



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Luxembourg, 25 June 2013
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**EU - REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
COOPERATION COUNCIL
FIFTEENTH MEETING**

The Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') convened in Luxembourg this afternoon. Bearing in mind Moldova's European aspirations, the very positive dynamics in bilateral relations throughout 2012, and the recommendations and priorities for action conveyed in the latest ENP Progress Report, the Cooperation Council discussed the expectations of Moldova's EU partners with regard to sustained compliance with the democratic principles; the stabilisation of the democratic institutions; respect for the rule of law; and progress towards a functioning market economy. The EU side re-affirmed its full readiness to continue supporting Moldova towards these goals.

Taking note of the substantive completion of the negotiations on the future EU-Moldova Association Agreement, the Cooperation Council endorsed the attached statement. It also welcomed Moldova's recent achievements; the implementation of previous bilateral Agreements in various sectors; and the significant increase and use of EU assistance, underlining the importance of the 'more for more' principle. With regard to the second and last phase of Moldova's Action Plan on Visa liberalisation, the Cooperation Council expressed its appreciation of the solid progress achieved by Moldova. The Cooperation Council reconfirmed the objective of establishing visa-free travel for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova in due course provided that the conditions for well-managed and secure mobility as set out in the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation are in place.

The Cooperation Council stressed the concrete benefits that these various achievements would bring to the citizens of Moldova.

P R E S S

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The two sides seized the occasion to re-confirm their intention further to deepen and broaden their relations, emphasising the opportunities provided by the Eastern Partnership as a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and looking forward to the July 2013 Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting. The latter will provide a new opportunity to discuss the way forward to the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius.

The Cooperation Council praised the sides' strengthened cooperation in the area of foreign and security policy; Moldova's sustained cooperation with the EU Border Assistance Mission; and the conclusion of a Framework Participation Agreement allowing the country to participate in EU crisis management operations.

Moving to the Transnistrian issue, the Cooperation Council expressed concerns with the recent unilateral actions of the de facto administration of the Transnistrian region and encouraged sides to stay committed and constructive with respect to the settlement talks. It encouraged the further increase and diversification of confidence-building measures and invited all stakeholders to look for opportunities for local authorities from the Transnistrian region to join the 'Dniester' Euroregion. The Cooperation Council recalled the EU's contribution to the '5+2' settlement talks, mediated by the OSCE. The Cooperation Council reaffirmed the need to start negotiations in the '5+2' format on the basic principles of the future settlement of the Transnistrian conflict in due course.

The EU was represented by Ms Lucinda Creighton, Minister for European Affairs of Ireland and head of the EU delegation and Mr Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Prime Minister Iurie Leancă led the Moldovan delegation and chaired the meeting of the Cooperation Council.

**Statement of the European Union - Republic of Moldova
Cooperation Council**

Luxembourg, 25 June 2013

The Cooperation Council is pleased to confirm the substantive completion of the negotiations on the future Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova, including on setting up a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Content with the text agreed by the Chief negotiators, it takes note of the two internal institutional issues that remain outstanding on the EU side and expects their resolution in the nearest future.

The Cooperation Council looks forward to the initialling of the Association Agreement at the next Eastern Partnership Summit that will take place in Vilnius on 29 November 2013, and to the subsequent signing of the Agreement as soon as the technical procedures are completed.

The Cooperation Council recognises the economic and social importance of trade with the European Union for the Transnistrian region. It attaches great attention to the need to reach out to the population, the business community and the de-facto authorities of the Transnistrian region in order to explain the short-term and long-term benefits of the Association Agreement, starting with its advantageous trade regime, and allow for its application on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova.
