

**Statement by Ms Petya Evtimova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria at a Session on „The Implementation of Social Rights in Europe” as part of the High-level International Conference on the European Social Charter (revised)**

*Turin, 18 October 2014, 9.45-11.00 h*

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The European Social Charter is an unique international treaty for protection of human rights, as it covers a broad spectrum of social rights and further develops the adopted international standards in the field of human rights. With the ratification of the document in the year of 2000, Bulgaria has committed itself to the performance of bigger than the mandatory minimum number of commitments as an expression of its will to ensure certain social rights for its citizens.

With the ratification, Bulgaria has made a declaration stating that the country adopts the guidelines and the principles defined in Part One of the Charter as its own objectives.

Bulgaria joined Part Four of the Charter, thus following its obligations in compliance with the procedure set forth in the Additional Protocol of 1995 concerning the collective complaints ' system. I would like to emphasize that **Bulgaria pays special attention to the Decisions of the European Committee on Social Rights in respect of the collective complaints and will continue to undertake measures to resolve any non-conformities identified by the Committee.**

Since the adoption of the European Social Charter as an integral part of the national legislation, we make efforts to develop policies implementing adequate measures that follow the principles and objectives set forth in the treaty. Pursuant to the requirements of the Charter, the national legislation has significantly developed providing specific texts to ensure the basic social rights of the citizens, to regulate the right to decent work, the right of association and participation, the right of protection of children and young people, the right of family assistance, the right of social security.

The national legislation has developed also in respect of equal treatment, non-discrimination, creation of equal opportunities, as well as integration of disabled people in all areas of social life.

Bulgaria pays particular attention to the development of measures for equal participation of women and men in the labour market, the achievement of a better balance between work and family life, equal access to vocational training and qualification, equal pay for women and men.

We will continue to work in this direction as this is of a significant importance for achieving the objectives of the European Social Charter.

Thank you for your attention!