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**HESITATIONS AND DETERMINATION: TECHNICAL CONTACTS
BETWEEN BULGARIA AND EEC IN THE LATE 1960S AND EARLY
1970S**

(Summary)

The study shows how in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Bulgaria tried to achieve better terms for exporting its agricultural products to the EEC by the so-called „technical contacts“, ie negotiations with Brussels, but without formal recognition of the Community, which would have run counter to Soviet policy. For fear lest her loyalty to Moscow be questioned, Sofia repeatedly froze the process and even explored the alternative plan for membership in the GATT. Eventually negotiations with Brussels were conducted and several Bulgarian goods received more favorable treatment on the EEC market. However, the introduction of generalized preferences towards developing countries for which Romania officially recognized the western European organization created a reason for political pressure on Bulgaria. It was expected to do the same, which would demonstrate distancing from the Soviet Union. Sofia was not going to jeopardize its relations with the Soviet Union and dialogue with Brussels was suspended.