

The Only English-Language Daily in Bulgaria

Sofia, Thursday, February 2, 2017, No.27

Supreme Administrative Court Revokes Central Election Commission Decision Limiting Machine Voting to 500 Sections

Sofia - The Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) said Wednesday that it had revoked a decision of the Central Election Commission (CEC) limiting machine voting at the March 26, 2017 early parliamentary elections to 500 voting sections. The judgment is final.

This means that 18,000 voting machines (12,000 for all voting sections and 6,000 spare) must be procured for the polls as required by the Election Code.

The CEC was challenged by several former MPs, who are now part of the right-wing New Republic Platform. They argued that the Commission's decision violates a requirement of the Election Code which states that "in the voting section, the voter may choose to vote by paper ballot or by voting machine ballot."

Machine voting was used in Bulgaria at four elections so far: twice on an experimental basis and twice as a legitimate equivalent to voting by paper ballots. At the latest elections, machine voting was available in 300 sections, and 23 per cent of voters availed themselves of this opportunity.

So far, the hardware was rented. The rental, transportation, maintenance, software and logistics cost 1,500 leva per machine. "Troud" has quoted election expert

Mihail Konstantinov as saying that the costs of the March 26 elections will thus double to 60 million leva from the 29.9 million leva current estimate.

"Once the SAC has rendered such judgment, the CEC will comply, but there are lots of difficulties that must be overcome and that the Commission has yet to consider," CEC Spokesman Tsvetozar Tomov told BTA, approached for comment.

"Most difficulties stem from the very short time within which this voting option must be ensured to Bulgarian voters," Tomov specified. In his opinion, this is technically impossible or impracticable in mobile sections and sections abroad.

"The matter is difficult and complicated, in this situation the Government should adjust the elections budget, and time is of the essence," he added.

Tomov sees a need of a public debate because this is a problem not just for the CEC, and the competent institutions in Bulgaria must pool their efforts to solve the issue.

In the meantime, the Council of Ministers said that they will take into account the court decision and will adjust the estimate for the March 26 parliamentary elections accordingly. On February 28 Deputy Prime Minister Stefan Yanev, who is in charge of holding the elections, will have a meeting with all committed institutions and the officials of the Central Election Commission, the message also says.

New Republic urges the caretaker Cabinet to ensure machines for voting in over 12,000 polling stations and defined the decision of the Supreme Administrative Court as the first political victory of the Bulgarians. Martin Dimitrov, who was among the petitioners against the CEC decision, urged the Commission members, who had adopted the decision, to resign. □

State Fund Agriculture Director Resigns after Minister's Ultimatum

Sofia - The Executive Director of State Fund Agriculture (SFA), Roumen Porozhanov, tendered his resignation Wednesday after Agriculture Minister Hristo Bozoukov gave him an hour's ultimatum to do so. The resignation was announced by SFA shortly after the Ministry said in a statement that it is needed to ensure an objective audit at SFA.

The Agriculture Ministry also said that mistrust has built in society against the SFA leadership and multiple complaints have come against it from beneficiaries in EU-supported programmes.

Another reason why Agriculture Ministry demanded the resignation is that the court has recently overturned a ministerial order firing the previous SFA director Miroslav Nikolov and his deputy Violeta Alexandrova. They were sacked in July 2014 but challenged the dismissal and the court found it to be unlawful. □

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Stefan Milev Elected Acting President of Sofia Regional Court

Sofia - The Judges Chamber of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Tuesday elected Stefan Milev acting President of the Sofia Regional Court (SRC).

Milev was nominated at the last minute on Tuesday morning by eight SJC members - as many as were needed to vote through his election. The other two candidates, Albena Boteva and Boris Dinev, were nominated by the general assembly of SRC judges. Boteva, whose nomination was defeated by a majority vote at the SJC last week, received six votes on Tuesday, and Dinev received none.

Supreme Court of Cassation President Lozan Panov noted during the debate that the election was a foregone conclusion. Addressing the Council, Panov defined Boteva as "the moral winner". He argued that the persistent ignoring of judicial self-governance cannot possibly fail to demotivate magistrates. Summing up, Panov said that by picking Milev, the SJC takes yet another step towards "unprincipled appointments" which are invariably identified as a problem in the European Commission reports.

