

The EU in Bulgaria

AGENDA:

- The political situation
- Bulgarian Political Parties System
- Parties at the european level
- Ataka



The political situation

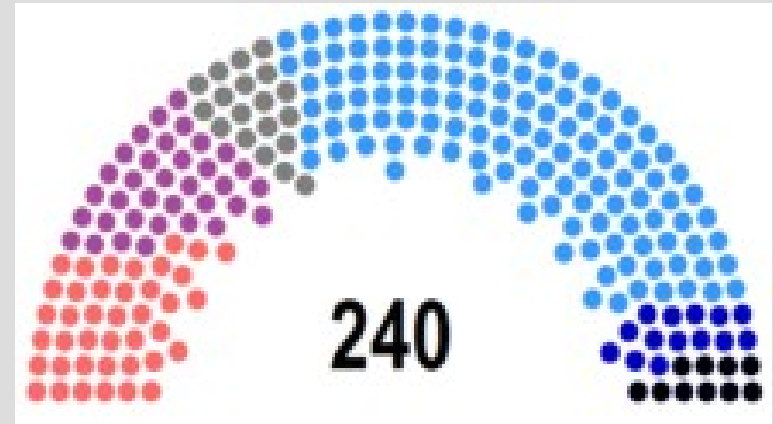
- **Political system:** Republic
- **Government:** Parliamentary democracy
 - President: Rosen Plevneliev
 - Prime Minister: Boyko Borisov
- **Year of EU entry:** 2007
- **Member of Schengen area:** Future member



The Bulgarian party system

National Assembly:

- Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria – GERB (117 seats)
- Coalition for Bulgaria – CB (40)
 - Bulgarian Socialist Party
 - Party of Bulgarian Social Democrats
 - Agrarian Union
 - Movement for Social Humanism
- Movement for Rights and Freedoms - DPS (37)
- National Union Attack (21)
- Blue Coalition – BC (15)
 - Union of Democratic Forces
 - Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria
 - United Agrarians



Multy party system:

Political groups in the Parliament, 2011:

Coalition for Bulgaria (left-wing)	
DPS (centrist)	
Independent	
GERB (centre-right)	
Blue Coalition (centre-right)	
Ataka (far right)	

European Parliament

- Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria – **GERB** (5 – EPP)
- Coalition for Bulgaria- **CB** (4 – Party of the European Socialists)
- Movement for Rights and Freedoms – **DPS** (3 – Eu. Liberal Democratic and Reform Party)
- National Union Attack – **ATAKA** (2- ITS)
- National Movement for Stability and Progress (2 – ELDRP)
(It formed a coalition government with the DPS in 2001 elections. The party got just 3.01% of votes and no seats at the parliamentary elections of 2009)
- Blue Coalition – **BC** (1)

АТАКА

- **Far-right nationalist** political party in Bulgaria
- 2009 Legislative Election: **9.4%** of popular votes
- 2009 European Parliament Election: **12.0%**
- Formed by:

National Movement for the Salvation of the Fatherland

Bulgarian National Patriotic Party

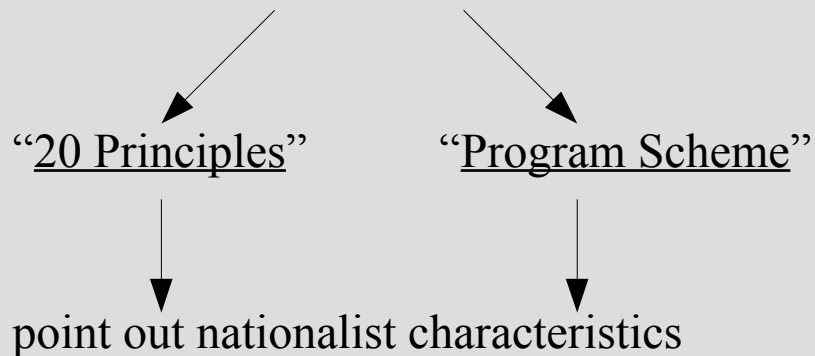
Union of Patriotic Forces and Militaries of the Reserve Defense

- Leader: **Volen Siderov**



ATAKA

- Critical toward Bulgaria's ethnic minorities;
- Accused the entire Bulgarian political establishment of being corrupt;
- Opposed to NATO, IMF, World Bank, the Iraq War and closer ties with the USA;
- **The party is ambivalent on Bulgaria's European Union membership, it has demanded a revision of some of the previous agreements;**
- The party's two program documents:



Ideology:

- Supremacy of the state and the 'Bulgarian nation' above ethnic and religious diversity;
- Official religion and participation of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church in legislative work and in all important government decisions;
- Formulating a crime of 'national betrayal' and criminal prosecution of the 'national traitors';
- Hard lines against immigration and an antagonism towards the 10% Muslim minorities in Bulgaria;

Political activity:

- Heavily criticized in the media;
- Opinion survey results from March 2006 showed a significant increase in support for Attack;
- It's the second party after BSP;
- Fourth place in the European Parliament Elections of June 7 2009;



Conclusion:

- In conclusion we can say that in Bulgaria there is not a real Eurosceptic party.
- At European level Ataka is part of the political group, named **Identity, Tradition, Sovereignty (ITS)** composed of 23 members from European parties variously described as right-wing and nationalist .



Thanks for your attention

