

Bulgaria in the EU- Achievements and Challenges



This lecture includes:

- I. Short Introduction
- II. The Bulgarian Road to the EU
- III. Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member
- Challenges to Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Road to the EU

- June 1990 election results for the Grand National Assembly

BSP- 47.15%

UDF (SDS)- 36.20%

- June 1991 election results:

UDF- 110 MPs

BSP- 106 MPs

MRF- 24 MPs

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- GDP growth - CIA World Factbook Data

6% (2008 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 59th

6.2% (2007)

6.3% (2006)

- GDP per capita - CIA World Factbook Data

\$ 12,900 (2008)

\$ 12,100 (2007)

\$ 11,300 (2006)

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Unemployment - CIA World Factbook Data
6.3% (2008 est.)
7.7% (2007)
- Stock of direct foreign investment in Bulgaria:
CIA World Factbook Data
 - \$42.91 billion (31 December 2008 est.)
 - country comparison to the world: 52
 - \$33.91 billion (31 December 2007 est.), Greece is 57th, Cyprus- 69th, Lithuania- 74th, Slovenia-75th

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

■ Exports

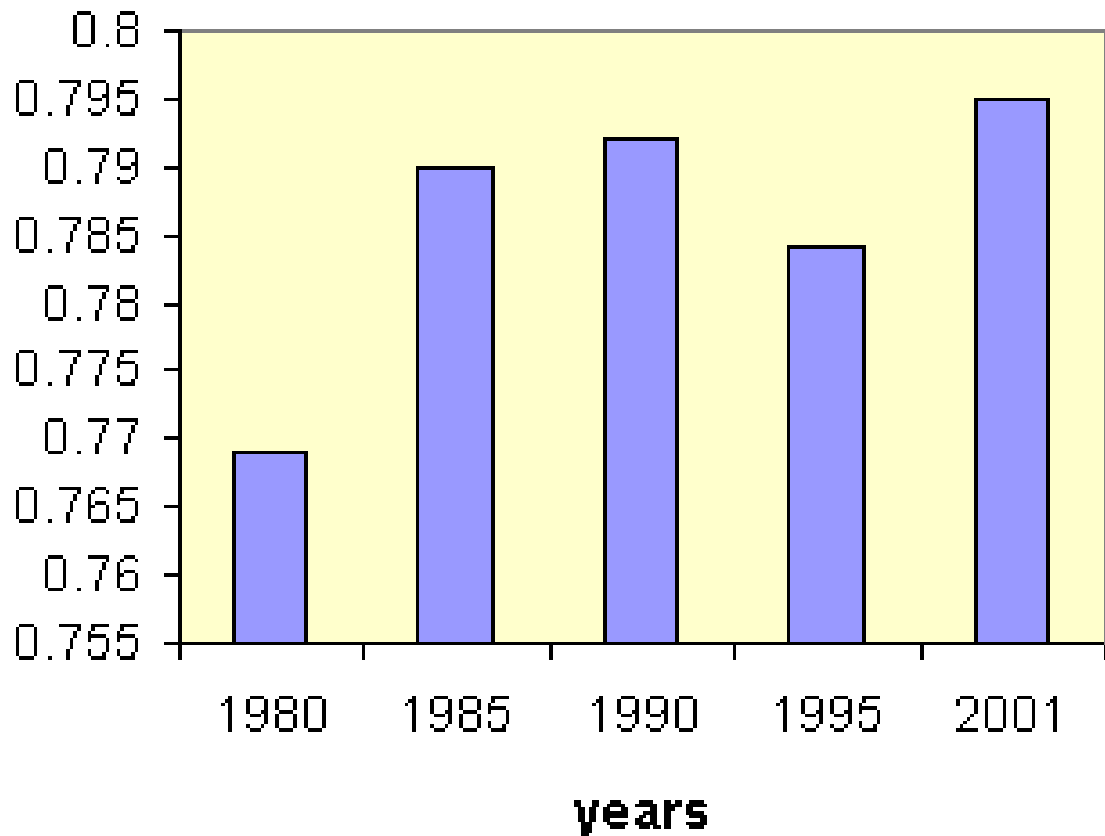
\$22.71 billion (2008 est.), 69th in the world,
better than Estonia and Latvia
\$18.58 billion (2007 est.)

Exports: clothing, footwear, iron and steel,
machinery and equipment, fuels

Partners for exports: Greece 9.9%,
Germany 9.2%, Turkey 8.9%, Italy 8.5%,
Romania 7.2%, Belgium 5.9%, France
4.1% (2008)

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

Human Development Index Trend



Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Electricity Production- CIA World Factbook Data
40.25 billion kWh (2007 est.), 53rd in the world, better position than Hungary, Slovakia, Ireland and Denmark
- Life Expectancy in Bulgaria - CIA World Factbook
73.9 years
Estonia- 72.82 years
Romania-72.45 years
Latvia- 72.15 years
WORLD AVERAGE- 66.57 YEARS

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- HIV Cases- Bulgaria is 153rd out of 165 countries
Only Slovakia and Slovenia have fewer cases than Bulgaria in the EU
- According to Health Consumer Powerhouse Index 2008, Bulgaria has a better quality healthcare system than Croatia, Latvia and Canada
<http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/files/2008-EHCI/EHCI-2008-report.pdf>
- Internet Users: 2.64 million
This is better in % of the population than Latvia, Lithuania and Croatia

Achievements of Bulgaria as an EU Member

- Petty crime is a concern in Sofia, although less widespread than in most Western European cities. Organized criminal groups are involved in casinos, nightclubs, and prostitution. Violent crime, although rare, occurs.
- Homicide rate per 100,000 people- UN statistics
Bulgaria: 2000-4.07; 2003-3.15; 2009-3.08
2009: USA- 5.4; Canada- 1.83; Austria- 0.73
2009: Columbia-36; South Africa-37; Venezuela-52
- Migration rate: -3.11 migrants/1000 people (2009), for comparison: Estonia: -3.26/1000

Challenges to Bulgaria as a EU Member

- low salaries and pensions, (average GDP for the EU per capita 33,700);
- enlarging the international educational cooperation;
- improvement of the conditions in mental health institutions;
- corruption and effective sentences for high profile corruption cases;
- bigger transparency for the money spent on EU-funded and Bulgarian government-funded projects;
- nepotism and more careful checks of the background of candidates for political offices, especially for EU, UN and other international organizations;
- better integration of the Roma minority stricter application of anti-racist and anti-xenophobic laws;
- improving the Bulgarian immigration and refugee legislature as well as control of the treatment of detained refugees by the Bulgarian authorities;
- restricting GMO on Bulgarian territory and preserving the Bulgarian nature- destruction of illegal hotels and villas;
- decentralization of the government institutions, encouraging and creating employment opportunities across the country;