Having served as a prosecutor at the Sofia Regional Prosecution Office for ten years, including as deputy regional prosecutor, Milev won a competition for a judge at the Criminal College of the Sofia City Court and was appointed on July 1, 2016.

The office of SRC head fell vacant after President Metodi Lalov resigned in mid-December 2016.

SRC judges and employees staged two protests in front of the SJC building within less than two months: the first time on December 13, 2016, against the heavy caseload and the Council's refusal to address this problem, and the second time on January 26, 2017, when their anger was triggered by rejection of Boteva's nomination for acting head of their court. □

Bulgaria Remembers Victims of Communism

Sofia - At the Memorial to the Victims of Communism in central Sofia and monuments in other cities across the country, Bulgarian people marked the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Communism. The date was picked to commemorate the day in 1945 which saw the most numerous executions of death sentences in Bulgarian history.

The sentences were passed shortly after the communists took power in Bulgaria in 1944 by what was called "People's Court".

The People's Court sentenced to death Bulgaria's three regents (Prince Kiril of Preslav, Prof. Bogdan Filov and Gen. Nikola Mihov), 8 royal advisors, 22 ministers from governments in the 1941-44 period, as well as 67 members of Parliament and 47 generals and other top brass.

The sentences were unappealable and were put to immediate execution.

The People's Court also sentenced thousands to imprisonment and ordered the defendants' families deported and displaced, and their property confiscated.

The People's Court effectively beheaded the Bulgarian state, political and military elite, writes a story in Pamet [Memory], an on-line archives-based project of journalist Hristo Hristov and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The project aims to preserve the memory of the victims of totalitarianism in Bulgaria during the 1944-1989 period.

The sentences of the People's Court were named as one of the crimes of the communist regime in a special law adopted by the Bulgarian Parliament in 2000.

President Rumen Radev wrote on Facebook that "all innocent victims deserve homage". "Our history still abounds in open wounds and pages left open. In my capacity as head of State, I am convinced that only when we stand together and spell out the whole truth without peddling pieces of history, can we overcome the painful divisions in our society," the President wrote. □



Caretaker PM Appoints Four Deputy Ministers

Sofia - Four deputy ministers were appointed Wednesday by caretaker Prime Minister Ognyan Gerdjikov. The deputy ministers of labour and social policy, transport, information technology and communications, culture, and youth and sports were nominated by the respective ministers, the Government information service said.

Lazar Lazarov will be part of the Labour and Social Policy team. Georgi Todorov will be Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. Maya Todorova will be Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport, and Prof. Boryana Hristova will be Deputy Minister of Culture. □

First Event of French-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sofia - "Confidence-strengthening with our partners is of exceptional importance and a major step in affirming Bulgaria as an attractive investment destination and promising market," caretaker Economy Minister Teodor Sedlarski said during the first event on the calendar of the French-Bulgarian Trade and Industrial Chamber, the Ministry's press centre said. French Ambassador Eric Lebedel played host to the event.



Photo: Economy Ministry

Sedlarski noted that the purpose is to respond to the changes on the labour market through promotion of investments in high-tech and innovative productions and strengthening the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy on the international markets.

He was adamant that the Economy Ministry will keep on working to strengthen ties and develop partnership with the business community because meetings with companies highlight the areas in which the institutions should make further efforts, as well as the priorities for cooperation.

France is among Bulgaria's leading trading partners in Europe, the Minister also said.

"The direct French investments in Bulgaria since 1996 exceed 1,500 million euro. The share of French investments is the largest in industry, followed by finance, trade, agriculture, construction and the banking sector," he added.

Sedlarski outlined the favourable macroeconomic indicators in Bulgaria: 3.6 per cent GDP growth in the second quarter of 2016, unemployment cut to below 8 per cent, and an increase in exports by 1.5 per cent in January-November 2016. □

Finance Ministry Expects Lv 867.3 Mln Surplus on Consolidated Fiscal Programme for January 2017

Sofia - Based on preliminary figures and estimates, the consolidated fiscal programme (CFP) is expected to show an 867.3 million leva surplus (0.9 per cent of projected GDP) on a cash basis for January 2017, the Bulgarian Finance Ministry said in a press release on Tuesday.

