

Dear Branimir,

Nearly 25 years ago, I met Bojidar Danev with you for the first time in his office. He was just back from a business mission with the Bulgarian Government to a country in the Far-East: we had a first, short meeting, but I was immediately impressed by his strong charisma, his knowledge and intelligence and his clear strategic vision about BIA and the Bulgarian Economy.

Later on we had several occasions to meet Bojidar at international meetings, as in Albena, for the first Workshop in May 2000, in Hotel Dobrudja, with the colleagues of Central and Eastern Europe organised by ILO/ACTEMP and IOE. Later on we learned that he was also a successful negotiator as he succeeded to terminate a strike of the pilots of Balkan Air: he was a real believer of the benefits of social dialogue. How many times were there hard negotiations with the Government and the Trade Unions, under his leadership in the premises of BIA, in the Alabin street! We were also together at other international meetings in Tallinn, Berlin, Budapest, Geneva, Brussels, etc.

He was also a strong believer of the importance of IT for employers' organisations: in december 2000 he wrote with his assistants a successful "Internet Guide" explaining how BIA implemented its IT-services. He was also very proud about the CISCO-academy set-up in the IT-department of BIA. Thanks to the daily newsletter launched by the IT department to more than 15000 contacts world-wide, business contacts are well informed about the economic and social affairs in Bulgaria.

He was also a strong believer and supporter of the European Integration: he was convinced that he had to represent BIA in the European Economic and Social Council, of which he immediately became a member once Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007. He supported also the membership of BIA in BusinessEurope, and I am particularly grateful to him that he asked me to collaborate with him and BIA, by representing BIA in Brussels, specially towards BusinessEurope.

He also succeeded to gather around him a team of high-level experts and professionals on economic, social issues, international affairs, IT, PR and Communication, so that BIA became the real Voice of Business in Bulgaria and the strongest employers' confederations in Central- and Eastern Europe.

Thank you, Bojidar, for all your efforts: it was a real pleasure to have known you and worked with you. I will never forget you. Farewell and rest in peace.

J.M.Standaert