



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 September 2010

**13105/10
COVEME 7**

“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: Ad hoc Working Party on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania

on: 6 September 2010

to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop.: 12558/10 COVEME 5 + ADD 1
12562/10 COVEME 6 + ADD 1

Subject: The Mechanism on Cooperation and Verification for Bulgaria and Romania
- Adoption of Council conclusions

1. In the light of the Council's conclusions of 17 October 2006 (doc. 14109/06), of 23 July 2007 (doc. 11904/07), of 10 March 2008 (doc. 7017/08), of 15 September 2008 (doc. 12678/08 + REV 1(en)), of 23 February 2009 (doc.6694/09), of 14 September 2009 (doc.12938/1/09 REV 1) and of 10 May 2010 (doc. 8791/10), the Commission presented reports on progress in Bulgaria and Romania under the Co-operation and Verification Mechanism (docs 12558/10 COVEME 5 + ADD 1 and 12562/10 COVEME 6 + ADD 1).
 2. Following the examination of the reports, the Working Party reached agreement on the text of draft Council conclusions on this subject in the terms set out in Annex.
 3. It is therefore suggested to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, to adopt the attached draft conclusions.
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ANNEX

**Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania -
Draft Council conclusions**

... The National Integrity Agency (ANI) has a promising track record of cases. The Council welcomes Romania's swift adoption of a revised ANI law, in response to the Commission's report, and of the amendment to the Law on the Constitutional Court, and looks forward to their implementation ...

However, the Commission's assessment also points to important shortcomings. ... Substantial improvements are required in the field of conflict of interest. ... In order to sustain the reform process, Romania needs to strengthen broad-based political support in favour of transparency and the effective protection against corruption and conflict of interest.

Recalling that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism has now entered its fourth year, the Council encourages Bulgaria and Romania to intensify their reform efforts as a matter of urgency. In this light, the Council stresses the need for Bulgaria and Romania to take immediate action in order to address all the recommendations set out in the Commission reports, so as to achieve concrete and lasting results, especially in the areas highlighted by the Commission reports.

The Council notes that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism is an appropriate tool to assist Bulgaria and Romania in their reform efforts. The other Member States are ready to

continue to grant every necessary assistance in order to meet as soon as possible the objectives set under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism. Pending the results expected in this framework, the Mechanism stays in place. In this context, the Council recalls that the Mechanism underpins Bulgaria's and Romania's efforts to fully implement EU policies. The Council will continue to pay careful attention to developments in this area.
