CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS
FROM THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY SOFIA

Mr. Konstantin Saupe
Deputy Head of Mission

The Austrian Embassy, and myself, have gladly accepted to support and participate in this event dedicated to the celebration of the 130th anniversary of Ludwig Wittgenstein, especially when viewed in a broader cultural context (which, as far as I understand, is present in some of the referats of this conference). The Austrian Embassy supported already another Wittgenstein conference 15 years ago - we find such scientific and educational projects particularly important, because whenever we celebrate the anniversaries of thinkers like Ludwig Wittgenstein, we contribute something to the development and humanization of the world in which we all live.

Ludwig Wittgenstein is undoubtedly one of the greatest and influential philosophers of the twentieth century, the creator of two different philosophies, which, however, equally shook up the philosophical - and more generally – the world of thinking people in Europe and the world. Both of his philosophies are broadly CULTURAL, not just narrowly philosophical.

Wittgenstein’s place in the history of philosophy is a peculiar one. His philosophical education was unconventional (going from engineering to working first-hand with one of the greatest philosophers of his day in Bertrand Russell) and he seems never to have felt the need to go back and make a thorough study of the history of philosophy. *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, the only philosophy book that Wittgenstein published during his
lifetime. How would look like his career nowadays at a modern university? Would it be possible at all, with only one book? But as Wittgenstein wrote: „Wovon man nicht sprechen kann, darüber muss man schweigen.“ Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.”

There is no doubt that Vienna, with its cultural traditions and achievements, was one of the roots and an important inspiration for Wittgenstein. As we know the Wittgenstein family was large and wealthy. The Wittgensteins’ home attracted people of culture, especially musicians, including the composer Johannes Brahms, who was a friend of the family.

Ludwig Wittgenstein, of course, belongs to European and world philosophy and culture and cultural heritage. And here we should of course mention a special link between Wittgenstein and Bulgaria, the House Wittgenstein in Vienna - the villa designed and built from 1926 to 1928 by Paul Engelmann and Wittgenstein for Margarethe Stonborough-Wittgenstein, the philosopher’s sister. Since the 1970s, after careful restoration, the building houses the Bulgarian Cultural Institute, an attraction spot for Vienna visitors.