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## PRESS RELEASE

### CLOSING OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS OF THE ECB – BULGARIA 2014

- 12th edition of the EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS concludes with a dance show at the Schauspiel Frankfurt
- Charity concert raised €6,000 for “MainLichtblick”
- The spotlight will be on Malta next year

A fabulous dance show at the Schauspiel Frankfurt concluded the EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS of the ECB – Bulgaria 2014 on Friday, 12 December 2014. Artists from the country's National Art Dance Company presented a magical tale inspired by the universal custom of celebrating Midsummer's Eve – choreographed by Neshka Robeva and accompanied by the singer Dessy Dobрева.

The closing spectacle marked the end of an eight-week programme of memorable events under the heading “Colourful Bulgaria”, organised in cooperation with Bulgarian National Bank (BNB). A series of concerts, exhibitions, lectures and events for children were held under the joint patronage of Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), and Ivan Iskrov, Governor of BNB; introducing the rich cultural life and heritage of Bulgaria to visitors from Frankfurt and beyond.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, a charity concert was organised in close cooperation with the City of Frankfurt am Main. The audience in the Frankfurter Paulskirche was taken on a journey through musical history by the Bulgarian National Radio Children's Choir and the soloist Maria Radoeva, (soprano), with Venetsia Karamanova acting as conductor. Following the charity concert, a total of €6,000 was donated to MainLichtblick e.V., a local organisation that aims to make dreams come true for children facing difficult circumstances (e.g. as a result of illness or social problems).

At the end of the twelfth edition of the EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS, the two patrons expressed their thanks to the artists, sponsors and organisation teams that made all the events happen.

“As a European institution, we are pleased to contribute to the cultural exchanges between the Member States of the European Union. I am happy that tonight’s performance, like the whole series of events, has attracted a great deal of interest”, said Mario Draghi.

“The great visitor interest in our events confirms that we made a good choice in terms of the artists and performances in Frankfurt. This is extremely gratifying for the organisers, but it should come as no surprise given Bulgaria’s magnificent cultural heritage and its rich history as one of the oldest nations in Europe”, said Ivan Iskrov.

Next year’s EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS will put the spotlight on Malta. Further details will be available on the ECB’s website in the course of summer 2015.

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