

# EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

## TENTH MEETING

1-2 October 2007

CHISINAU

*Co-Chairs: Mrs Marianne MIKKO and Mr Victor STEPANIUC*

### **Final Statement and Recommendations**

#### **pursuant to Article 89 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement**

Under the co-chairmanship of Mrs Marianne MIKKO (PES, Estonia) and Mr Victor STEPANIUC (Party of Moldovan Communists, Moldova) the tenth meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee was held in Chisinau on 1-2 October 2007. The Committee exchanged views with Mr Igor DODON and Mr Valeriu OSTALEP, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Mr Petr KYPR, on behalf of the Portuguese Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union and Mr Paolo BERIZZI, Acting Head of the European Commission Delegation to Moldova, on behalf of the European Commission.

*The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee agreed the following:*

#### **EU-Moldova relations**

1. welcomes Moldova's European choice and acknowledges that the further strengthening of EU-Moldova relations is in the mutual interest of both the EU and Moldova;
2. declares its continued support for Moldova's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
3. welcomes the continuous efforts made by the Moldovan authorities for the implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan; emphasises the importance of the Action Plan for strengthening EU-Moldova relations and for underpinning political and economic reform in Moldova; stresses that the successful implementation of the Action Plan should assist Moldova towards a significant degree of economic integration and a deepening of its political cooperation with the EU;
4. appreciates the work of the European Commission Delegation in Chisinau and stresses that this Delegation needs to strengthen significantly the political influence of the Union in the country and provide a focus for its activities;
5. welcomes the appointment of Mr Kalman MIZSEI, as the new EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Moldova; encourages in particular his active involvement in finding a sustainable settlement to the Transnistrian conflict, in accordance with agreed EU policy objectives and in close coordination with the OSCE;

6. welcomes the message of the ninth meeting of the EU-Moldova Cooperation Council of June 2007 which stressed the need that the Moldovan authorities redouble efforts to implement democratic reforms in crucial areas such as respect for human rights, freedom of the media, respect for the rule of law, including independence of the judiciary;
7. emphasises that pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, the EU accession prospect remains open for Moldova and according to provisions of the Action Plan the opportunity of a new contractual relationship between Moldova and EU will be possibly considered after the provisions set out in that document are fulfilled;
8. welcomes the progress made in the conclusion of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements between the EU and the Republic of Moldova as part of a coherent strategy to strengthen relations within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy; calls on the European Commission to ensure that the two agreements will enter into force simultaneously before January 1st 2008;
9. highly appreciates the level of the activity of the Common Visa Application Centre (CVAC) established within the Hungarian Embassy, recently opened in Chişinău, and firmly mentions that the Center would facilitate the access of the Moldovan citizens to free movement; welcomes the initiative of the countries that participate in the Center and those that declare themselves available to issue visas through CVAC
10. stresses the need for the authorities to ensure the high level of professionalism of the Moldovan diplomatic corps and to increase efforts towards the conclusion of the bilateral treaties with its neighbours and partners;

### **Regional cooperation**

11. welcomes the European Commission's Communication on the Black Sea Synergy - a new regional cooperation initiative of April 2007;
12. stresses the need for more concerted efforts by all the countries of the Black Sea region towards an improved cooperation in areas of common interest such as democracy, respect for human rights and good governance, resolution of the frozen conflicts, energy, transport, protection of environment, trade, research and education, science and technology, immigration management, employment and social affairs;
13. encourages Moldova to continue to actively participate in all regional projects as a member partner in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, thus fostering enhanced regional cooperation with the countries of the South East Europe;

### **Rule of law**

14. welcomes the conclusions of the Report of the Mission of the Bureau of the EP Delegation to the EU- Moldova PCC of May 2007 in particular concerning the results of the local elections; underlines the need for future elections to be conducted in a fully free and democratic manner;
15. underlines the crucial importance of the free and independent media and the civil society's ability to criticise the Government;
16. emphasises the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the ENP Action Plan in the field of justice and home affairs as an efficient instrument for cooperation between the EU and Moldova in the field of justice, freedom and security;
17. welcomes the release from custody of Mr Valeriu Pasat in July 2007 while emphasising the importance of ensuring transparency and independence of court proceedings, thereby avoiding similar cases in future.

18. urges the Moldovan authorities to intensify the fight against corruption and organised crime, including trafficking in human beings; recommends that statistical information on corruption and anti-corruption cases be made public;
19. urges the Moldovan Government to take all necessary measures in order to comply with Moldova's commitments to curb torture and ill-treatment in pre-trial detention and in penitentiaries in general;

### **Social aspect**

20. stresses the need for urgent measures regarding widespread poverty in the country particularly as a result of the recent drought, which affects the everyday life of individuals;
21. calls on the Moldovan authorities to adopt and implement modern measures to facilitate access to healthcare services and education;

### **Economic development**

22. takes note of the repeated announcements by Russia regarding lifting the embargo on Moldovan wines and agricultural products; also takes note of the *de-facto* continuation of the ban and disagreements between the parties; calls on the parties to resolve the dispute in speedy, transparent and fair manner;
23. welcomes the reforms undertaken by Moldova in the area of issuing preferential certificates of origin which are a pre-condition for the possible granting of Autonomous Trade Preference (ATP) to Moldova; takes note that the Commission intends to present a proposal to the Council for the possible granting of ATP to Moldova before the end of 2007 and expresses the hope that this proposal will be adopted by the Council;
24. urges the Moldovan authorities to take all necessary measures in order to set up the relevant economic incentives and legal safeguards that would lead to the diversification of the economy and bring substantial investments into the country; highlights the utmost importance of attracting investments and creating jobs in order to curb on-going emigration of Moldova's workforce;
25. welcomes the approval by the Moldovan Government of the country's new Energy Strategy until 2020, in conformity with the European Energy Community requirements; considers the strategy important for ensuring the sustainability of Moldova's energy sector, wider use of renewable energy sources and liberalisation of energy markets;
26. calls on the Moldovan Government to use this strategy in order to improve the investment climate in the energy sector, to make Moldova a reliable transit country, and to improve the efficiency of energy production, transport and distribution;

### **Transnistria**

27. while underlining that the resolution of the Transnistrian problem is a fundamental element in promoting economic prosperity and political stability in Moldova, calls for the resumption of the negotiations in the 5+2 format; calls on the Presidents of Moldova and the Russian Federation to engage in transparent negotiations on finding the most appropriate solution to the Transnistrian problem; dismisses any parallels between Transnistria and Kosovo;

28. welcomes the release of the last Moldovan political prisoners from Transnistria; urges the Moldovan authorities to ensure their re-integration in the Moldovan society;
29. expresses concern over the recent decision by the Russian Federation to suspend its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe;
30. reiterates its call upon the Russian Federation to fulfil its commitments and unconditionally withdraw its military forces, under OSCE observation and verification, from the Transnistrian region of Moldova; also calls on the Russian Federation to remove or destroy all of its armaments and ammunition stockpiles in the region;
31. commends the excellent work of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) on the border between Moldova and Ukraine and welcomes the extension of the EUBAM's mandate until 30 November 2009.

*Adopted unanimously.*