

WELCOMING ADDRESS

By Angel CHAKAROV, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations

Abstract: These are the introductory words of Mr. Angel Chakarov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations, to the participants in the Second Scientific Conference on Protection of Population and Critical Infrastructure organized by the Center for National Security and Defense Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Keywords: Civil protection, prevention, welcoming address, scientific support, critical infrastructure.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all participants in the Second National Scientific and Practical Conference organized by the Center for National Security and Defense Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with the financial support of the Interministerial Commission for recovery and support.

The theme of today's forum is highly relevant not only for public authorities and academia, it is much important for the development of industries in different regions of the country, trade, business, tourism, and in practice it concerns the whole society. Security of the population and economic entities depends highly on the infrastructure. Destroying it could mean the loss of lives, property, financial resources. The Bulgarian government takes into consideration all these realities and puts the problem among their top priorities.

Nowadays the protection of critical infrastructure and population depends on scientific advances and their application in practice. Developments are needed and in-depth analysis, forecasts and assessments of risk to the population and infrastructure. Science-based decisions may increase their level of protection and security. This includes the consolidation and integration of the systems for defense and security and optimal application of scientific technologies for the benefit of civil European secu-

rity. We believe that the potential of the research community with its activities will support the government and the authorities for population protection.

In-depth analysis and systematic preventive measures would prevent any destruction of critical infrastructure. Only thus losses will be limited, manageable and geographically isolated.

I am convinced that this forum will outline new aspects and approaches to critical infrastructure protection, the integration of scientific advances in this area and the trends in our future work together.

I officially open the second scientific conference on protection of population and critical infrastructure.

November 2007

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