By comparison, a 991.6 million leva surplus (1.1 per cent of GDP) was reported for January 2016. A substantial amount of grants from the EU were received in the first half of 2016, recovering expenditures committed at the end of 2015 on the EU-funded programmes. For this reason, the portion of revenues from EU grants for January 2017 is smaller than in the comparable period of 2016 which, other things being equal, translates into a narrower margin of revenues over expenditures for the month, the Ministry explains.

Revenues and grants under the CFP are expected to add up to 3,326.7 million leva (9.4 per cent of the annual estimate) for January 2017, up by 196.4 million leva from January 2016. The year-on-year increase is mainly due to a 265.8 million leva (9.1 per cent) growth of tax and non-tax revenues, while the incoming grants were lower.

Expenditures under the CFP (including Bulgaria's contribution to the EU budget) for January 2017 amounted to 2,459.4 million leva (6.7 per cent of the annual plan). Compared to the same month of the previous year, expenditures increased, mainly due to the larger amount

of social and health insurance contributions paid for employees insured for the account of the Exchequer and the pension increase as from July 2016.

The portion of Bulgaria's contribution to the EU budget, paid by the central-government budget by January 31, 2017, was 71.3 million leva, which is in line with the relevant EU legislation in force. □



A front office for the servicing of citizens was unveiled at the National Investigative Service (NIS) by the NIS Director and Deputy Prosecutor General Evgeni Dikov

BTA Photo

GERB Deputy Chairman Tsvetanov Holds Series of Working Meetings in Washington D.C.

Washington, D.C. - GERB Party Deputy Chairman Tsvetan Tsvetanov took part in a forum on global terrorism and cyber threats, organized by the US Congress, GERB said in a press release on Wednesday.

At the forum, politicians of 13 countries discussed the problems of international terrorism and the concomitant self-radicalization, xenophobia and religious intolerance. The participants found that cybercrime and cybersecurity raise other issues to global security. Addressing these challenges requires building a new system of measures, above all in cooperation and real-time information exchange between the law enforcement services and security services of the individual countries.

In his statement, Tsvetanov stressed the need of a quick resolution of the conflict in Syria so that the flow of refugees to Europe could decrease or stop altogether.

The GERB Deputy Chairman conferred with Ambassador Mark Green, President of the International Republican Institute, and with Ivan Doherty, Director of Political Party Programs of the National Democratic Institute. Tsvetanov familiarized them with the domestic political situation in Bulgaria and with the situation in the Balkans and Europe at large. □

MEP Proposes Suspension of EU Payments to Greece Next Time Greek Framers Block Border with Bulgaria

Brussels- The Member of the European Parliament Andrey Novakov (European People's Party) has proposed that the European Union suspend payments to Greece the next time Greek farmers block the border with Bulgaria in protest against their own government's policy. The MEP has sent a letter to that effect to European Regional Policy Commissioner Corina Cretu, said the GERB press office Wednesday.

The letter says that truck drivers from Bulgaria and other countries of the EU are in the role of innocent victims and have to spend long hours in their trucks in freezing temperatures and without food, while the regional economy is making losses.

Novakov also says that the blockades violate the principle of free movement of goods, services and people, and make the cross-border programmes of the EU practically meaningless.

The MEP recalls that in previous years with Greek farmer blockades of the Bulgarian border, the EU response has produced no result, which leaves suspension of funding the only meaningful solution. □

Bulgaria Ranks among Top Ten in School Bullying - Survey

Sofia - Bulgaria ranks among the top ten countries in bullying and fighting at school, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national survey "Health Behaviour in School-aged Children" (HBSC), Assoc. Prof. Lidiya Vasileva of the Institute for Population and Human Studies with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences told journalists. The survey covers 43

countries of Europe, as well as the US and Canada. In Bulgaria, 4,796 fifth, seventh and ninth graders of 163 schools were polled.

Eleven-year-old boys are the commonest victims of bullying, Vasileva said. Boys (15 per cent) more often act as bullies than girls. The smallest percentage of Bulgarian schoolchildren polled said that their schoolmates are kind and helpful.

As many as 36.8 per cent of Bulgarian pupils complain of nervousness and irritability, and one in three kids complains of a bad temper.

