



### ***Important economic events and amendments to the legal regulations in October 2003***

- ❖ *On October 1, the payment of the fifth installment of the due principal and interest of the Government bonds for old foreign exchange savings commenced.*
- ❖ *On October 7, the Free Trade Agreement between Macedonia and Romania was ratified, aimed at increasing the bilateral economic cooperation. This Agreement is expected to become effective at the end of 2003, thus at the beginning of 2004, the economic agents of both countries will be able to use the benefits arising from the Agreement.*
- ❖ *On October 20, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board of Directors approved the withdrawal of the second tranche of the Stand-By Arrangement of the Republic of Macedonia with this international financial institution (about US Dollar 5.6 million). The decision of the Board is in conformity with the successful implementation of the Arrangement, with respect to the achievement of the set targets and the positive macroeconomic performances.*
- ❖ *On October 21, the retail sale prices of oil derivatives in the Republic of Macedonia went up by 3.8% on average (in line with the Decision of the Government).*
- ❖ *On October 22, the NBRM changed the technique of conducting CB bills auctions, in order to decrease the level of the interest rates in the economy. Instead of the previous “volume tender” auctions, the NBRM switched to “interest rate tender” auctions, with maximum interest rate set at 7%.*
- ❖ *At the end of October, the IMF Technical Mission visited the Republic of Macedonia. The negotiations, which continued in November, were primarily focused on reviewing the macroeconomic policy for the following year.*