



## EUROPEAN UNION ~*FACTSHEET*~

# EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine

EU Border Assistance Mission Moldova-Ukraine/00  
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The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine is headed by Brigadier-General Ferenc BANFI of Hungary, and includes border police and customs officials from 16 EU Member States. This Mission helps to prevent smuggling, trafficking, and customs fraud, by providing advice and training to improve the capacity of the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs services. The Mission works very closely with the team of the EUSR for Moldova Adriaan Jacobovits de Szeged, which is being strengthened with additional advisors in Kiev, Chisinau and Odessa on issues related to borders.

The Mission was established as a reaction to the joint letter of the presidents of Moldova and Ukraine, Vladimir VORONIN and Viktor YUSHCHENKO dating from June 2, 2005 calling for additional EU support in overall capacity building for border management, including customs, on the whole Moldova-Ukraine border. The letter specifically requested EU assistance in the creation of an 'international customs control arrangement and an effective border monitoring mechanism on the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine State border'. On October 7, 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Border Assistance Mission was signed. The official opening ceremony of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine took place on December 1, 2005 in Odessa in the presence of HR/SG Javier SOLANA, Commissioner Benita FERRERO-WALDNER as well as the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine and Moldova, Borys TARASYUK and Andrei STRATAN.

The EU Border Assistance Mission has a two year mandate, which can be extended. It will cost around €8 million. The Mission has its headquarters in Odessa, and five field offices. It includes 69 experts seconded from EU Member States, as well as some 50 local support staff, bringing the total to nearly 120.

The Mission provides on-the-job training and advice to Moldovan and Ukrainian officials, reinforcing their capacity to carry out effective border and customs controls and border surveillance. The aim is to build confidence and strengthen cross-border co-operation and the exchange of information between the two countries.

## P R E S S

The Mission operates principally on the Moldova-Ukraine State border, but also in other relevant inland locations.

Border co-operation and efforts to seek a solution to the frozen conflict in Transnistria featured in the European Neighbourhood Action Plans agreed with both Moldova and Ukraine in February 2005, and the launch of the mission shows the role the ENP is playing in promoting stability and addressing frozen conflicts.

*For more information:*

*Search Moldova and Ukraine on <http://ue.eu.int/solana>*

*Go to [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/moldova/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/moldova/intro/index.htm)*

