Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

First of all I would like to thank DG Enterprise and Industry, Joint Research Centre and CEN TC 250 for the realization of this very important and opportune conference for future implementation of the Eurocodes, dissemination of information for training and to join our efforts to elaborate its national implementation.

This meeting is very important for us and for the other new Member States because it enhances the main EU policy and EU legislation and upgrades the national legislation because the Eurocodes are the main means for compliance of buildings and civil engineering works with the Essential Requirements of the CPD. They are as well a basis for specifying contracts for public construction and related engineering service contracts and a framework for drawing up harmonised European Standards (hENs) and European Technical Approvals (ETAs) for construction products and last but not least they remove the burden barriers to trade on the market throughout the European Union.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works conducts the policy of the Bulgarian government in the following areas:

- **Regional development**: executes the functions of a ruling body of the Operational Program “Regional Development 2007 - 2013” and the Operational Programs;
- **Housing policy**: runs and controls the overall activity on the cadastre; organizes the activity on geodesy and cartography;
- **Administrative-spatial planning** and development of the local self-governance;
- **Ensures normative conditions** for the application of
energy efficiency and environment protection in the area of spatial planning, construction, infrastructure and the construction industry; planning and building of roads;

- Exploitation, building, reconstruction and modernization of the water-supply and sewage systems and facilities of the populated places and protection of harms caused by floods to the populated places;

- Harmonisation of the legislation of the Bulgarian Republic with the European legislation in the area of the regional development and public works, design and construction;

For the execution of the state policy The Council of Ministers has adopted a National Regional Strategy for the period 2005 - 2015 and National Housing Strategy of the Bulgarian Republic for the period 2003-2012. The Strategy gives the main aims of the new residential policy in respect of the renovation of the existing buildings in accordance to the European requirements - fire and health safety, seismic stability, increase of energy efficiency and internal comfort of buildings.

The Republic of Bulgaria has introduced all European Directives and Regulations related to design and execution of construction works into Laws and law level legislation acts and ordinances as follows: Law of the Spatial Planning, Law for the chambers of the architects and the engineers in investment design, Law for the Technical Requirements for the Products; Law of National Standardization; Ordinance on the Essential Requirements and Attestation of Conformity of Construction Products, Technical Ordinances and Norms.

The Ministry is responsible for:

- Full implementation of CPD in Bulgaria; creation and management of the National system of Conformity Assessment of construction products and designation of Notified Bodies or Approved and Approval Bodies.

- Organization and management of the elaboration of technical normative legislation for design and execution of building works. The “Technical Rules and Regulations” Department at the Ministry and the Bulgarian Standardization Institute (BIS) manage and ensure together the national policy of the Bulgarian government for introduction of the European Standards under the CPD 89/106/EEC - Structural Eurocodes, Harmonized ENs and Supporting ENs, including determination of the National Determined Parameters /NDPs/ in respect to the specific geographic, climatic and seismic conditions.

- The Ministry has notified 9 NBs so far under the CPD 89/106/EEC and another 9 have submitted their applications.

All parts of ENV Eurocodes have been translated in Bulgarian language and have been adopted as National Standards. Until now, 59 EN Eurocodes have been published in the Official Journal of BIS, 30 parts from them have been
translated in Bulgarian and published as BDS Standards and we have elaborated national draft annexes for 23 EN Eurocodes. The Chamber of Engineers in the Investment Design provide periodical courses for training of designers on the main principles of structural design according to Eurocode standards.

I would like to point out that this workshop will be very important and useful for our country and you would see and exchange opinions and experience at different sessions with our experts from The Bulgarian Standardization Institute, The Central Laboratory for Seismic Mechanics and Earthquake Engineering /CLSMEE/ and the Geophysical Institute which are part of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, University for architecture, civil engineering and geodesy, Chamber of Engineers in the Investment Design, Scientific Research Institute for Civil Engineering.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize my support for the main idea of the Conference of the European Commission - DG Enterprise and Industry and Joint Research Centre with the support of CEN TC 250 to organize this meeting to a profound discussion of the transfer of knowledge, training material and background information on an adequate application of the Eurocodes in the Member States.

As a Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works I believe that holding such a discussion dedicated to the future of national policy for implementation of the Eurocodes is of considerable importance and timely for all of us in the context of our efforts to elaborate the their national implementation.

Let me wish good luck to all participants at the conference! In Bulgarian: “На добър час”!

Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works:

DIMCHO MIHALEVSKI

Sofia, 15 February 2008