

## AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE ON THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

in force as of 1 January 2010

The recent amendments and supplementations to Ordinance No 27/2003 of the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) on the Balance of Payments Statistics in force as of 1 January 2010 introduce some changes regarding the reporting of information for transactions and payments between local and foreign persons, as well as the cross-border transfers and payments subject to entering into the BNB registers for the needs of the balance of payments statistics.

Information on transactions equal to or exceeding BGN 100,000 shall be included in the register of transfers and payments between local and foreign persons in the country and for the cross-border transfers and payments, and not equal to or exceeding BGN 25,000 as per the provisions before the amendments. **Commercial banks shall no longer be obliged to submit the statistical standard form for such transfers and payments in case the transfers/payments are made on their behalf and on their account.**

**Information on transactions equal to or exceeding BGN 50,000 shall be included in the declarations submitted by local legal entities and sole traders with respect to the provision or receiving of financial credits.** This amount was BGN 5,000 according to the previous provisions.

**Local legal entities and sole traders are now obliged to report in BNB on a quarterly basis their direct investments abroad, irrespective of whether any changes in the initial investment have occurred during the quarter or not.** They shall be also obliged to inform BNB in writing for closing any declared accounts, terminating any declared direct investment and for sales of declared immovable property, abroad, within 15 working days as from the occurrence of the change.

**All appendixes to the Ordinance - standard forms of statistical forms and declarations, have been revoked.** Those forms were as follows:

- declaration for permanent residence in the Republic of Bulgaria by the means of the Currency Act;
- statistical form under Art. 3, para 1, filled in for payments or transfers to foreign countries, payments or transfers between local and foreign persons within the country and for amounts equal to or exceeding BGN 25,000 received from foreign countries;
- declaration-form under Art. 6, para 1, item 1 for transactions related to provision or receiving of financial credits equal to or exceeding the equivalent of BGN 5,000 in Bulgarian currency;
- declaration-form under Art. 6, para 1, item 2, filled in for provision of financial credits via opening a bank account abroad;

- declaration-form under Art. 6, para 1, item 3, filled in for initial direct investment abroad;
- forms-reports, submitted by local legal entities and sole traders on a quarterly basis for the financial credits between local and foreign persons, the movement on accounts in foreign banks, the receivables of local persons from foreign persons, the liabilities of local persons to foreign persons and direct investments made abroad;
- form-report for the total receivables and liabilities of local individuals from/to foreign persons under financial credits for the year.

It is stipulated that declarations under Art. 6 (for transactions under provision or receiving of financial credits equal to or exceeding BGN 50,000, for provision of financial credits via foreign bank account and for initial direct investment made abroad) and statistical reports on a quarterly basis shall be accepted and certified in BNB electronically as well, as the rules in this relation are determined by the BNB Deputy Governor heading the Banking Department.

**New standard forms along with the instructions to them are published on the Internet website of BNB.** Hard copies of the statistical standard forms and declarations shall be also provided in the building of BNB.

*The information in this material has as purpose only to note certain issues related to the amendments and supplementations to Ordinance No 27/2003 of BNB on the Balance of Payments Statistics and is not exhaustive. Should any questions on the application of the said provisions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us at tel.: 02/943 37 00, fax: 02/943 37 07, e-mail: office@afa.bg or at 38, Oborishte Str., Sofia 1504.*