



PRESS RELEASE

Florence, 3 June 2016

BULGARIA BECOMES 22nd CONTRACTING STATE TO THE EUI

The European University Institute is proud to announce that Bulgaria officially became a member of the EUI on 3 June, making it the 22nd contracting state of the Institute.

The Bulgarian flag was raised during a ceremony at the Badia Fiesolana, organized in the framework of the meeting of the High Council, before a crowd of delegates, academics and members of the EUI.

Those assembled included Joseph H.H. Weiler, President of the EUI, Vincenzo Schioppa Narrante, Secretary-General of the EUI, Jean Émile Gombert, Chair of the High Council, Ana Paskaleva, Counselor of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Rome, and Bulgarian members of the EUI community including Viktor Marinkov and Julia Rone, 3rd year researchers and Polina Mileva of the EUI Budget & Financial Affairs Service.

With the accession, aspiring academics from Bulgaria will have the opportunity to apply for a four-year Ph.D. grant. The first award is foreseen for the 2017/18 academic year.

Commenting on the inclusion of Bulgaria among EUI contracting states, Ambassador Schioppa Narrante said *'We are very happy that Bulgaria has become part of the EUI. The country is an important member of the EU, and its participation in the life of the Institute will strengthen the presence of the Slavic culture in our community.'*

The Bulgarian Counselor, Ana Paskaleva, reported before the High Council the message transmitted by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria *'Bulgaria would like to thank our hosts from the European University Institute for guiding us through the process of accession and for providing us with help and support at any time we have needed it. Bulgaria is very happy to be part of the Institute and is eager to become an active participant in the process. Bulgaria would like to also offer its compliments to all the Member States and is convinced that it will have a beneficial cooperation for the sake of providing great quality education.'*

For additional information:

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