The survey found a persistent upward trend in schoolchildren's consumption of alcohol, cigarettes, sweets and sweet drinks. Physical exercise decreases as kids grow up. One in three 15-year-old girls smokes at least once a week, and the proportion of smoking boys of this age is 21 per cent. In this indicator, Bulgaria ranks second among the 45 countries after Greenland.

Sexual behaviour also gives cause for worry. Children have sex for the first time at age 14-15, Vasileva said, with the reservation that boys may exaggerate their achievements in this respect. Nearly half of the 15-year-olds said that they have had sex, compared to 21 per cent of the girls. One in three kids reports a first sexual contact at the age of 13.

"The figures on Bulgaria are shocking," said Assoc. Prof. Mihail Okoliiski, WHO Representative for Bulgaria. He added that the ministries of education and science, health, and youth and sports will be approached shortly about a change of the school environment, health education, etc. □



BTA Photo

A ceremony on the establishment of the 68th Brigade Special Forces as a separate part of the Bulgarian Army was held in Plovdiv. The Brigade Commander, Yavor Mateev, said that this will facilitate the fulfilment of highly responsible tasks, such as countering terrorism and the illegal entry of migrants

Corruption Is Main Obstacle to Business, Democracy in Bulgaria - Think Tank

Sofia - Corruption is the main obstacle to business and democracy in Bulgaria, although the country is also lagging behind in other fields such as education, which does not meet the expectations of business, as well as the independence of the court and the media, Peter Ganev, Senior Economist at the Institute of Market Economics (IME), said here Wednesday. He was speaking at a discussion titled "Democracy at a Crossroads".

Bulgaria's assessment in the Freedom House Countries at Crossroads 2016 report shows serious backwardness compared to the countries of Central Europe and the Baltic region, IME said. What is more, this country's result has deteriorated compared to 2007, particularly in terms of the independence of the judicial system.

An IME survey conducted among students and experts in November-December 2016 shows that most of them think democracy has deteriorated in the past five years, Ganev said. The main problem is not just the lacking rule of law but the lack of effective separation of powers in general. In other words, the involvement of business and State, coupled with attempts to take over a range of institutions, is just accepted by a large number of the people in Bulgaria. The bankruptcy of the country's fourth largest bank, Corpbank, in 2014 is perceived as an expression of this model precisely, the expert added.

Bulgarian people agree that there should be a reform in the judicial system, particularly of the prosecution service, which needs greater accountability, decentralization and transparency.

The respondents in the survey defined two most important tasks: dismantling the clientelist model in Bulgaria and improving the business climate. These come much ahead of raising incomes, Ganev said.

According to IME experts, the link is visible in Bulgaria between economic populism and a retreat from democratic values.

Perceptions are strongly influenced by dependent media. People lose interest in politics, and the lack of punishment and the stalled judicial reform are an invitation to corrupt politicians to become even more corrupt and take over the State.

External pressure is not so strong any longer and EU membership is not enough to endorse democratic values in this country.

At the same time, the interest of people in corruption and the condition of the judicial system cannot be ignored any longer, Ganev added.

According to Georgi Tabakov of the Bulgarian Economic Forum, the threat to democracy in Bulgaria is called Russia, which employs all methods, including hybrid warfare, to this end. The Russians are the only ones interested in this country and what they do is pay to media outlets in Bulgaria and take advantage of the desire of Bulgarian Left-wing parties to gain from major infrastructure projects, he added. □

Solid Fuels Production Down 1.7 Per Cent in November 2016

Sofia - Production of the following energy products increased in November 2016 from October 2016, the National Statistical Institute reported on Monday: unleaded motor gasoline by 1.8 per cent to 168,000 tonnes, transport diesel by 2.2 per cent to 277,000 tonnes, natural gas by 37.5 per cent to 11 million cu m, and electricity by 5.6 per cent to 3,853 GWh. At 9,000,000 tonnes, the production of liquefied petroleum gas was unchanged. The production of solid fuels decreased by 1.7 per cent to 3,467,000 tonnes.

Compared to November 2015, production of the following energy products increased in November 2016: solid fuels by 6.3 per cent, liquefied petroleum gases by 12.5 per cent, unleaded motor gasoline by 11.3 per cent, transport diesel by 25.3 per cent, natural gas by 83.3 per cent. The production of electricity decreased by 0.7 per cent.

