



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Deputy Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism

**To the participants in the *European Conference on
Trade, Customs and Transport Facilitation –
Electronic Business – Port Community System***

17 July 2012

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Energy I would like to welcome the participants in the "European Conference on Trade, Customs and Transport Facilitation - Electronic Business - Port Community System" and to express our support to the initiative on discussing the issues and presenting the best practices in establishing international trade hubs aiming to facilitate the import, export and transit through integrated electronic services and management.

The Ministry of Economy and Energy is working to improve the business environment by reducing the administrative burden and the number of regulatory regimes. By the end of 2012 we have committed to undertake 135 measures to reduce the administrative burden by 20%, amounting to nearly 26 million BGN.

As part of the efforts to make Bulgaria a better place for business, the economic policies of the government encourage the development of high-tech sectors, investment and competitiveness. In this respect, we promote the high-tech knowledge-based industries and services that add value, including the creation of high-tech parks and incubators, technology transfer centers, clusters and business networks.

The introduction of more ICT applications is critical to enhance the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy. In this regard, the Innovation Strategy 2013 - 2020 to be developed will provide for such measures.

Let me express our interest and willingness to discuss in the future any concrete proposals regarding the establishment of National System for Electronic Commerce and Transport, and wish you a successful and efficient work ahead.

Sincerely,

Ivo Marinov
Deputy Minister