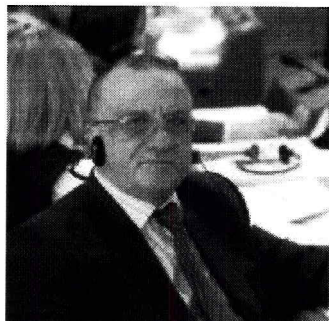


**FOCUS Information Agency**

Адрес: София 1505, ул."Султан Топе" 8

Тел.: (359 2) 9607011, (359 2) 9607012

Факс: (359 2) 9607013

E-mail: focus@focus-news.netТърговски отдел: sales@focus-news.net**Bulgaria lags behind in European funds absorption: MEP**

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Brussels. In an analysis of European Commission data about the member states' absorption of money under Structural Funds as of the end of the first quarter of 2011, Bulgarian MEP Evgeni Kirilov pays much attention to the low level of European funds utilization in Bulgaria.

"Bulgaria is at the bottom or very close to it in terms of absorption of structural funds in comparison with the other member states," said the MEP and noted that according to the European Commission as of 1 April 2011 Bulgaria rates 24th among the EU 27 in terms of absorption of funds under the Regional Development Fund, 25th in terms of absorption of finances under the Social Fund, and 27th in terms of absorption of money under the Cohesion Fund.

For comparison, in the autumn of 2009 the situation was different: Bulgaria rated 14th in terms of utilizing finances under the Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund and 15th in terms of money absorbed under the European Social Fund, reminded Evgeni Kirilov.

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