



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 22 February 2005
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**EU-Moldova Cooperation Council
Seventh meeting, Brussels, 22 February 2005**

EU Press Communiqué

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and Moldova held its seventh meeting on Tuesday 22 February 2005. The meeting was chaired by Mr Vasile Tarlev, Prime Minister of Moldova. The EU delegation was led by Mr Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Luxembourg. The European Commission was represented by Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Member of the European Commission in charge of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. Mr Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, also took part in discussions.

This was the first meeting of the Cooperation Council since the EU enlarged to 25 Member States on 1 May 2004. The EU expressed its appreciation for the ratification by the Moldovan Parliament of the Protocol extending the PCA (Partnership & Cooperation Agreement) to new EU Member States.

P R E S S

The Cooperation Council was the occasion for signature by the EU and Moldova of a formal document launching the implementation of the previously agreed European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan (AP). Both sides reaffirmed their willingness to work together fully to exploit the new opportunities presented by ENP based on the shared values which underpin the Policy.

The EU took the opportunity to stress the great importance that it attaches to the democratic conduct of the parliamentary elections in Moldova on 6 March 2005. EU Member States and the European Commission will be supporting and contributing to the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission. The EU will follow closely the work of the mission and will take careful note of its final report.

The meeting was preceded by a working breakfast at which the Transnistrian issue was discussed. The EU expressed its continuing engagement in support of OSCE mediation efforts there.
