**Welcoming Speech**

**of the Prime Minister Plamen Oresharski**

**at the Opening of the 93rd Academic Year at the UNWE**

**Dear Mr. Rector,**

**Dear Mr. Minister,**

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen Lecturers,**

**Dear First-Year Students,**

I feel especially exited on this first for you academic day. My memories have not faded completely, the same atmosphere in ceremonies, including the first of which I was a participant as a first-year student. I remember well also the whole university studies here, at the same student banks which in fact today are slightly better than before, more beautiful - and my efforts to acquire the basic of economic knowledge. I will not forget my lecturers who gave part of themselves to form the worldview and economic thinking of us, former students. It`s ahead of you.

The huge horizon of knowledge is in front of you and the more you learn, the more this horizon moves aside expanding the world which is to explore. The time only seems long. Four years will have passed like a moment. Use this time wisely and read and exercise your mind because it is important for you to learn as much as possible but even more important is to build the worldview, to learn the way of thinking.

The higher education is not as an amount of knowledge as just a way of thinking. Enjoy the privilege to contact with your lecturers. At our university they are the best ones. However, do not accept everything you hear from them. Form your own opinion on the economic and social tendencies. Remember that the knowledge is only a window through which you have to see the world of economics with your own eyes.

When I studied at the halls of the university my lecturers often turned to us as we were future managers and ministers. Then we smiled skeptically. Today you do not do the same when I say - yes, among you are our future leaders. So your preparation is important not only for yourselves but for all of us and for the prospects of our country.

My generation was faced up to many challenges arising from the need to democratize the country, to transform it from a centrally managed in an market organized country. We made a lot of mistakes, sometimes we were hesitant, sometimes we were in a hurry but we succeeded to integrate to the European communities which are still not fully democratized and not fully adapted. It depends from all of us, more precisely – from you to continue modernizing the country to turn it into a better place to live. So it is important for you to work hard for being able in time to address your greetings to your children and have more reasons than me to declare - there were a lot of challenged we faced up but we succeeded and now our country is a worthy member of the most advanced community in the world.

**Dear Colleagues,**

Today is your first academic day. Remember it as the beginning of your road to success – for you and for all of us.

**Good luck.**