



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you in Bulgaria, in our ancient and beautiful town Plovdiv on the European Fencing Championship 2009.

The long-aging history of the Bulgarian fencing is full of traditions, success and initiatives. And fully deserved the Bulgarian Fencing Federation has been chosen to organize and host this Championship.

A lot of significant championship have been held in Bulgaria - The World Championship in 1986, the European Championship in 1998, the traditional tournament "Asparukh`s Sword" which is a proud for the Bulgarian fencing, and many other important championships in different age groups.

Bulgaria has its great champions!

The names of some of our gorgeous competitors are well known all over the world - for example Asen Lekarski, Dimitar Vasilev, the two brothers Hristo and Vasil Etropolski - the last mentioned was a remarkable world champion and an owner of three world cups.

And still today the fencing has a good reputation and authority in our country. A guarantee for its good future and success is the increasing number of girls and boys which practice this sport in Bulgaria.

I would like to wish you all very pleasant emotions during the European Championship and during your stay in our mother country.

Sofia
July, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Parvanov'.

Georgi Parvanov
President of the Republic of Bulgaria