



## H.RES. 1383 – Recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Bulgaria

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Res. 1383 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) on July 29, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1383 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Res. 1383 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commends the Republic of Bulgaria for its efforts to strengthen relations with the United States over the past 100 years;
- Recognizes the continued contributions of Bulgaria toward bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to the region of South Eastern Europe, including its contributions to regional security and democratic stability;
- Salutes the willing cooperation of Bulgaria and its increasingly vital role as a valuable ally in the war against international terrorism; and
- Encourages opportunities for greater cooperation between the United States and Bulgaria in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres.

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### BACKGROUND

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Bulgaria gained its independence after five centuries of control by the Ottoman Empire on September 22, 1908. The country then fought on the losing side of both World War I and World War II. Although during WWII they fought for the Nazi's, they were one of only three countries to refuse to send their Jewish population to the Nazi concentration camps.

Following World War II, Bulgaria became a People's Republic under the influence of the Soviet Union. When the Communist domination of the region ended in 1990, Bulgaria held multiparty diplomatic elections and took the first steps toward a democracy and capitalist society. According to the World Bank, "Over the past several years, Bulgaria has made impressive progress towards long-term stability and sustained growth. As a result of sound macroeconomic policies and deep structural reforms, average growth exceeded 6 percent per year in 2004-07."

In 2004, Bulgaria was admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the country was admitted to the European Union in 2007.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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