

## BULGARIA AND ROMANIA: PREPARING FOR EU ACCESSION

### Articles in this Issue:

- ▶ ***EU Accession of Bulgaria and Romania:  
A Tale of Two Countries – with Similar Challenges***  
*[Nicolas Dubois and Johanna Moehring, SIGMA]*

Bulgaria and Romania will join the EU in January 2007 under the toughest scrutiny ever applied to acceding countries. The challenges will be to sustain the reforms undertaken thus far and to strengthen implementation capacity so that both countries not only reap the benefits of full EU membership but also fulfil membership obligations.

[Read more about the challenges ahead for Bulgaria and Romania](#)

- ▶ ***Reform Process in Bulgaria in relation to EU Accession***  
*[Meglena Kuneva, Minister of European Affairs, Bulgaria]*

As the date of accession approaches, Bulgaria is stepping up its reform efforts, including strengthening the independence, transparency and accountability of the judicial system and improving the co-ordination of anti-corruption activities. Bulgaria will soon face the challenge of participating as an EU policy-maker, with all of the opportunities and responsibilities of a full-fledged Member State.

[Read more about Bulgaria's preparations for accession](#)

- ▶ ***Romania: Progress in the Fight against Corruption***  
*[Laura Stefan, Ministry of Justice, Romania]*

Romania provides an inventory of its progress in fighting corruption: measures to combat high-level corruption, increase integrity in the public administration, prevent corruption in the business environment, increase the judiciary system's resistance to corruption and eliminate immunities, as well as campaigns to raise awareness.

[Read more about Romania's continuing fight against corruption](#)

- ▶ ***Preparation, Accession and Membership of the EU:  
Some Aspects from the Viewpoint of the Estonian Civil Service***  
*[Gert Antsu, Director of EU Affairs, State Chancellery, Estonia]*

The Director of EU Affairs recounts the rush of preparations in Estonia for accession in May 2004, a monumental task which demanded strong political will and intensive efforts to implement EU law. Estonia's experience as an EU policy-maker has been just as challenging, and more time and political attention will be needed to fully understand how the EU works and what Estonia's general interests are as a Member State.

[Read more about Estonia's experience as a new EU member](#)

### [OUR WEBSITE](#)

- ▶ ***Successful Twinning for Supreme Audit Institutions:  
A Good Practice Guide***  
*[Nick Treen, Senior Advisor, Sigma]*

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[Read more about the Good Practice Guide for Twinning](#)