In November 2016 compared to October 2016, deliveries of the following energy products increased: transport diesel by 7.8 per cent to 193,000 tonnes, natural gas by 22.3 per cent to 334 million cu m, and electricity by 10.4 per cent to 3,035 GWh. Deliveries of the following energy products decreased: solid fuels by 1.3 per cent to 3,574,000 tonnes, and unleaded motor gasoline by 17.8 per cent to 37,000 tonnes. Deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases were unchanged.

In November 2016 compared to November 2015, deliveries of the following energy products increased: solid fuels by 7.3 per cent, liquefied petroleum gas by 40.0 per cent, natural gas by 11.3 per cent, electricity by 7.6 per cent. Deliveries of the following energy products decreased: unleaded motor gasoline by 11.9 per cent and transport diesel by 3.5 per cent. □

24 Dangerous Buildings Removed in Sofia in a Year

Sofia - In the period from November 2015 to December 30, 2016 the Municipal Construction Control Directorate demolished 24 dangerous buildings in the capital. 421 unlawfully placed portable advertising items were also removed. As many as 160 advertising kiosks, 89 booths, 98 citylight advertisements and 73 billboards have been dismantled. The most frequent reasons for the removal were expiry of the contract with the Sofia Municipality and the loss of entitlement to use temporarily the respective terrain. The Municipality notes that a differentiation should be made between the payment of a charge for the use of a municipal terrain and the fines imposed for unlawful placement of advertising.

A total of 339 construction permits were issued during the period under review. Only one permit was invalidated by the Directorate for National Construction Control. The invalidation order is currently appealed before the Supreme Administrative Court.

The Architecture and Urban Planning Directorate has reviewed the documents of 23 buildings which constitute immovable cultural heritage. □

BBC Concert Orchestra Appoints Dobrinka Tabakova as Its New Composer-in-residence

London - Bulgarian-born composer Dobrinka Tabakova has been appointed as composer-in-residence at the BBC Concert Orchestra, classical-music.com reports. Her first orchestral commission is scheduled for the 2018/19 season and will be premiered at London's Southbank Centre.

The BBC Concert Orchestra will work with Tabakova on three commissions from BBC Radio 3. She will also use her expertise for programming concerts, recordings and learning projects, the story says.

Tabakova was born in Plovdiv in 1980 and has lived in London for the past 25 years.

Recent compositions include Immortal Shakespeare, a cantata to celebrate the Bard's 400th anniversary, and commissions by the Royal Philharmonic Society, Radio 3 and the Britten Sinfonia. She also has residencies at Truro Cathedral and with the Leipzig MDR Orchestra.

Tabakova is quoted as saying that she is thrilled to be invited to join the BBC Concert Orchestra and their team. "The orchestra's repertoire is uniquely versatile and reaches an impressively varied audience."

BBC Radio 3's controller Alan Davey comments that the BBC Concert Orchestra's "adventurous spirit and Dobrinka's creative musicality are a perfect match". □

Artist Nikolay Maistorov Wins Vladimir Dimitrov The Master Award

Sofia - Nikolai Maistorov has won the Vladimir Dimitrov The Master National Award for 2016. The award was presented at an official ceremony on February 1, the day of birth of the great Bulgarian painter. The ceremony took place in the Art Gallery in Kyustendil, The Master's home town.

Maistorov was nominated for the award for his exhibition entitled "100 Icons x 100 Sonnets" held in the Raiko Alexiev Gallery in Sofia in March 2016. The exhibition featured works inspired by the love poems of Pablo Neruda. □

La Scala Virtuosos with Concert in Sofia March 27

Sofia - For the first time, Bulgarian music lovers will meet with the famous musicians of one of the top opera houses in the world, La Scala. The Virtuosi del Teatro alla Scala will give a concert on March 27 at Hall 1 of the National Palace of Culture, the organisers said.



BTA Photo

Fifteen of the world's best musicians including violin soloist Francesco De Angelis, will present works by emblematic classic Italian composers.

The programme includes pieces by Donizetti, Rota, Paganini, Vitali and Rossini.

The La Scala virtuosi usually give concerts without a conductor. Their visit organized by Germi Art & Entertainment is the second of a whole series of classical events organized by the company after the success of the Spirit of Paganini performance with Mario Hossen last November.

