**DRAFT!**

International conference

**NEW CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN SECURITY – REFUGEE FLOW, INTEGRATION, RADICALISATION.**

**The refugee crisis and the Balkans: is the regional stability at stake?**

December 3, 2015, Sofia Bulgaria

*Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria - 124 Rakovski street*

*Working languages: Bulgarian and English /simultaneous translation/*

**10:30 - 11:00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

**11:00 - 12:30 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.**

**PANEL 1. THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND THE BALKANS: TENDENCIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGION**

This panel will try to analyse what are the implications of the refugee crisis on individual Balkan states as well as for the entire Balkan region. Can the refugee crisis potentially provoke and trigger disputes in the region?

Moderator: **Yordan Bozhilov**, President of Sofia Security Forum

Speakers:

**Lyubomir Kyuchukov,** Director of the Economics and International Relations Institute

**H.E. Dimosthenis STOIDIS**, Ambassador of Greece

**Hristo Gadjev,** Member of the Foreign Policy Committee, Bulgarian Parliament

**Prof. Monica ROMAN,** Bucharest University of Economic Studies

**12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH**

**13:30 - 15:00 PANEL 2. NATIONAL VS. REGIONAL APPROACH IN THE SEARCH OF A COMMON RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS.**

Participants will discuss how countries in the region can manage the refugee issues and what are the necessary regional mechanisms and regional approaches in order to be more effective and to prevent regional tension.

**Prof. Alexander Kostov**, Director of the Institute of Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

**15:00 - 15:30 – COFFEE-BREAK**

**15:30 – 17:00 PANEL 3. WORKING OUT RIGHT EU POLICIES FOR THE REGION TO COPE WITH THE REFUGEE CRISIS.**

Recently the EU and Balkan leaders has agreed on a 17-point plan to cooperate on managing flows of refugees through the Balkan peninsula. Is this enough to cope with the refugee crisis and other regional security challenges caused by this crisis?

Moderator: **Rumen Kanchev**

Speakers:

**Georgi Krastev**, Secretary of the National Security Council, Bulgaria

**Panayotis Tsakonas**, Professor of International relations at the University of the Aegean and an external associate at ELIAMEP, Greece- "The Refugee Crisis: EU Perspectives and Strategies"

**Mr. Catalin Grosu**, President of CERI (Romanian Centre for Integration)

***17:00 -* WRAPING UP AND FAREWELL**