



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN
SPAS ASSOCIATION**

DR. SIYKA KATSAROVA, PHD

PRESIDENTIAL TERM 2025–2029

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Members of the ESPA Board,

Allow me first to congratulate the **European Spas Association (ESPA)** on its **30th Anniversary**. Since 2007, Bulgaria has been a proud member of ESPA, and over the years the Association has remained a true leader in the field of health tourism in Europe, consistently supporting its member countries in advancing their national development strategies.

As Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to express my strong support for ESPA's mission to enhance European destinations that develop health tourism based on **natural healing resources**.



Bulgaria is Europe's climate and thermal-spa powerhouse — from Black Sea thalassotherapy escapes to mountain negative-ion therapies. Our country offers scientifically proven health results delivered in modern spa and medical spa settings. Bulgaria is a land where **ancient spa traditions meet modern medical excellence**,

providing year-round opportunities for health, prevention, and recovery. Where Thracians and Romans once bathed, today's visitors discover world-class spa resorts powered by over **600 mineral springs** (with temperatures ranging up to 103°C), three types of healing mud, and climates uniquely suited for respiratory health and mental well-being.

The **Bulgarian Union of Balneology and Spa Tourism (BUBSPA)**, a trusted partner of the Ministry of Tourism, will soon celebrate **20 years of active engagement in ESPA**. Over two decades, BUBSPA has shown unwavering commitment to advancing medical spas, climate health resorts, and health tourism across Europe.

With this proud history, and with full confidence in the future of European health tourism, I'm honored to support the candidacy of **Dr. Siyka Katsarova, PhD** — Chairman of the Board of BUBSPA and Vice-President of ESPA — for the position of **President of ESPA for the term 2025–2029**. Her leadership, expertise, and vision will ensure that ESPA continues to thrive and remain at the forefront of health tourism innovation and excellence in Europe.

With highest consideration,



Miroslav Borshosh

Minister of Tourism

Republic of Bulgaria