girls are linked with prostitution.

Contagious diseases

No special vaccination is needed to enter the country.

Threats

When driving during the night, especially outside highways, attention should be paid to transport vehicles without lights, which is a frequent phenomenon in this country. Small farming machines come out of village roads onto highways without paying any attention to traffic regulations.

If a problem arises:

Contact the Bulgaria Embassy:

Macedonia, Skopje

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria

3, Zlatko Shnaider Str.

Tel. (003 89 2) 322 94 44, 311 63 20

Fax (003 89 2) 311 61 39

e-mail: bgemb@unet.com.mk

ROMANIA

Visa requirements:

Bulgarian citizens do not need a visa for transit travel or stay of up to 30 calendar days on the territory of Romania. For a longer sojourn in the country, a visa is needed, which can be issued at a Romanian diplomatic mission. Long-term visas for residence in Romania are issued for ample reasons – marriage to a Romanian citizen, work, business or training.

The address of the Embassy of Romania in Sofia is:

4, Sitnyakovo Str.

Tel.: +359 2 971 28 58, 973 30 81

Fax: +359 2 973 34 12.

Customs requirements:

Upon entry or leaving Romania, Bulgarian citizens are entitled to import or export currency amounting up to 5 000 Euro. Larger amounts, imported in the country, should be declared and banking document submitted. In the case of export, apart from filling in a declaration, permission by the Romanian National Bank is needed as well.

No personal jewellery and valuables worn by the person crossing the border should be declared. Coins, works and objects of art, representing national

heritage, can be imported and exported with the respective certificate of origin and permission issued by a respective authorised institution. Otherwise they shall be confiscated.

Allowed import of alcoholic drinks is up to 1-l concentrate and 2 l wine. Only import of foods for personal consumption is allowed. It is allowed to import up to 200 pieces of cigarettes (10 packs), or 100 thin cigars, or 50 cigars, or 250 g smoking tobacco. Transport of 50-ml perfume and 250 ml toilet water is also allowed.

Only medicines for personal use are allowed.

Work:

Bulgarian citizens are entitled to work in Romania after obtaining a work visa. If a person breaches the local legislation, administrative penalties are imposed and the right to reside in the country is deprived.

Contagious diseases

Periodically, meningitis epidemics are registered (mainly in the Danube delta region), conjunctivitis and hepatitis.

If a problem arises:

In the event of loss of personal documents, money or passport on the territory of Romania, Bulgarian citizens should contact the person on duty at the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Bucharest, and during working hours – the consulate office of the diplomatic mission. The fee for issuing a passavant is 10 Euro. Fees for issuing an entry visa amount to 220 000 Romanian Lei (about 7 Euro). 2 photographs are required, money for tickets for travel back to the Bulgarian border, etc.

The address of the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Romania is:

ROUMANIA, BUCHAREST, SEKTOR I
Ambassade de la Republique de Bulgarie
Strada Rabat No. 5, sec. 1
Tel: (0040 21) 230 21 50, 230 21 59
Fax: (0040 21) 230 76 54
e-mail: bulembassy@pcnet.ro

Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria

ROUMANIA, BUCHAREST
Strada Vasile Lascar N° 32
Tel: (0040 21) 211 11 06
Fax: (0040 21) 210 52 48

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Visa requirements:

No visa is required to sojourn in the country up to 30 days. Permission by the police authorities is needed for a longer stay.

Upon arrival at the place of short stay, the foreigner must within 24 hours register his/her address at the respective police department. When using the services of a tourist agency, accommodation in hotel or private lodging, this registration is the responsibility of the tourist agency, the hotel or the lessor. These must register the foreigner's address at the police within 12 hours upon arrival.

Often local citizens who offer private lodgings keep the Bulgarian citizens' passports for various reasons, explaining that they must do the address registration. This is groundless and unregulated. The Bulgarian citizens should request back their passports after their address registration is completed.

Customs requirements:

The country's legislation provides for foreigners, travelling to Serbia and Montenegro or transit passengers to declare the possessed currency above 2 000 (two thousand) Euro per person upon crossing into Serbia and Montenegro's territory.

The practice customs officers not always to give out customs declarations to be filled in still continues.

Failure to submit a filled in customs declaration for the possessed currency during the obligatory check up upon leaving the country gives grounds to the customs authorities to confiscate it.

Montenegro State Gazette No. 58 of 10 October 2005 promulgated a Government resolution for limitations on currency imports and exports by physical persons, visiting the Republic of Montenegro. They are entitled to import or export without declaring to the customs authorities any kind of currency in cash in the

amount of up to 2 000 Euro. Customs control is carried out at the border crossing points with Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina and Croatia as well as with Serbia.

Work:

Foreigners may enter into employment agreements in Serbia and Montenegro if they satisfy the general terms and conditions, provided for in the legislation, the collective employment contract, general acts and regulations as well as if they have received approval for permanent accommodation, respectively for temporary residence in the country, and provided that they have obtained a work permit.

The employer should request permission from the respective bodies to conclude an employment contract. The employer may sign a temporary employment contract with a foreigner for a term not exceeding 3 (three) months during each calendar year.

Contagious diseases

The epidemiological environment does not differ much from the one in Bulgaria.

Threats:

Imposing of administrative sanctions and penalties for the absence of address registration upon arrival and residing in the country. For the territory of Serbia and Montenegro such address registration or registration at a hotel should be completed within 24 hours upon arrival in the country. The sanction in Montenegro is detention up to 30 days if there is no address registration.

For Serbia, en route to Belgrade up to Nis the road goes along a steep gorge and is rather narrow, the tunnels' width is limited so that buses and TIR trucks should wait to pass each other. There is a danger from falling stones, and insufficient visibility. Drive with greater caution. In Montenegro most of the roads are mountainous, driving is hard, there are many sharp curves, falling stones and insufficient visibility. There are also numerous badly illuminated tunnels. Drive with increased caution, preferably during the daylight.

