

Secretary General
Secrétaire générale

H.E. Mr. Kiril Petkov
Prime Minister
Bulgaria

MC/2021.394.pb

25 January 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

I am delighted to inform you that, on 25 January 2022, the OECD Council decided to open accession discussions with Bulgaria. I have been asked to start with the preparation of a draft roadmap for accession for consideration by Council, provided a positive response is received to the requests outlined further below.

This followed careful consideration by OECD Members on the basis of the 2017 Framework for Consideration of Prospective Members, including the four key criteria in the 2004 Noboru Report namely like-mindedness, significant player, mutual benefit and global considerations.

Please find attached a copy of the Council Resolution, which sets out a number of key considerations underpinning the decision.

In this context, I have been asked by the OECD Council to request Bulgaria to confirm its adherence to two key and guiding documents adopted by Members at the most recent OECD Ministerial Council meeting on 5-6 October 2021: the 60th Anniversary New Vision Statement and the 2021 Ministerial Council Statement (both attached).

These documents reflect the shared values, vision and priorities of the OECD as adopted by all Members by consensus. These values, vision and priorities will be reflected in the Accession Roadmap for your country that sets out the terms, conditions and process for accession. They will also be central elements throughout the accession process including at the ultimate stage, when making a final decision on whether to invite a candidate country to become a Member of the Organisation.

The 60th Anniversary New Vision Statement and the 2021 Ministerial Council Statement include the following points:

- The centrality of our core values such as the preservation of individual liberty, the values of democracy, the rule of law and the defence of human rights;
- The importance of like-mindedness in the relations between accession candidate countries, the Organisation and its Members;
- Our shared endeavour to support sustainable economic growth, end poverty and leave no one behind, in line with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, protect our environment and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, inside and outside the OECD as outlined in the OECD Convention;

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- The value of open, trading, competitive, sustainable and transparent market economies;
- The need for whole-of-economy policy measures aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement and in particular the goal of achieving global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through deep emissions reductions enabled by public and private investments;
- The importance for each country to adopt and fully implement public policies in line with its climate goals, including reversing and halting biodiversity loss and deforestation as agreed during COP26 in Glasgow, and taking effective actions to translate this on the ground;
- The importance of working together to advance an inclusive digital economy;
- The importance of strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its centre, opposition to economic coercion, the levelling of the international playing field through increased competition, better integration of SMEs into global value chains and the dismantlement of unnecessary barriers to international trade, which benefits consumers and promotes economic growth and innovation; and
- The importance of investing in quality infrastructure in a transparent, accountable, and inclusive way.

With reference to like-mindedness, I note that bilateral issues should not be an impediment in the accession process and should therefore be resolved in a like-minded and constructive way.

Your commitment to the points mentioned above as well as your willingness to meet all other requirements of the accession process and to engage in it in a like-minded way, will be central for the next steps in the accession process.

Following Bulgaria's confirmation of adherence to the New Vision Statement and the 2021 Ministerial Council Statement, an Accession Roadmap will be prepared, setting out the terms, conditions and process for accession.

I look forward to working closely with you on the path to OECD membership.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a smaller 'C'.

Mathias Cormann

Cc: H.E. Ms. Teodora Genchovska, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria
H.E. Mr. Nikolay Milkov, Ambassador of Bulgaria to France