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**NEGOTIATING POSITION
ON CHAPTER 20
CULTURE AND AUDIO-VISUAL POLICY**

OVERALL POSITION

The Republic of Bulgaria accepts and will implement in full the *acquis* in the field of Culture and Audio-visual Policy

As a working hypothesis, the Bulgarian Government considers that Bulgaria will become a member of the European Union on 01.01.2007.

No derogations or transitional periods in this area will be requested.

ACQUIS ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Bulgarian policy in the field of culture is in line with the *acquis*.

Bulgaria expresses its willingness to participate in the Culture 2000 Framework Programme as of 2001 and in all other Community initiatives in the field of culture.

Full harmonization of the Bulgarian broadcasting legislation with the Television Without Frontiers Directives will be achieved through an amendment of the Law on Radio and Television.

Bulgaria shall further contribute to MEDIA II Programme and is willing to participate in the MEDIA PLUS Programme.

Bulgaria has ratified the Council of Europe Transfrontier Television Convention and the Protocol to this Convention.

All institutional infrastructures, necessary for the implementation of the EU legislation in the area of Culture and Audio-visual policy, are in place and will be functioning in full compliance with the *acquis* by the date of accession of Bulgaria to the EU.

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The Bulgarian Government proposes the negotiations on this chapter to be provisionally closed on the basis of the existing *acquis*.

Should new elements of the *acquis* make it necessary, Bulgaria recognizes the possibility of opening supplementary negotiations before the end of the Intergovernmental conference.