

RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

1, Knyaz Alexander I Square, BNB

Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel. [359 2] 981 4506 Fax [359 2] 981 2524

PRESS RELEASE

February 10, 2010

An IMF mission will visit Sofia from February 18 to March 1, 2010 for a regular review of the Bulgarian economy. Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with all its members, usually every year.

The mission will be headed by Mr. Bas B. Bakker, and will comprise Ms. Jianping Zhou, Ms. Pritha Mitra, Ms. Andrea Schaechter, Mr. Jerome Vandenbussche, and Mr. Esteban Vesperoni. Mr. Tonny Lybek, IMF's Regional Resident Representative in Bulgaria and Romania and Ms. Iana Paliova from the IMF Resident Representative Office in Sofia will participate in the meetings.

The mission will meet with representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Bulgarian National Bank, other Bulgarian officials, as well as representatives from the private sector, including banks and industry, unions, and some non-government agencies.

The mission is expected to disseminate its conclusions at the end of the visit.

See <u>http://www.imf.org/external/country/BGR/index.htm</u>. for details on the continued dialog between the Bulgarian authorities and the IMF.