If a problem arises:

You can contact the Bulgarian embassy at the following address:

Serbia and Montenegro, Belgrade 11000

Ambassade de la Republique de Bulgarie

26 Birchaninova str

Tel: (0038 111) 36-13- 980; 36 13 990

Fax: (0038 111) 36 11 136; 36 20 116

E-mail: bulgamb@eunet.yu

Podgoritsa

Consulate General of the Republic of Bulgaria

Quarter "Goritzsa" 3

10, "Vukice Mitrovich" Str.

Tel: (00 38 181) 655 009

Tel/Fax: (00 38 181) 655 008

Pristina

Diplomatic Bureau of the Republic of Bulgaria

Dragodan quat.

Ismail Chemali Str. 12

Tel: (00381) 38 24 55 40

Fax:(00381) 388 24 55 43

E-mail: dbpristina@abv.bg

TURKEY

Visa requirements:

Bulgarian citizens, holders of valid passports, may visit Turkey without visas for tourist purposes and stay in the country up to 90 days without visa. Those who wish to stay for longer periods should contact the local competent authorities to issue permission for extension of the period of sojourn. Bulgarian citizens who have stayed in the country for more than three months without having obtained the necessary permission shall be prohibited to enter Turkey for a period of one year.

Visits of unaccredited Bulgarian journalists to Turkey, film makers, archaeologists, scientists wishing to carry out scientific research with the purpose of carrying out professional activities are possible after obtaining an entry visa in accordance with "Essential principles concerning foreigners who wish to develop scientific or research activities or to make films in Turkey and those who apply on their behalf, as well as members of the press", adopted with Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Turkey No. 88/12839 of 4.04.1988.

Bulgarian citizens who go to work or study in Turkey are not relieved from the requirement to have a visa. They continue to obtain working visas from the Turkish representation missions abroad.

The visa regime for truck and bus drivers and their assistants remains unchanged. They still continue to obtain multiple entry visas from the Turkish missions abroad.

Visa facilitation for Bulgarian citizens are not applicable on the Turkish border points with the following countries:

Georgia (Sarp, Posof-Tukozu, Cildir-Aktas);

Azerbaijan (Igdir-Diluci);

Iran (Agri-Gurbulak, Hakkari-Esendere, Van-Kapikoy railway);

Iran (Habur);

Syria (Nussaybin, Yayladagi, Cilegozu, Oncupinar, Islahiye railway, Cobenbey railway, Akcakale, Senyurt).

For transit travel, tax stamps are issued by the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Turkey in the Republic of Bulgaria or at the border crossing points upon entry in the country. The period for transit travel is 96 hours.

Since 1 June 2005 limitations have been enforced on vehicles, manufactured more than 20 years ago, to enter Turkey. This measure concerns both foreign and Turkish passenger vehicles (cars, minivans and buses).

The enforced limitation is in compliance with the "Road Traffic Law" of the Republic of Turkey, effective as of 25 February 2005.

The address of the Embassy of Turkey is:

Sofia

80 "Vassil Levski" Blvd.

Tel.: +359 2 93 555 00, 93 555 24, 93 555 23

fax: +359 2 981 9358

Working time: 09.00-13.00 and 14.00-18.00

General Consulates:

4000 Plovdiv

10 "Philip Makedonski" Str.

Tel.: +359 32/632309, 624010, 624020

fax: +359 32/624839

Working time: 09.00-12.30 and 14.00-18.00

8000 Bourgas, 38 "Demokrazia" Blvd.

Tel.: +359 56/842718, 841145

Fax: +359 56/841192

Working time: 09.00-13.00 and 14.30-18.30

Customs requirements:

When visiting the country by automobile, upon entry it is necessary to present the documents of the automobile, valid driving license as well as international insurance (green card) with validity corresponding to the duration of stay in the Republic of Turkey. Upon entry, the customs authorities stamp the driver's passport. This stamp is deleted upon exit from the country. The permission for the vehicle's sojourn in the country is marked in the form, issued by the border customs office. It also contains the owner's personal data as well as the vehicle's main characteristics. If the fixed period of stay is exceeded or if the form is lost, a fine is levied upon exiting the country.

Unlimited amounts of foreign and local currency are allowed for import in Turkey. Turkish Lira equivalent of up to 5 000 US Dollars can be exported from the country. Duty-free import of personal effects amounting up to 15 000 US Dollars is allowed as well as presents amounting up to 500 DM. Valuable objects as well as any other goods above 15 000 US Dollars must be registered in their owner's passport upon entry in Turkey with the purpose of control upon exit. Duty-free import of up to 200 cigarettes and 5 l of alcoholic drinks is allowed. Tourists are not allowed to import perishable foodstuffs.

Antiques, imported in the country, must be registered in the owner's passport in order to save problems upon exit, bearing in mind that the Turkish authorities pay considerable attention to preserving their historical heritage. Export of antiques older than 100 years is forbidden. Other valuables may be exported upon showing the remark for their import in the passport or after proving that they were purchased with legally exchanged currency.

You should keep receipts from exchange bureaux for the exchanged foreign currency. It is possible the customs organs to request these in the case of reverse exchange of Turkish lira or when purchased objects are exported from the country as an evidence that these were bought with legally exchanged money.

Sharp objects (including tourist and kitchen knives longer than 9 cm) as well as weapons are not allowed for import in the country without a special license or permission.

Work:

It is not allowed to work in Turkey if the country has been entered for tourist purposes. If found out, such persons shall be detained and extradited from the country.

Contagious diseases

No special vaccinations are needed to enter the country.

There are cases of food poisoning and diseases resulting from unclean water consumption. That is why foods and drinks should be bought only at shops and not from street vendors. Visits to rural areas may cause contacting infectious diseases.

