

Welcome speech for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**Your Excellency Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov,**

**Excellences,**

**Dear friends,**

Please allow me on behalf of the Association of the Bulgarian – Arab Economic Chambers and the Lebanese Bulgarian Council to sincerely thank all of you that we have gathered today to dine in honour of Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov, President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I am confident that ILI Beirut Restaurant in Sofia is a symbol of the exquisite and delicious Lebanese cuisine and it can only add to this festive moment!

I wish to emphasize that over many years I have the honour of calling Mr. Simeonov a dear friend! We have had excellent cooperation with him and have always received his full-hearted support for our business and investment initiatives.

Certainly, it will be but a crime not say that Mr. Simeonov is a world renowned man of law with in-depth expertise in International commercial law and arbitration. He has reached the very top of the BCCI starting from the very grass-roots.

May I once again express my gratitude to Mr. Simeonov's professionalism and dedication; and his never ending and comprehensive support. He is like a solid granite stone wall behind us! And we can always rely on him.

I would like to raise this toast to Mr. Simeonov's health and success!

*Bon appétit!*

Yours always,

**Ahmad Alaeddine**