

**PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AND MOLDOVA**

**Brussels, 4 February 2005**

**– The Cooperation Council –**

**UE-MD 1103/05**

**COVER NOTE**

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from : PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE  
dated : 4 February 2005  
to : COOPERATION COUNCIL

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Subject : Final Conclusions and Recommendations issued by the EU-Moldova  
Parliamentary Cooperation Committee<sup>1</sup>

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Parties will find attached the final conclusions and recommendations issued by the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee at its seventh meeting on 30 November 2004 in Brussels. These are to be referred to the EU-Moldova Cooperation Council in accordance with the provisions of Art. 89 of the PCA.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement and these recommendations were received in English only.

**EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE****SEVENTH MEETING****30 November 2004****BRUSSELS***Co-Chairmen: Mrs MIKKO and Mr STEPANIUC***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 Dumitru PRIJMIREANU (Communist Party, Moldova) the seventh meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee was held in Brussels on 30 November 2004. The Committee exchanged views with Mr Kees FRATERMAN on behalf of the Dutch Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, and Mr Gerhard LOHAN, on behalf of the European Commission.

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee agreed the following:

**EU-Moldova relations**

1. stresses that the EU is a community of shared values of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as outlined in the Copenhagen Criteria; reiterates its view that the EU-Moldova relationship must be based on the acceptance and implementation of these values;
- 2 welcomes the European aspiration of the authorities and the people of the Republic of Moldova and all efforts to deepen their relationship with the EU;

3. welcomes the new opportunities offered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), including the EU-Moldova Action Plan, for reinforcing EU-Moldova relations and for underpinning political and economic reform in Moldova;
4. stresses the importance of the Moldovan authorities taking appropriate steps in the implementation of the various steps foreseen in the ENP Action Plan; stresses that implementation of the Action Plan will significantly advance the approximation of Moldovan legislation, norms and standards to that of the EU; stresses too that the Action Plan should assist Moldova towards a significant degree of economic integration and a deepening of political co-operation with the EU;
5. underlines the importance of full implementation of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) and welcomes the extension of the PCA to the new EU members states and the progress on the ratification of the PCA "enlargement" Protocol; in this respect stresses the importance of ratification by the Moldova side of the Extension Protocol;
6. notes that the recent enlargement of the EU brings benefits in terms of peace and security, as well as economic and social prosperity, for the people of the Republic of Moldova; stresses the importance of Moldova as a neighbour and partner of the EU with shared strategic priorities;
7. takes note of the conclusions of the 5th EU-Moldova Cooperation Committee that took place in Brussels on 23 November 2004;
8. calls on the European Council to appoint a Special Representative to Moldova to facilitate the Transnistria peace process, as well as Moldova's European integration;

### **Economic and social situation in the Republic of Moldova**

9. strongly urges the Moldovan authorities to make effective progress on economic and structural reform and to improve the business and investment climate, keeping in mind the importance of sustainable development; in this context welcomes Moldova's participation in the European Charter for Small Businesses;

10. encourages the Moldovan efforts to become a full member of the Energy Treaty in South Eastern Europe;
11. underlines the need for Moldova to pursue a sound fiscal policy and to make significant progress in discussions with international financial institutions with the aim of addressing the issue of foreign debt and reducing poverty;
12. notes that the possibility of granting wider autonomous trade preferences - which is an important element of the ENP Action Plan - is conditional upon a satisfactory improvement by Moldova in the issue, control and certification of origin certificates;
13. underlines the importance of the fight against crime, especially trafficking in human beings;

#### **Human rights and freedom of expression in the Republic of Moldova**

14. emphasises the importance of ensuring that the parliamentary elections to be held in 2005 comply with the highest international standards; in particular encourages the Moldovan authorities and all political parties to undertake all necessary steps to ensure that the campaign, the vote and counting of votes in the elections will be free and fair, with all candidates enjoying equal access to the media; in this respect stresses that there should be a proper legal framework that is fully implemented to ensure free and fair elections;
15. reiterates its statement that opposition parties and minority interests must be given a full opportunity to participate actively in the political course of the country; supports continuing dialogue between government and opposition as a means of encouraging political stability;
16. supports the continuing efforts of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to promote the strengthening of democracy, human rights, religious liberty and freedom of expression in the Republic of Moldova; in this respect welcomes those positive steps taken to date by the Moldovan authorities;

## Situation in Transnistria

17. reiterates its view that the resolution of the Transnistria issue is one of the key elements in promoting economic prosperity and political stability in the whole of the Republic of Moldova; stresses again the need for a peaceful solution to the conflict, in line with OSCE declarations and with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova;
18. expresses concern over the stalling of the OSCE mediation process and lack of progress in the withdrawal of Russian arms from Transnistria; urges the Russian government to put pressure on the Tiraspol authorities to re-launch the process;
19. calls for greater involvement of the European Union, in support of the OSCE, in the search for a settlement of the Transnistria problem;
20. stresses that it is unacceptable for trafficking of illegal goods and proliferation of weapons to take place from and through Transnistria
21. recalls the call of the EU General Affairs Council of 14 June 2004 on all parties, especially the Transnistrian leadership, to act constructively and in good faith towards reaching a settlement; urges the mediators to redouble their efforts to assist in the process;
22. welcomes the support given by the European Commission to the search for a settlement, and urges it to continue its activity to address Ukraine-Moldova border issues that it carries out in co-ordination with the OSCE;
23. reiterates its stress on the need for minimal standards of human rights as regards the freedom of parents to choose the language of instruction for their children to be ensured in Transnistria; in this respect, calls on the Transnistrian authorities to stop intimidation, harassment and legal persecution against those parents who are standing up for their civic rights and those of their children;

## **Border issues**

24. urges the Moldova authorities to engage actively in the forthcoming preparations for establishing a system for information exchange on border traffic with Ukraine that will be undertaken with the assistance of the Commission;

## **European Commission delegation**

25. repeats its call for the establishment of a permanent European Commission delegation in Chisinau as a matter of urgency; stresses that a full delegation would significantly strengthen the EU's political influence in the country and provide a focus for its activities; welcomes the European Commission's stated intention to open such a delegation in 2005 and stresses the need for adequate funding to be made available;
  26. underlines also the importance of a strong presence of the European Commission in Moldova before and during the parliamentary elections of 2005.
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