

STATEMENT OF MR. GALAB DONEV

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE OF REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

EBRD GOVERNOR FOR REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 35TH EBRD ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting marks the thirtyfifth year since the establishment of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — one of the earliest expressions of the shared commitment to promote prosperity and unity in Europe and beyond through democracy and a market-oriented economy. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to the Latvian authorities and the EBRD for hosting and organizing this important event.

In the current geopolitical environment of growing fragmentation, heightened security tensions and increasing competition, where the global economies are facing overlapping challenges related to energy security, supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, the principles underpinning the EBRD's mandate—transition, resilience, and economic sovereignty—are more relevant than ever. It is also time to reaffirm our common commitment to preserving transition gains, strengthening resilience and supporting sustainable economic development.

In spite of these complex challenges, the EBRD once again demonstrated remarkable resilience, operational flexibility and strong institutional responsiveness. In this regard, we welcome the Bank's strong financial performance in 2025, which reflects prudent financial management, effective risk governance and the ability of the institution to continue delivering impact under exceptionally challenging circumstances. The record levels of investment activity reaching €16.8 billion in total annual investment and the healthy profitability achieved by the Bank once again confirm the strength of the EBRD's unique business model and its capacity to remain a reliable and counter-cyclical partner for its countries of operations. Therefore, I would like to commend President Odile Renaud-Basso and the staff of the Bank for their dedication, leadership and hard work.

Being the largest institutional investor in Ukraine, we consider the important role of EBRD, including by engaging with the authorities to undertake necessary governance reforms and to further develop institutional framework, transparency and accountability in times of crisis and beyond. In that regard, the EBRD should ensure the proper and efficient allocation of resources and maximize their impact. Furthermore, we rely on the Bank to maintain its stable financial position and continue to uphold its role as a trusted and reliable partner across all countries in which it operates, as well as enhance the local presence and further strengthen policy dialogue and operational engagement in areas such as energy security, regional connectivity, decarbonisation, nuclear technologies and industrial modernisation.

In this regard, we strongly encourage the EBRD to maintain and further strengthen its engagement in conflict-affected countries, while ensuring that investments continue to support reconstruction efforts, economic stabilisation and long-term transformation. This also requires comprehensive policy engagement, institutional strengthening and coordinated international action. We therefore support the Bank's continued cooperation with other international financial institutions and development partners in order to maximise collective impact and ensure efficient mobilisation of public and private financing.

The EBRD must remain strong not only in financial terms, but also remain strong and ambitious on our values green transition reaffirmed as a defining pillar of the Bank's work. In the EBRD's countries of operations decarbonization remains a major structural challenge. The Bank's role in helping countries reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, expand renewables and energy

efficiency, and deliver a just transition in carbon-intensive areas is crucial. These investments also contribute to energy security, where the EBRD has supported diversification efforts, and in our opinion should also include responsible use of nuclear energy.

Strengthening economic governance is fundamental to ensure that Bank's investments translate into sustainable growth, resilience, and equitable prosperity. However, this should not be for the sake of additional administrative burdens, but rather aim to simplify processes and improve efficiency. In this regard, we welcome the enhanced focus on the private sector engagement as a key element for the sustainable economic development. Alongside the green energy transition, financing for digital transformation and innovation is equally essential. Through investments in these areas, the Bank plays a pivotal role in strengthening digital and cyber resilience while fostering more efficient, competitive, and innovative ecosystems.

The role of the private sector remains equally important for addressing the growing investment needs and accelerating economic transformation. We welcome the Bank's continued efforts to support private sector development, improve access to finance and foster innovation. In an increasingly uncertain global environment, investments in innovation, digitalisation and modern infrastructure are essential for enhancing competitiveness and supporting more resilient and integrated economies.

Last but not least, Bulgaria highly values the tailored financial support, extensive advisory expertise and strong policy engagement provided by the EBRD. We encourage the Bank to continue supporting the Bulgarian financial and corporate sector, infrastructure development, innovation and green transition projects, contributing to the transformation towards a more competitive, sustainable and resilient economy.

We look forward to continuing our fruitful co-operation in the years ahead.

Thank you.