To get medical help in Turkey, health insurance covering illness, injuries, etc. is needed

Threats:

Turkey is situated in an active seismic region. That is why it is necessary to get prior information about the routes that you intend to drive along.

The area around Istanbul in a radius of 80 to 200 km as well as the towns Djuzje, Izmit, Izmir and Erzinjan, are potentially earthquake-risky.

Drivers should bear in mind that road accidents are frequent. Safety belts are a must.

In the case of road accident, either whether people are injured or not, never move the vehicle until the road police arrives. In such cases alcohol tests are made, witnesses give evidence and report on the accident is drawn up. In order to use the insurance later, it is necessary to request a copy of the alcohol test document as well as of the preliminary report. This could be done within three days at the local police department. In the case of physical injury or death, the participants in the accident are taken to the nearest police department to take evidence. In such cases we advise you to request to notify the nearest diplomatic mission of our country as soon as possible.

Take a document by the police if your vehicle is stolen.

Drive with increased caution. Be on the alert for contingencies, unexpected situations and manoeuvrings of other vehicles around. Be especially alert and cautious in taking over buses or trucks on inter-city roads.

Respect local habits and customs. Bear in mind that during the religious holiday Ramazan during the day it is not accepted to consume food in public places, to drink or to smoke. When visiting a mosque, shoes are taken off and women should cover their heads and bare parts of the body with a scarf. Entrance with mini-skirts and slacks is forbidden. It is not recommendable to visits mosques on Fridays and during prayer times.

Offensive words and actions to the Turkish nation, the national banner and the founder of the republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, are considered grave offence.

Taking pictures or films with cameras is allowed only at tourist sites and on places where this is not explicitly forbidden.

If a problem arises:**Contact the Bulgarian embassy:**

TURQUIE, ANKARA
Ambassade de la Republique de Bulgarie
06680 Kavakli dere
Ataturk Bulvari 124
Tel. (0090 312) 467 20 71, 427 51 42
Fax. (0090 312) 467 25 74
E-mail: bulemb@superonline.com

General Consulates:**Istanbul**

TURQUIE, ISTANBOUL
Bulgar Baskonsoloslugu
Ahmet Adnan Saygun caddesi 44
Ulus-Levent 34340
Tel.: (0090 212) 281 01 15)
Fax.: (0090 212) 264 10 11
E-mail: bulgconsul@superonline.com
www.bulgarianconsulate-ist.org

Edirne

TURQUIE, EDIRNE
Consulat General de la Republique de Bulgarie
Talat pasha cad. 31
Tel.: (0090 284) 214 06 17
Fax.: (0090 284) 214 72 82
E-mail: bulgarkonsedn@ttnet.net.tr

Honorary consulates:

TURQUIE, TEKIRDAG

Tel.: (0090 282) 261 94 87, (0090-225) 4810 225 2100 – office

E-mail: c.uslu@trakyabirlik.com.tr

Honorary consul – Cemalettin Uslu

TURQUIE, BURSA

Darmstat Cad.,Uslu sok.3|2,Osman Gazi

Tel.: (0090 224) 271 59 58

Fax: (0090 224) 253 00 11

E-mail: h.korkmaz@ttnet.net.tr

THE ATA CARNET

HISTORY

In order to facilitate and simplify customs procedures for temporary import, export and transit of goods, the Council for Customs Cooperation elaborated the ATA Convention (1961), which became effective in 1963. It established a common international regime to facilitate customs formalities.

The Republic of Bulgaria joined the ATA Convention in 1964 and its application started since 1967. ATA is an acronym of the French and English words for “admission temporaire” and “temporary admission”.

The Council for Customs Cooperation continued its work on the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures and in 1987 the Istanbul Convention for temporary import was created, which united the thus far acting regulations on temporary import, including the ATA Convention.

The Republic of Bulgaria ratified the Istanbul Convention on 21.11.2002 and it was enforced on 11.06.2003.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTIONS

The main objective is to simplify and harmonise the procedures for temporary import by introducing a unified international customs document to settle customs formalities.

WHAT IS AN ATA CARNET

The ATA carnet is a single unified document allowing temporary import, export and transit of goods under certain conditions without having to engage in customs formalities and without having to pay and secure customs duties and amounts.

The ATA carnet consists of a set of forms with different colours for the different customs operations.

In December 2002, World Customs Organization approved a new model for ATA carnet, as the deadline for its enforcement was 18.12.1984.

BCCI began to issue the new model on 01.09.2004.

The major change is in the carnet form – the forms are in A4 size which makes them easier to carry and convenient to use.

One set consists of two green covers, which contain the respective yellow, white and blue couples of talons and pointed pieces.

The yellow couples are for temporary exports and re-import, the white ones are for import and re-export and the blue ones are for transit.

The carnet completion depends on the number of countries where the goods will be temporarily imported and the number of transit countries.

A separate talon and its respective pointed piece is for each customs which the goods will pass.

The talons are on separate forms, they are designated only for the customs and shall not be torn apart from the carnet.

The front green cover is marked with the logo of the World Chambers Federation at the ICC Paris, within which the international guarantee chain ATA is functioning.

The BCCI, as an issuing organisation, puts on this front green cover the carnet's unique number, date of issue, and date of validity. An authorised employee signs and stamps the carnet.

The carnet is valid only for the countries, listed on the cover.

On the back of the pointed pieces there is a detailed description of the goods, which enables their identification by the customs authorities.

What goods may be entered under an ATA Carnet?

- Professional materials, music equipment, computer equipment, television, video and cinema equipment, measuring device, medical equipment, theatre and circus accessories, etc.
- Goods for presentation or use at international fairs, specialised exhibitions, conferences, presentations or similar events
- Commercial samples
- Works of art
- Sports equipment, etc.

