



Strasbourg, 13 October 2003

3rd Consult/ICC (2003) 12

**THE IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL OF  
EUROPE MEMBER STATES OF THE  
RATIFICATION OF THE  
ROME STATUTE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**LES IMPLICATIONS POUR LES ETATS  
MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
DE LA RATIFICATION DU STATUT DE  
ROME DE LA COUR PENALE  
INTERNATIONALE**

## **PROGRESS REPORT BY BULGARIA**

### **Ratification**

Bulgaria signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1999. The Bulgarian Parliament ratified the Rome Statute by Law on ratification adopted on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2002 (State Gazette ? 31 from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2002). The ratification documents were deposited on the official ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2002. Thus Bulgaria becomes one of the first 60 countries whose ratification determines the entry into force of the Rome Statute.

### **Cooperation**

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003 Bulgarian Parliament adopted Law on Amendments of the Penal Procedure Code regulating the mechanism for cooperation with the International Criminal Court (State gazette ? 50 from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003). The amendments entered into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003. The texts of the amended Articles 439a to 440d provide the legal basis for complying with possible ICC requests for surrender of persons, including Bulgarian citizens. (The texts of the amended articles of the Penal Procedure Code will be provided when translated into English).

### **Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the ICC**

Bulgaria signed the Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the International Criminal Court on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003 in New York. This agreement is currently under Parliamentary debate for ratification.

### **Penal law**

Bulgaria plans to amend its penal substantive legislation in order to consolidate and complete the list of criminal offences in full compliance with the crimes under the Rome Statute.