



Prof. Sergei Ignatov
Minister of Education, Youth and Science
2A Dondukov, Sofia, Bulgaria

Vienna, 16/05/2012

35th ERC Scientific Council Meeting in Sofia

Dear Minister Ignatov,

Having just returned from my latest travels, I am writing you to thank you for organizing such a wonderful meeting of the ERC Scientific Council in Sofia. We all very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with Bulgarian colleagues in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The meeting, the dinner, and the outreach event gave us an insightful picture of the higher education and research initiatives in your country.

My colleagues and I were particularly struck by the enthusiasm we encountered in our talks with Bulgarian members of the scientific community. I think there is great, yet untapped potential among Bulgarian scientists. At the same time, I am glad you are fully aware of the fact that high expectations in the ERC have to meet the reality, which is a very tough competition for project funding across Europe.

Let me also to thank you and your advisor, Dr. Evelina Christova, as well as Ms. Demetra Duleva from the Bulgarian Permanent Representation in Brussels, for your personal assistance and commitment to making the 35th plenary meeting of the Scientific Council so successful. May I ask you to extend my best wishes to everyone in your ministry who has helped in organizing this event.

With best regards,
Helga Nowotny

Professor Dr. Helga Nowotny, Ph.D.
President of the European Research Council