ADVANTAGES OF THE ATA CARNETS

- The guarantee they provide eliminate the need to pay deposits and guarantees
- Replaces filling in of national customs documents
- Can be used in an unlimited number of countries

- Can be processed easily and quickly
- Can be used within one year period
- Can be used for any kind of transportation, including combined transportation
- Filled in only one language – English

ATA CARNET VALIDITY

The ATA Carnet has one-year validity as of the date of issuance by the BCCI. Once inscribed, validity cannot be changed.

ISSUANCE OF REPLACEMENT (ANSCHLUSS) CARNET

As an exception, if circumstances require and under specific conditions, a replacement carnet can be issued. It should be presented to the customs authorities in the country of temporary import before the validity term of the first carnet has expired.

COUNTRIES WHERE THE ATA CARNET IS USED

The full list is on the carnet's cover.

BCCI'S ROLE IN ISSUING AND GUARANTEEING THE ATA CARNET

The BCCI, as a member of the international guarantee chain ATA at the World Chambers Federation with the ICC Paris is the ATA carnets issuing and guaranteeing organisation under the ATA Convention and the Istanbul Convention. It guarantees the Bulgarian ATA carnets before the foreign customs authorities and foreign ATA carnets before the Bulgarian customs authorities by securing payment of import customs sums due in the case of non-compliance with the ATA Convention terms, the Istanbul convention respectively.

The BCCI organises printing and submission of ATA carnets forms as well as their filling in, provides consultations on the terms and conditions for their usage and settles disputes that may arise in connection with Bulgarian and foreign carnets.

PROCEDURE FOR ATA CARNETS ISSUANCE

In order to obtain an ATA carnet, it is necessary:

- To take forms from the BCCI;
- To fill in the unified forms all necessary data, indicated there and to describe the goods so that to enable their identification and to indicate their value.

The BCCI offers, at the client's request, the possibility to fill in the carnets.

- To sign a contract for the carnet's issuance and guaranteeing between the carnet title holder and the BCCI.
- To install deposit at the BCCI amounting to 30% of the value declared in the carnet, plus 50 Euro. Payment may be effected at BCCI cashier desk, or by bank transfer. A bank guarantee may be issued for the deposit's amount.
- To pay carnet issuance fee.

Contact information:

BCCI

Tel. (+359 2) 987 26 31, 988 88 84

CUSTOMS OFFICES CATALOGUE

Bourgas	Regional customs directorate
Bourgas	Territorial customs directorate
West-Fishing port	Customs point
Airport	Customs point
Malko Turnovo	Customs point
Oil port	Customs point
Oil refinery	Customs bureau
Nova Zagora	Customs bureau
Port Centre	Customs point

Free zone

Bourgas	Customs bureau
Sliven	Customs bureau
Yambol	Customs bureau
Lesovo	Customs point
Varna	Regional customs directorate
Varna	Territorial customs directorate
Varna-autotransport	Customs bureau
Varna-West	Customs point
Varna airport	Customs point
Sea Port	Customs point
Port of Varna	Customs point
Port "Lesport"	Customs point
Ferryboat Varna	Customs point

Shoumen	Customs bureau	Danube Bridge	Customs point
Dobrich	Territorial customs directorate	Razgrad	Customs bureau
Balchik	Customs point	Rousse	Customs bureau
Durankulak	Customs point	Passenger railway station	Customs point
Railway station Kardam	Customs point	Distribution railway station	Customs point
Yovkovo	Customs point	Port	Customs point
Plovdiv	Regional customs directorate	Free zone	Customs point
Plovdiv	Territorial customs directorate	Terminal Port East	Customs point
Kazanluk	Customs bureau	Cargo railway station	Customs point
Airport Plovdiv	Customs point	Ro-Ro terminal	Customs point
International Plovdiv Fair	Customs bureau	Targovishte	Customs bureau
Pazardjik	Customs bureau	Vidin	Territorial customs directorate
Free zone Plovdiv	Customs bureau	Belogradchik	Customs bureau
Smolyan	Customs bureau	Bregovo	Customs point
Karlovo	Customs bureau	Passenger ferryboat	Customs point
Stara Zagora	Customs bureau	Ferryboat-railway	Customs point
Radinovo	Customs bureau	Ferryboat- catamarans	Customs point
Svilengrad	Territorial customs directorate	Port Vidin	Customs point
Dimitrovgrad	Customs bureau	Free zone	Customs bureau
Svilengrad railway station	Customs point	Cargo railway station Vidin	Customs bureau
Kapitan Andreevo	Customs point	Vrushka chuka	Customs point
Kurdjali	Customs bureau	Chemical plant	Customs bureau
Kapitan Petko Voyvoda	Customs point	Lom	Territorial customs directorate
Free zone Svilengrad	Customs bureau	Vratsa	Customs bureau
Haskovo	Customs bureau	Montana	Customs bureau
Rousse	Regional customs directorate	Oryahovo	Customs point
Rousse	Territorial customs directorate	Ferryboat Oryahovo	Customs point

Svishtov	Territorial customs directorate	Samokov	Customs bureau
Gabrovo	Customs bureau	Airport "Sofia"	Customs point
Gorna Oryahovitsa	Customs bureau	Blagoevgrad	Territorial customs directorate
Gorna Oryahovitsa airport	Customs point	Gotze Delchev	Customs bureau
Lovetch	Customs bureau		
Nikopol	Customs point	Logodaj	Customs point
Pleven	Customs bureau	Blagoevgrad BT	Customs bureau
Somovit	Customs point	Ilinden	Customs point
Cherven Bryag	Customs bureau	Kalotina	Territorial customs directorate
Sevlievo	Customs bureau	Dimitrovgrad –Y.J.	Customs bureau
Troyan	Customs bureau	Dragoman	Customs bureau
Silistra	Territorial customs directorate	Free zone Dragoman	Customs bureau
Airport Silistra	Customs point	Kalotina	Customs point
Port Silistra	Customs point	Kulata	Territorial customs directorate
Silistra	Customs point	Kulata railway station	Customs point
Tutrakan	Customs point	Zlatarevo	Customs point
Sofia	Regional customs directorate	Petrich	Customs bureau
Sofia	Territorial customs directorate	Sandanski	Customs bureau
Botevgrad	Customs bureau	Kulata	Customs point
Iliyantsi	Customs bureau	Kyustendil	Territorial customs directorate
Pirdop	Customs bureau	Gyueshevo	Customs point
Obelya	Customs bureau	Dupnitsa	Customs bureau
Airport Sofia	Territorial customs directorate	Oltomantsi	Customs point
Gorublyane	Customs bureau	Pernik	Territorial customs directorate
Kremikovtsi	Customs bureau	Radomir	Customs bureau
Suhodol	Customs bureau	Strezimirovtsi	Customs point
Trade complex Evropa	Customs bureau	Central customs directorate	

