

**Press Release**  
**The Secretary-General of ASEAN Warmly Welcomes the Ambassador of Bulgaria to ASEAN**  
**ASEAN Secretariat, 23 April 2009**

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The Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, today welcomed the Ambassador of Bulgaria to ASEAN, H.E. Boyko Hristov Mirchev.

Accepting Ambassador Mirchev's letter of appointment, Dr Surin said, "Ambassador Mirchev is the third Ambassador to ASEAN from a European Union Member State we have been honoured to welcome this week. He is the 11th Ambassador out of all 27 EU Member States to have presented his letter of appointment to date. For this, ASEAN is very honoured by Bulgaria and the EU. This is a welcomed commitment to work more closely with ASEAN."

Bulgaria is one of the youngest members of the EU, joining only in early 2007. Nevertheless, it is one of the oldest states in Europe. "ASEAN can certainly learn a great deal from Bulgaria and we certainly have plenty to contribute in return," said Dr Surin.

Ambassador Mirchev is concurrently the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with residence in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dr Surin is expecting the Ambassador of Luxembourg to ASEAN this Friday.