

**Special Event at the 14th Economic Forum: Launching of
the OSCE Investment and Business Guide**

Monday, 22 May 2006, Czernin Palace (Mirror Hall)

Talking points

by Mr. Lyubomir Todorov, Minister Plenipotentiary, OSCE Delegation of Bulgaria

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Bulgarian Government, I would also like to express our appreciation for the development of the *OSCE Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*. We are very pleased to see this concrete outcome of the discussions held at the Preparatory Seminar in Dublin in February 2004 and the 12th Economic Forum.

Under the Bulgarian Chairmanship in 2004 the importance of a good business climate for investment and economic development was discussed as one of the priority issues. At the then Economic Forum, OSCE was encouraged to work with interested government authorities and policymakers to facilitate information sharing and experience exchange in support of the development of legislation, policies and practices that promote favourable conditions for investment and SME development. Furthermore, OSCE was requested to promote good governance best practices facilitating investment and business development; promote private-public dialogue and partnerships; as well as the need for supportive business infrastructure and appropriate human resources.

I am very pleased to note that the Guide that will be presented to us here today addresses all these issues which continue to be of relevance and importance to many OSCE countries. We like the more practical approach of the Guide. In accordance with the recommendations at the then Economic Forum of OSCE facilitating information sharing, we appreciate the aim of providing policy makers and practitioners with key concepts, best practices and interesting country examples, and think they can be very helpful for our authorities when considering development of new approaches and ideas to improving the investment and business climates.

We will certainly bring the Guide to the attention of our relevant authorities and organizations, and I would encourage you to do the same.

May I also on the behalf of the Bulgarian Government thank the Co-ordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities and his office as well as the expert team and the Governments of Belgium and the United States who all have made this project a reality.

We really look forward to receiving the printed version of the Guide that I understand will be available in both English and Russian.