CUSTOMS POINTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Name: **LOGODAJ**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: 07415/40 05, 40 08

Fax: 07415/40 16

E-mail: CUSTOM-5202@mobikom.com

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 49

Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **KALOTINA**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: 0727 5214/212

Fax: 0727 5214

E-mail: Kalotina@mail.orbitel.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 774

Name: **KULATA**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones:

07425 2441, 07425 2412, 0745 21710

Fax: 048969158

Working time: 24 hours

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 550

Name: **KULATA RAILWAY STATION**

Type: Customs point

Address: Kulata railway station

Telephones: (0745) 2 17 30/221

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: railway

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 12

Name: **ZLATAREVO**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: (0745) 2 17 97, 2 71 74

Fax: (0745) 2 71 74

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 90

Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **GYUESHEVO**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: (078) 5-12-98, 5-12-97

Fax: (078) 5-1298

E-mail:

Daniel.Georgiev@5999.customs.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 90

Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **OLTOMANTSI**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: (078) 5 12 89, 5 12 88

Fax: (078) 5 12 88

E-mail: Georgi.Hinov@5999.customs.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 3

Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **STREZIMIROVTSI**

Type: Customs point

Address: Border point

Telephones: (07734) 273

Fax: (07734) 273

E-mail:

Stefan.Stefanov@d5999.customs.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 3

Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **KAPITAN ANDREEVO**

Type: Customs point

Address: Village of Kapitan Andreevo

Telephones: 0379/71837, 71598

Fax: 0379/71597

E-mail: garka@svilengrad.com

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: road

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 890

Available infrastructure: 1 customs
warehouse type "C"

Name: **NOVO SELO**

Type: Customs point

Address: Svilengrad

Telephones: 0379/73239, 73428

Fax: 0379/73428

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: road

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 92

Name:

RAILWAY STATION – SVILENGRAD

Type: Customs point

Address: Svilengrad, railway station
quarter

Telephones: 0379/73450

Fax: 0379/73450

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: railway

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 72

Name: **"DANUBE BRIDGE"**

Type: Customs point

Telephones: (082) 816300

Fax: (082) 816310

E-mail: mp4001@d4000.customs.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 422

Available infrastructure: bank office,
space for SMP

Name: **PASSENGER RAILWAY STATION, "INTERNATIONAL PARCELS" SECTION**

Type: Customs point

Address: 1, "A.Stamboliiski" Blvd.,
Central Railway Station-Rousse
Telephones: (082) 827345, (082)
237079

E-mail: gara-p4004@customs.rousse.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced:
railway, postal parcels

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 2

Available infrastructure: railway
station, parking lot, warehouse

Name:
ROUSSE - "DISTRIBUTION RAILWAY STATION"

Type: Customs point

Address: 1, "Ivan Vedar" Str.
Telephones: (082) 847 275
Fax: (082) 847276

E-mail: gara-r4005@customs.rousse.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: railway
Average number of processed
documents, daily: 74

Available infrastructure: railway station

Name: **ROUSSE – "PORT"**

Type: Customs point

Address: 1, "Pristanishtna" Str.
Telephones: (082) 827 327
Fax: (082) 827 337

E-mail: port@4006@customs.rousse.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: road, rail-
way, river

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 50

Available infrastructure: port

Name: **ROUSSE – "FREE ZONE"**

Type: Customs point

Address: Free zone – Rousse
Telephones: (082) 847286
Fax: (082) 847 291

E-mail: sz4007@customs.rousse.bg

Working time: 08.00-18.30

Type of transport serviced:
road, railway, river

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 28

Available infrastructure: parking lot,
petrol station, bank office, railway
tracks, bunker quay, oil products
warehouse facilities

Name:
ROUSSE – "TERMINAL PORT EAST"

Type: Customs point

Address: Port complex – East – Rousse
Telephones: (082) 847 260
Fax: (082) 847 260

E-mail:
terminal4008@customs.rousse.bg

Working time: 08.00-19.00

Type of transport serviced: road,
railway

Average number of processed

documents, daily: 32

Available infrastructure: parking lot,
railway tracks, warehouses

Name: **ROUSSE – "CARGO STATION"**

Type: Customs point

Address: 1, "Ivan Vedar" Str.
Telephones: (082) 847 280
Fax: (082) 847 280

E-mail: mp@4009@d4000.customs.bg

Working time: 07.30-19.00

Type of transport serviced: road,
railway

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 8

Available infrastructure: railway tracks

Name: **ORYAHOVO**

Type: Customs point

Address:
3300 Oryahovo, 1 "Dragoman" Str.
Telephones: 09171/2173
Fax: 09171/2173

E-mail: mp-or@oriahovo.net

Working time: 09.00-12.30, 13.00-17.30

Type of transport serviced: river, road
Average number

of processed documents, daily: 5
Available infrastructure: warehouses in
the customs point building, port

Name: **FERRYBOAT ORYAHOVO**

Type: Customs point

Address:
Town of Oryahovo, 17: "Dunav" Str.
Telephones: 09171/4202

Fax: 09171/4335

E-mail: mp-fer@oriahovo.net

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: road

Average number of processed
documents, daily: 110

Available infrastructure: parking lot
for detained automobiles, 2 halls for
goods inspection/unequipped with
handling equipment, transport cart 1
pcs.

