



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Sofia, February 7th, 2008

*Mr. Secretary General,*

May I, in the first place, express once again my sincere appreciation of the truly friendly meeting we had recently in Madrid in the midst of the First Annual Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. Following up on our exchange of ideas, I am writing to reaffirm Bulgaria's support for the successful DPA reform effort, including the creation of a regional Conflict Prevention Center for the Balkans. I trust that your recent visits to States bordering that region, as well as your anticipated participation in the SEECP Summit this coming May in Sofia, will further convince you and the UN Member States in the potential usefulness of a lean but effective UN regional conflict prevention mechanism.

The past 15 years have been a period of remarkable performance for the UN system as established in Bulgaria, one which we regard as a valuable asset for the international efforts to bring peace and stability to the Western Balkans and the Caucasus, and, hopefully, in certain parts of the Mediterranean.

The joint activities of the UN Country Team and the Government of Bulgaria have had, so far, a most beneficial effect on local development. For instance, the flagship project *Beautiful Bulgaria*, the successful multidimensional partnership aimed at increased short-term employment opportunities and the celebration of local cultural and ethnic identity through the restoration of cultural sites and shrines, is currently being replicated in several other countries. By applying the lessons learned in conflict-stricken areas we can certainly come up with powerful tools to address the challenges of youth unemployment and identity assertion in a positive way. In the same spirit I would single out the joint UNDP-Bulgaria *JOBS program* in support of micro and small size entrepreneurship through financial and non-financial services, vastly approbated throughout the country. Our experience has triggered and/or influenced similar programs in Kosovo, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Ukraine, Romania, and the Palestinian Authority.

**H E Mr. BAN Ki-moon,**  
**Secretary-General of the United Nations,**  
**New York**

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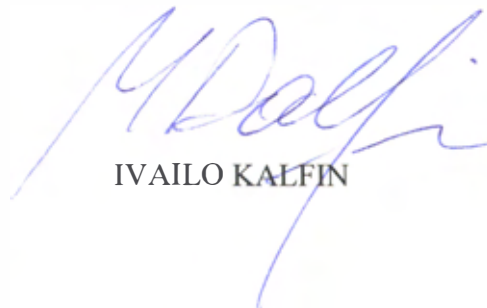
I remain convinced that such experience in local development could be useful and catalytic in countries within conflict-affected areas, situated in close proximity to Bulgaria. In turn the UN best practices dissemination hub in Sofia could very well become an essential complementary component to the regional Conflict Prevention Center, alongside with the DPA mediation unit.

Needless to say, I support your call in Madrid for paying greater attention to the conflict prevention aspect of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. In this regard let me recall that Bulgaria can fully and justifiably boast of an impressive record of promoting ethnic and religious tolerance, including in transition circumstances. Many projects in our national AoC-related Plan of Actions are fully capable of serving as launching pads for the elaboration of an AoC Regional Strategy for South East Europe. As a matter of fact Bulgaria has already contributed a lot to the formulation and implementation of EU's Black Sea Synergy.

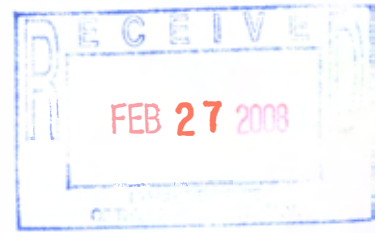
Last but not least, I can assure you that the Government of Bulgaria is firmly intent on continuing to maintain its policies of good neighborly relations in the region, as well as to persevere in its impartial and constructive approach to on-going, latent and 'frozen' conflicts in our proximity. Bulgaria's active stand in favor of the UN role in conflict-settlement in general, and in the Western Balkans, the Caucasus and Cyprus, in particular, could further facilitate the capacity of the UN Conflict Prevention Center to operate and successfully deliver from Sofia, indeed.

May I assure you that my Government would highly appreciate commencing discussions with relevant UN authorities on the logistical and legal modalities for such a Center.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and deep friendly feelings,



IVAILO KALFIN



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF  
B U L G A R I A  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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February 27, 2008

**Excellency,**

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the original of a letter from H.E. Mr. Ivailo Kalfin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, addressed to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I would be most grateful if you could forward the enclosed letter to its highest destination.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Rayko Raytchev,**

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative**

**Mr. Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet of  
the Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
New York**