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**COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION AGAINST
DISCRIMINATION**

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**National Conference 'Dialogue for Strategic Partnership in the Integration of
Immigrants in Bulgarian Society' (Sofia, 3-4 December 2009)**

The Commission for Protection against Discrimination of Bulgaria is organizing a 2-day conference on 3 – 4 December 2009, in Sofia (Park-Hotel "Vitosha"). The conference will provide input into the EU Common Agenda for Integration Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union and the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria on Migration and Integration (2008 - 2015).

Bulgaria is transitioning from being a country of origin and transit to a country of final destination for migrants. A statistical overview that the country continues to have negative migration rates, comparing outflows of Bulgarian emigrants with the incoming flows of foreigners to Bulgaria. This is related mainly to Bulgaria's EU membership, the gradually improving economic situation, the increase of foreign investments and access to the common European market which makes Bulgaria a more appealing place for working and living. The Project aims to support Bulgarian efforts in implementing this migration strategy and strengthening national migration systems.

One of the starting points of the Conference under the Project "Strategic Partnership for Effective Integration of Immigrants in Bulgarian Society" is to assist the development of an efficient tool for coordination, communication and lasting collaboration between the institutions, civil society and immigrants for effective integration and active inclusion of third countries' citizens in the public, social and culture life in Bulgaria.

The Conference will gather 120 stakeholders and will present the key findings and deliverables of the Project Memorandum for Permanent Cooperation in a non-formal Experts' Network, open for new members; Handbook for Coordination of the institutions involved in immigrants' integration in Bulgarian society, and an E-Forum: an electronic database for the key stakeholders with links to all relevant institutions, national and international associations and organizations.

The Conference will provide a platform to stakeholders – representatives from the Bulgarian Institutions, local decision-makers, social partners, civil society representatives, immigrants' communities and experts – to discuss current social trends and to contribute to the development of a national agenda for effective integration.

For more information and registration - Ms. Margarita Spasova (kzd@kzd.bg, cc to m.spasova@kzd.bg).