Francesco De Angelis, both leader and soloist of the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and Filarmonica della Scala, is internationally acclaimed as one of the major talented musicians by critics and public alike. The peculiarity of his performances is an unmistakable romantic sound blended with the Bel canto style and with the rigour of the Central European instrumental tradition. In 1998, participating in an international competition, he was chosen by Riccardo Muti as Konzertmeister for both the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and Filarmonica della Scala.

Violoncello soloist Sandro Laffranchini will also participate in the concert. He is bringing to Sofia his historic 1730 cello of Carlo Antonio Thestor.

Bulgarian violin player Evgenia Staneva will be playing with the Virtuosi during their Sofia gig. She has been with them since 2003.

The formation gives over 200 concerts a year. Some of them for charity, others for educational purposes and to popularize classical music among young people.

BTA is the media partner of this significant cultural event. □



The inhabitants of the Golyamo Asenovovo Village, Haskovo Region, marked the Feast Day of vine-growers' patron saint, St Tryphon Zarezan with a pruning ceremony
BTA Photo

Exchange Rates

Sofia - The Bulgarian National Bank sets the rates of foreign currencies against the Bulgarian lev applicable from 5 p.m. on February 1 to 5 p.m. on February 2, 2017. The central rates are used for the purposes of accounting, statistics, customs valuation and remittances. The commercial banks set the exchange rates at which foreign exchange is bought and sold.

February 1 - February 2, 2017			
CURRENCY	ISO CODE	FOR	LEVA
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	AUD	1	1.37492
BRAZILIAN REAL	BRL	10	5.76635
CANADIAN DOLLAR	CAD	1	1.38741
SWISS FRANC	CHF	1	1.8313
CHINESE YUAN RENMINBI	CNY	10	2.63341
CZECH KORUNA	CZK	100	7.23819
DANISH KRONE	DKK	10	2.62986
BRITISH POUND	GBP	1	2.28972
HONG KONG DOLLAR	HKD	10	2.33616
CROATIAN KUNA	HRK	10	2.62018
HUNGARIAN FORINT	HUF	1,000	6.31361
INDONESIAN RUPIAH	IDR	10,000	1.35596
IZRAELI SHEKEL	ILS	10	4.80997
INDI AN RUPIAH	INR	100	2.68828
JAPANESE YEN	JPY	100	1.59986
SOUTH KOREAN WON	KRW	1,000	1.56735
MEXICAN PESO	MXN	10	8.75464
MALAYSIAN RINGGIT	MYR	1	4.09324
NORWEGIAN KRONE	NOK	10	2.20177
NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR	NZD	1	1.31999
PHILIPPINE PESO	PHP	100	3.64126
POLISH ZLOTY	PLN	10	4.52885
NEW ROMANIAN LEU	RON	10	4.30061
RUSSIAN ROUBLE	RUB	100	3.01512
SWEDISH KRONA	SEK	10	2.07509
SINGAPOREAN DOLLAR	SGD	10	1.28335
THAI BAHT	THB	100	5.16132
NEW TURKISH LIRA	TRY	10	4.81957
USD DOLLAR	USD	1	1.81263
SOUTH AFRICAN RAND	ZAR	10	1.35037
GOLD	XAU	1 troy ounce	2,194.5

**Today's Observances:
February 2**

The world:

- World Wetlands Day.

On this date in Bulgarian history:

1854: Bulgarian Board of Trustees is set up in Odessa, Russia (now in Ukraine) as a political and charitable organization of Bulgarian immigrants supporting struggle of Bulgarian people against Ottoman rule.

1883: Bulgarian Typesetting Society is set up in Sofia to become country's first trade union.

1896: Diplomatic relations with Russia restored after being severed on November 5, 1886.

1992: Diplomatic relations established with Republic of South Africa. □

Weather Forecast

February 2: Mostly sunny. Clouds will thicken from West in afternoon. Getting warmer. Lows: between minus 13 and plus 2 C. Highs: between 3 C and 8 C.

Mountains: Mostly sunny, with cloudy periods in afternoon, mostly in West. Highs: around 5 C at 1,200m, around 0 C at 2,000 m.

Black Sea coast: Mostly sunny. Highs: 5 - 7 C. Seawater temperature: around 2 C.

Source: National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology with Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. □

PUBLISHED BY:

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