

Questions to the participants in the Bulgarian EU accession process:

- Would you, please, share with us the brightest memory you have from your experience in the EU accession process?
- According to you, what should one know about the Bulgarian route to the EU membership but, due to some reasons, remains still unknown or is misunderstood?
- Was there, in the beginning of the process, any concrete vision about the EU integration goals or was this orientation just a desire to lag not behind the other post-communist countries?
- Has there been any sustained ‘division of labor’ within the teams working for the Bulgaria’s preparation to accede to the EU? Let’s say – the ones working in Sofia v/s those in Brussels; the ones working as expert v/s the politicians, or anything else?
- Why, in your opinion, do some negotiations on specific chapters last less than a month while others continue for more than three years? What was the most difficult in the negotiation process?
- How was the country’s position on a negotiation chapter worked out? Who did the job in practice? Was there any linkage between the National Development Plan and the positions we stood for?
- Do you recall any form of involvement of the NGO sector in these processes – particular NGOs, trade unions, business associations?
- Were there any ministers, irrespectively to the particular political cabinets, whom you have remembered as strong proponents of the EU accession? Could we speak of some personal impact on the way the three chief negotiators led the negotiations?
- For the first Program period up to 2013 there were provided about 11 bln euro for Bulgaria to support its Operative programs. Do you know what was the pattern for the disbursement of the money?
- Was there any country that would act as a promotor for Bulgaria? Where there any particular countries that would be considered the ‘best example’ to follow? Whose opposition had we to surmount? Why was there an opposition or reluctance towards us?
- To what extent it would be true to say that the EC has been Bulgaria ‘best friend’ on its way to the EU membership?
- Is the phrase “Euro-Atlantic Integration”, in your opinion, more an expression of the true twinning/interdependence of the two processes or is it more a journalistic cliché?
- Would you recall any particular geo-political events that influenced the Bulgarian EU integration process?
- Would you say that throughout the integration process anything could have been done in a different way – in terms of timing, means, goals, political approach, be it on behalf of the Bulgarian side or on behalf of the EU’s side?
- Would you, please, tell us the names of three key persons whom we should necessarily approach if we aim a deep understanding of the EU accession process in Bulgaria?
- Would you, please, provide your very short professional CV?

Thanks a lot for your most valuable cooperation!