

Statement by the Ambassador of Italy Stefano Baldi
On the occasion of the Italian National Day
Sofia, June 2nd, 2017

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank you for participating so numerous to my first reception as Ambassador of Italy to Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Italian National Day.

Today the Republic of Italy turns 71. In fact, the Institutional referendum that marked the creation of the Republic took place on June 2nd, 1946. But this year we celebrate two other important anniversaries that I want to remember today: 60 years ago the European Union was born and 10 years ago Bulgaria became part of it.

Therefore today we not only celebrate the historical friendship between two countries like Bulgaria and Italy, but we also take this opportunity to underline the important role that our two countries have had and continues to have in the European integration process. A process that continues reinforced by the intentions expressed by Member States during last Rome Summit of March 25th. It is a process where Italy is particularly engaged and continues to invest, as proved by the recent candidature of Milan to host the new premises of the European Medicine Agency, which is strongly supported by our Government.

In this constructive context we should consider the appreciated Italian presence in Bulgaria, which keeps growing with success in all its aspects: Political, Economic/Commercial and Cultural.

From my side I can assure that the effort of the whole Embassy, the Italian Cultural Institute and all other components of the Italian institutional system present in Bulgaria will be constantly engaged in promoting and further strengthening existing ties between Italy and Bulgaria.

To conclude let me say in Italian.

Viva l'Italia, viva la Bulgaria, viva l'amicizia fra Italia e Bulgaria.