Name: **BREGOVO**

Type: Customs point

Address: Bregovo 3790, MP "Bregovo"
Telephones: 09312/2274
Fax: 09312/22 74

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: auto

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 64
Available infrastructure: customs
warehouse type "C" – duty-free shop,
exchange bureaux and forwarding
office

Name:
"PASSENGER FERRYBOAT" – VIDIN

Type: Customs point

Address: Vidin 3700, North industrial
zone
Telephones: 094/602 020

Fax: 094/602 020

E-mail: feribot_custvd@mbox.digsys.bg

Working time: 24 hours

Type of transport serviced: road

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 106
Available infrastructure:
Ferryboat platforms Vidin-Kalafat,
customs warehouse type "C" – 2 pcs.,
duty-free shops, forwarders, exchange
bureaux

Name:
"RAILWAY FERRYBOAT" – VIDIN
Type: Customs point
Address:
Vidin 3700, North industrial zone
Telephones: 094/602 020
Fax: 094/602 020
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced: railway
Average number
of processed documents, daily:
Available infrastructure: railway
terminal

Name:
"FERRYBOAT CATAMARANS" - VIDIN
Type: Customs point
Address:
Vidin 3700, North industrial zone
Telephones: 094/602 020
Fax: 094/602 020
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced: road, river
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 24
Available infrastructure: parking lot, 1
temporary warehouse

Name: **"PORT VIDIN"**
Type: Customs point
Address: Vidin 3700, 1, "Dunavska" Str.
Telephones: 094/600 548
Fax: 094/600 548
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced: road, river
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 3
Available infrastructure: 1 temporary
warehouse, 1 customs warehouse

Name: **"VRUSHKA CHUKA"**
Type: Customs point
Address:
Kula 3800, MP "Vrushka Chuka"
Telephones: 0938/20 03
Fax: 0938/20 03
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced: road
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 27
Available infrastructure: parking lot,
petrol station, forwarders and
exchange bureaux

Name: **PORT SILISTRA**
Type: Customs point
Address:
Silistra 7500, 4 "Pristanishтна" Str.
Telephones: 086/820 788
Fax: 086/820 788
E-mail: customs2@infotel.bg
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced:
river transport

Average number
of processed documents, daily: 3

Name: **SILISTRA**
Type: Customs point
Address: Border crossing point Silistra
Telephones: 086/820 312
Fax: 086/820 312
E-mail: custom1@infotel.bg
Working time: 24 hours
Type of transport serviced:
road transport
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 11
Available infrastructure:
customs warehouse type "C" - 1

Name: **TUTRAKAN**
Type: Customs point
Address:
Tutrakan 7600, 10 "Kraibrejna" Str.
Telephones: 0857/25 26
Fax: 0857/30 85
E-mail: customs3@infotel.bg
Working time:
Mondays-Fridays 09.00-12.30,
13.00-17.30
Type of transport serviced: trucks, river
transport, containers
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 3
Available infrastructure: none

Name: **NIKOPOL**
Type: Customs point
Address: Nikopol, Pleven region, "Ivan

Shishman" square. Served by the
employees of Customs Point Somovit
Telephones:
Officer on duty: 06567/442, 236
Fax: 06567/442
E-mail:
custom-somovit@mbox.digsys.bg
Working time:
Mondays – Fridays 09.00–17.00 as
agreed with the Romanian side
Type of transport serviced: passenger
vessels
Average number
of processed documents, daily:
Available infrastructure: parking lot

Name: **Somovit**
Type: Customs point
Address: village of Somovit, Gulyantsi
municipality, Pleven region, 2 "Ivan
Vazov" Str.
Telephones: officer on duty: 06567/442
Fax: 06567/442
E-mail:
custom-somovit@mbox.digsys.bg
Working time:
Mondays-Fridays 09.00-12.30,
13.00-17.30 and 24 hours officer on
duty
Type of transport serviced:
road transport, river, railway
Average number
of processed documents, daily: 3
Available infrastructure:
Open and covered temporary
warehouses in the area of port
Somovit. Petrol base Somovit –
temporary

Name: **DURANKULAK**

Type: *Customs point*

Address: *Border point Durankulak*

Telephones: *05748 224*

Fax: *05748 481*

E-mail: *mp2102@mail.rmdvarna.com*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced:

road transport

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 6

Available infrastructure: *customs warehouse type "C" – duty free shop, bank office, SMP space*

Name: **RAILWAY STATION KARDAM**

Type: *Customs point*

Address: *town of Kardam, railway station Kardam*

Telephones: *05733 266*

E-mail: *mp2103@mail.rmdvarna.com*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced: *railway*

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 3

Available infrastructure: *railway station*

Name: **YOVKOVO**

Type: *Customs point*

Address: *Border crossing point Yovkovo*

Telephones: *05733 424*

Fax: *05733 439*

E-mail: *mp2104@mail.rmdvarna.com*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced:

road transport

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 100

Available infrastructure: *two customs warehouses type "C" – duty free shops, bank office, SMP space*

Name: **MALKO TURNOVO**

Type: *Customs point*

Address:

town of Malko Turnovo, Bourgas region, MP Malko Turnovo

Telephones: *059 52 21 98*

Fax: *059 52 21 98*

E-mail: *mtcustom@unacs.bg*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced:

road transport

Average number

of processed documents, daily: 25

Name: **LESOVO**

Type: *Customs point*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced: *road*

Name: **ILINDEN**

Type: *Customs point*

Working time: *24 hours*

Type of transport serviced: *road*

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

GREECE

Greece, Athens – Embassy

GREECE, ATHENS 154 52

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria

33 A, Stratigou Stratigou Kallari Str.

Paleo Psychico, 15452

Tel.: 0030210/ 67 48 106, 67 48 107, 67 48 108

Fax: 0030210/ 67 48 130

e-mail: embassbg@otenet.gr

Greece, Thessaloniki – general consulate

GREECE, THESSALONIKI – 54643

Consulat General de la Republique de Bulgarie

Edmundo Abot No. 1

Tel. (00302310) 829 210, 829 495, 869 505, 869 520, 829 211, 860 404

Fax: (00302310) 85 40 04

e-mail: genconsul@otenet.gr

MACEDONIA

Skopje – embassy

Republic of Macedonia, 1000 Skopje

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria

3, Zlatko Shnaider Str.

