



Associazione
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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

**Thursday 31 May 2018 at 6pm
Auditorium Club House
Joint Research Centre - Ispra**

Conference

Bulgaria and Europe – Historical and Cultural Bonds between Bulgaria and Italy

Speakers

**Petko Kolev - founder and president of TANGRA TanNakRa
Foundation**

**Ass. Prof. Kristian Milenov – Executive Director of the
Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration**

Abstract

The year 1989 in Bulgaria put a distinct line between the era of “socialism” (or the so-called people's democracy) and the market democracy. Among the numerous profound changes, which took place in more than 2000 years-old Bulgarian society, the process that deserved particular attention was the emergence of new highly motivated and energetic scientific community that aimed to explore freely and thoroughly the real facts about the history of Bulgarians and their states in Asia and Europe. The major result was a much wider outlook on the contacts and relations of Bulgarians with other peoples including ancient Persians, ancient Greeks, ancient Romans, Goths, Franks, and others.

You are invited to hear how a real revolution took place in the Bulgarian historiography. It will eventually have its impact on the European outlook on the whole period of Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages. The role of the Non-Governmental Organizations in this complicated process of evidence discovery and history revival, proved to be immense.

The speakers

PETKO KOLEV is founder and president of TANGRA TanNakRa Foundation since its birth on 23 March 1997. He has graduated in International Relations at the High Institute of Economics 'Karl Marx' in Sofia and in Law at the Free University of Burgas. He further specialized in Stock Exchanges in Switzerland. Before 1989 he served as an intelligence officer and worked as a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, United Nations and Disarmament Department. After 1989 he was Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Finance and worked as CEO of a trade bank until 1996. Happily married, with 3 children.

Assoc. Prof. KRISTIAN MILENOV is an architect-urbanist, specialized in sustainable development, sustainable urban planning, energy efficiency and environmental architecture. For many years he has been studying the urban development of ancient Bulgarian capitals, including the building concepts and techniques used by the Bulgarians. He is an author of several books about the first Bulgarian capital on the Balkans (Pliska) and the origin and style of its main administrative and religious buildings. He is the Executive Director of the Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration – an NGO actively supporting the revival of the lost or hidden Bulgarian history. Member of the Permanent Commission Bulgaria-Bavaria.