



**COUNCIL OF
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**EU - Republic of Moldova Cooperation Council
Sixteenth meeting - Brussels, 26 June 2014**

The annual Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') convened in Brussels this morning. It endorsed the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda – a basic document which indicates the priorities of cooperation between the two parties in the coming three years, thereby replacing the EU-Republic of Moldova European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan of 22 February 2005.

Both sides looked forward to signing the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement, foreseeing the gradual set-up of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), on 27 June. The Cooperation Council recalled that this Agreement will significantly deepen relations between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova and will benefit all their international political and trade partners.

Taking note of the Republic of Moldova's stance that the Association Agreement was not the final goal in their mutual cooperation, and of the very positive dynamics in bilateral relations since its last meeting in June 2013, the Cooperation Council discussed the expectations of Moldova's EU partners with regard to the anchoring of common values and the implementation of reforms. In particular, the EU underlined the importance of stepping up efforts to prevent and fight corruption in all its forms and at all levels, to carry off the reform the justice sector, to strengthen the financial sector, to ensure media transparency, and to continue to improve the business and investment climate. The EU re-affirmed its full readiness to continue supporting the Republic of Moldova towards these goals.

P R E S S

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The Cooperation Council warmly welcomed the visa liberalisation of 28 April 2014 as a major concrete achievement for all the citizens of the Republic of Moldova. It took also note of the substantial progress that could be achieved in the cooperation in the areas of education and culture, and on research and innovation, welcoming the upcoming signature of the Agreement on the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The Cooperation Council furthermore discussed issues related to trade and the implementation of the DCFTA, agriculture, transport, and energy, underlining the importance of projects to interconnect the territory of the Republic of Moldova to the trans-European networks.

As regards the Transnistrian issue, the Cooperation Council recalled that the aim of the on-going negotiations in the '5+2' format was to find a political solution to the conflict in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for Transnistria. It expressed its concerns about the difficult situation of the Latin-script schools in the region, and encouraged the conflict sides to stay committed and engage constructively in the settlement talks and to intensify their efforts on all confidence-building measures. The EU underlined that the offer of a DCFTA was an offer to the Transnistria-based business community as well, and that the EU stood ready to facilitate its implementation in the Transnistrian region.

The EU was represented by Mr. Dimitris Kourkoulas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece and head of the EU delegation, who chaired the meeting of the Cooperation Council, and Mr Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Prime Minister Iurie Leancă led the delegation from the Republic of Moldova.