Tel. (003 89 2) 322 94 44, 311 63 20

Fax: (003 89 2) 311 61 39

e-mail: bgemb@unet.com.mk

ROMANIA

Bucharest – embassy

ROMANIA, BUCHAREST, SEKTOR I
Ambassade de la Republique Bulgarie
Strada Rabat No. 5, sec. 1
Tel.: (0040 21) 230 21 50, 230 21 59
Fax (0040 21) 230 76 54
E-mail: bulembassy@pcnet.ro

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Serbia and Montenegro, Belgrade – embassy

BELGRADE 11 000
Ambassade de la Republique de Bulgarie
Birchaninova str. 26
Tel.: (0038 111) 36 13 980, 36 13 990
Fax: (0038 111) 36 11 136, 36 20 116
e-mail: bulgamb@eunet.yu

Serbia and Montenegro, Pristina – Diplomatic bureau

Diplomatic Bureau of the Republic of Bulgaria
Dragodan quat
Issmail Chemali Str. 12
Tel.: (00381) 38 24 55 40
Fax: (00381) 388 24 55 43
e-mail: dbpristina@abv.bg

Serbia and Montenegro, Podgoritsa – general Consulate

10, "Vukice Mitrovich" Str.
Tel.: (00 38 181) 655 009
Tel./Fax: (00 38 181) 655 008

TURKEY

Turkey, Ankara – embassy

TURQUIE, ANKARA
Ambassade de la Republique de Bulgarie
Ataturk Bulvari 124
06680 Kavakli dere, Ankara
Tel. (0090 312) 467 20 71, 427 51 42,
Fax: (0090 312) 467 25 74
e-mail: bulemb@superonline.com

Turkey, Istanbul – General Consulate

TURQUIE, ISTANBOUL
Bulgar Baskonsoloslugu
Ahmet Adnan Saygun cadesi 44
Ulus-Levent 34340
Tel.: (0090 212) 281 01 14/15/16,
Fax: (0090 212) 264 10 11, 270 0089
E-mail: bulgconsul@superonline.com
www.bulgarianconsulate-ist.org

Turkey, Odrin – General Consulate

TURQUIE, EDRINE
Consulat General de la Republique de Bulgarie
Talat pasha bul. 31
Tel./Fax: (0090 284) 214 06 17, 214 72 82

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES' EMBASSIES IN BULGARIA

GREECE

Embassy of Greece

33, San Stefano Str.

Sofia 1504

Bulgaria

Telephone exchange:

(003592) 9461027, 9461030

Fax: (003592) 9461249

e-mail:

info@greekembassy-sofia.org

MACEDONIA

Embassy of Macedonia

Sofia, 17, Frederic Joliot-Curie Str.,
block 2, apt. 1

Tel.: +359 2 / 701 560, 705 098

ROMANIA

Embassy of Romania

Consulate section:

1, Shipchenski prohod str.

Tel.: 973 35 10

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro

Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia

3, Veliko Turnovo Str.

Tel.: 946 16 33, 946 16 36

Fax: 946 10 59

TURKEY

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Sofia

80, Vassil Levski Blvd.

Tel.: +359 2/935 55 50, 935 55 00

Fax: +359 2/981 93 58

General consulate of the Republic of Turkey in Plovdiv

10, Philip Makedonski Str.

Tel.: +359 032/63 23 09, 62 40 10

Fax: +359 032/62 48 39

General Consulate of the Republic of Turkey in Bourgas

No. 36/38 Demokrazia Blvd.

Tel.: +359 56 / 842718, 841145

Fax: +359 56 / 84119

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry /BCCI/ is a nationally represented horizontal non-profit private NGO with more than 46 000 associated members, registered in the Trade Register at the Chamber and about 600 titular member companies. Its activities and provided services cover the whole geographical territory of Bulgaria through the nationally represented membership, on the one hand, and through the network of the 28 regional chambers of commerce and industry, incorporated in a nationally represented structure, on the other. Its priorities concern the representation and advocacy of the interests of its member companies and of the business circles and entrepreneurs in the country.*

The BCCI is a part of the integrated international network of chambers of commerce throughout the world, maintaining direct contacts with 200 of them. The BCCI is a member of:

- *International Chamber of Commerce – Paris (ICC-Paris)*
- *Eurochambres*
- *World Trade Centres Association (WTCA)*
- *Association of the Balkan Chambers (ABC)*
- *Association of the Black Sea Zone Chambers of Commerce and Industry*
- *International Council on Cooperation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Economic Chambers of CIS Countries, Baltic, Eastern and Central European Chambers*
- *Central European Chambers of Commerce and Industry Presidents' conference (CECCI Presidents' Conference)*
- *South East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)*
- *Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe*
- *International Labour Organization (ILO)*
- *International Employers Organization*
- *International League of Competition Law*
- *International Vienna Council*
- *GS1*
- *International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI)*

* For further information please visit web sites: www.bcci.bg and www.eic.bcci.bg

- *International Exhibition Bureau (BIE)*
- *International Guarantee Chain (ATA Convention)*
- *UN/ECE/Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures, Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport*

With all these organization develops various joint activities and events. Through its international contacts and membership the BCCI represents the interests of its members and of the Bulgarian business circles on an international level.

