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

PROGRESS REPORT
BY BULGARIA
Ratification

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

Cooperation

On 14th 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 30th May 2003). The amendments entered into force on 3rd 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 2nd May 2003 in New York. This agreement is currently under Parliamentarian 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.