

## *Announcement*

We have recently been made aware of the recent allegations made against First Investment Bank, published in a local media outlet on Tuesday 12 October.

From our position as a leading Bulgarian financial institution and as the largest bank with predominantly Bulgarian-sourced capital, First Investment Bank and its management take very seriously any allegations or negative information concerning the bank, irrespective of the source.

In this instance, we explicitly reject the innuendo and allegations made in this article arising out of unverified dubious extracts claimed to be from the 'Pandora Papers' data leak. We have already gathered evidence countering these allegations into a report, which we will share with you in due course upon request. Our formal response is in the hands of our lawyers but, while we do not intend to issue a public rebuttal to these smears, we believe it is important that our stakeholders and counterparties like yourselves are made aware of the facts of the matter and are able to continue to work with First Investment Bank with full confidence.

As you know, in the course of our lending process, First Investment Bank complies with the applicable regulatory framework, including any rules, guidelines and recommendations of the Bulgarian National Bank, the European Central Bank, and the European Banking Authority. The bank keeps appropriate AML documentation with respect to all its debtors, including duly executed related-party and UBO declarations.

We underline that any loans extended over the years by First Investment Bank have been regularly reviewed by the relevant regulatory authorities, such as the Financial Supervision Commission and the Bulgarian National Bank. They also fall within the scope of the recent Asset Quality Reviews exercise performed both by Bulgarian National Bank and European Central Bank.