The BCCI is the host organization of the Euro Info Centre – Sofia (BG 805). This is a real advantage for all its members and for the business community as a whole, whose interest the Chamber represents and advocates. The Centre provides information on EU matters and services to companies, predominantly SMEs, from various branches. The role of the EIC within the context of EU Enlargement is considerably increased. With its activities and services the Euro Info Centre complements and enriches the whole package of services, provided by the BCCI, aimed at assistance and support of national business circle. Besides, the hostage of the Euro Info Centre engages the Chamber with the application of European methods and techniques, as well as the best European practices, in the solution of the various problems, concerning business community in Bulgaria.*

Business training, promotion and support of entrepreneurship initiatives are priority activities of the BCCI and of the 28 RCsCI. The Chamber provides services and assistance to SMEs and particularly to start-ups. It has good experience in organizing various forms of training – training courses, seminars, workshops, etc.

The BCCI dedicates much efforts to the improvement of the economic conditions for business start-ups and its contribution to the creation of more favourable business environment is considerable.

Services to members:

- *registration of Bulgarian businessmen and foreign persons' agencies in the BCCI Trade Register;*
- *issue and validation of foreign trade documents and certificates;*
- *assistance in obtaining business visas;*
- *organizing of business meetings and forums, business missions and other events in the country and abroad;*
- *organizing of company representations;*
- *participation in international projects;*
- *organizing of workshops, seminars, round tables and other forms of training*

and public discussions;

- *provision and dissemination of business information and access to international data bases;*
- *provision of information about the financial status of the companies in the BCCI Trade Register*
- *economic analyses and surveys on the basis of the annual balance sheets submitted to the BCCI*
- *Internet services – Internet provision, development of web pages, etc.;*
- *provision of information on EU acquis (BCCI is a host organization of the EIC-Sofia and 5 RCCI are also hosts of EICs);*
- *library services;*
- *e-commerce training;*
- *guidance of the application of the GS1 standards on the territory of Bulgaria*
- *seminars on quality management and DIN EN ISO 9000 training;*
- *business consultancy;*
- *organizing of fairs and exhibitions;*
- *trade facilitation services by implementation of the UN/ECE/ CEFACCT recommendations;*
- *generation of digital signature certificates*
- *arbitration court for hearing and ruling on international and domestic arbitration cases and disputes.*

Public administration duties:

- *General Average Adjusters' Office – average adjustment duties;*
- *registration of foreign Presentation Offices as per the Law on Foreign Investments;*
- *validation and guaranteeing of the unified international customs document ATA carnet;*
- *invitation-declarations for business trips*

The Chamber is organizing regularly various forms of business forums – business meetings, business missions abroad, business cooperation and match-making events, etc. in various economic sectors and industrial branches.

The Union of the Branch Associations with the BCCI has 87 Branch Associations as members. Through the Union and through the constant everyday direct contacts

with companies the Chamber is kept well acquainted with all the problems and needs of the entrepreneurs from the various economic sectors and industrial branches.

Other very important structures with the Chamber are:

- the Arbitration Court
- the Quality Management Centre
- the National Vocational Training Centre
- the EU Club
- Publishing House "Vezni"

In November 2004 the BCCI is certified as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001:2000.

Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sofia 1058, 42 „Parchevich“ Str.

tel. +359 2 9872631, fax +359 2 9873209, e-mail: bcci@bcci.bg, web site: www.bcci.bg

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Sofia 1058

42, Parchevich Str.

Tel.: 987 26 31; Fax: 987 32 09

e-mail: bcci@bcci.bg

<http://www.bcci.bg>

MINISTRY OF FINANCES

Sofia 1000

102, G.S.Rakovski Str.

Telephone exchange: 98591

e-mail: feedback@minfin.bg

<http://www.minfin.government.bg>

"CUSTOMS" AGENCY

Sofia 1202

47, Rakovski Str.

Tel.: 9859 4210, 9859 4213; Fax: 9859 4061

e-mail: pr@customs.bg

<http://www.customs.government.bg/>

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Sofia 1000

20, "6th of September" Str.

Telephone exchange 9825000

<http://www.mvr.bg/>

NATIONAL BORDER POLICE SERVICE

1402 Sofia

46, Maria Louisa Blvd.

<http://nsg.mvr.bg/default.htm>

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

55, Hristo Botev Blvd.

Tel.: +359 2 985 11 255

e-mail: press@mzgar.government.bg/

NATIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICE

Sofia 1606
15A P. Slaveykov Blvd.
Tel.: 915-98-20; Fax: 954-95-93
<http://www.mzgar.government.bg/NacSlujbi/NVMS/NVMS.htm>

NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION SERVICE

1606 Sofia
17, Hristo Botev Blvd.
Tel.: +359 2/9173 702; Fax: +359 2/952 0987
<http://www.nsrz-bg.com/>

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENERGY

8, Slavyanska Str.
Tel. 359 2 940 71; Fax 359 2 98721 90, 981 99 70, 981 50 39

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Sofia 1000
9, "Dyakon Ignatii" Str.
Tel. +359 2/940 96 20, 940 95 34; Fax: +359 2/987 18 05
e-mail: press@mtc.government.bg
<http://www.mtc.government.bg>

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

17-19, Kiril I Metodii Str.
Telephone exchange: 9405 9
e-mail: press@mrrb.government.bg
<http://www.mrrb.government.bg/>

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

5, Sveta Nedelya square
Tel./Fax: +359 2/930 11 07
e-mail: press@mh.government.bg/

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sofia 1040
2, A. Zhendov Str.
Telephone exchange: +359 2/948 29 99
e-mail: iprd@mfa.government.bg
<http://www.mfa.government.bg>