

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-MOLDOVA RELATIONS

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The Association Agreement including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area provides for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) and has created constantly growing trade between the partners. The EU's assistance has been providing tangible and visible benefits to Moldovan citizens.

STRONGER ECONOMY

✓ The EU is Moldova's **first trading partner and biggest investor** in the country. In 2017, it accounted for 64% of total exports and 56% of its total trade.

✓ The **Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area** with the EU is compatible with all of Moldova's other free trade agreements. Domestic reforms, for instance, the alignment of health and safety standards to those of the EU, will open further opportunities for trade with the EU. The EU also facilitates access to finance for Moldovan SMEs.

✓ The EU actively supports growth and job creation in Moldova. Overall, the EU estimates that its cooperation projects have provided **support for 5,000 enterprises** in Moldova and supported jobs in SMEs. 10 business incubators have been set up with EU support.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

✓ A road bypass around Ungheni fully funded by the EU was opened on 3 August 2018. Around **700 kilometres of roads** are rehabilitated or will be rehabilitated in the Republic of Moldova thanks to EU support.

✓ Public transport has been improved in Chişinău and Bălţi with **modern trolley buses**.

✓ Biomass heating systems have been installed in **more than 225 schools, kindergartens, community centres and village halls**, making heating cheaper and diversifying the country's energy sources. 47 of these sites were also equipped with solar hot water systems. 35 new biomass businesses were set up and over **400 new jobs have been created**.

✓ New drinking water supply infrastructures were built with EU support. As a result, approximately **15,700 people are provided with sufficient and safe drinking water**.

✓ The EU has also supported the gas interconnector between Moldova (Ungheni) and the EU (Iaşi in Romania). This project is aimed at **enhancing the energy security of Moldova** and the competitiveness on the Moldovan energy market.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

✓ The EU has been vocal in calling for **strengthening democratic standards, the rule of law and justice and tackling high-level corruption** in Moldova. Comprehensive [EU Council Conclusions on Moldova](#) were adopted on 26 February 2018.

✓ The EU reacted to the non-transparent invalidation of the Chisinau mayoral elections in June 2018 recalling that **the respect for democratic values and the rule of law are at the heart of the European Union's relations with the Moldova**, as testified by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.

✓ The EU expects Moldova to take actions ahead of the **Parliamentary elections of February 2019** with a view to ensuring the respect for democratic standards and the rule of law.

✓ Key areas to be tackled remain: **the independence of the judicial system, the fight against corruption** – including a thorough and effective prosecution of the banking fraud.

✓ The EU expects that the next parliamentary elections are held **in line with international standards** and that the pending recommendations made by relevant international stakeholders are followed.

✓ The EU actively supports **civil society in Moldova**, including by creating links between civil society organisations on both banks of the Nistru River through its confidence building measures.

STRONGER SOCIETY

✓ Since 28 April 2014, Moldovan citizens with a biometric passport can travel to the Schengen area without a visa. More than **1.5 million Moldovan citizens** have benefitted from the visa-free regime so far.

✓ In the years 2015-17, **more than 900 Moldovan students and academic staff** have benefitted from Erasmus+ mobility to study and teach in the EU.

✓ **Over 3,000 young people from Moldova** took part in EU-funded non-formal education projects which organise short exchanges, trainings, common events and provide volunteering opportunities.

IN FIGURES

EU imports from Moldova increased by nearly
33%
in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

15,700
people have access to safe and sufficient drinking water thanks to new water supply infrastructures funded by the EU.

350
Moldovans from the diaspora received EU assistance in order to set up their own companies when returning to their home country.

TRANSNISTRIA

The EU participates as an observer in the 5+2 negotiation process on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. It continues to support a comprehensive, peaceful settlement based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria. The EU supports confidence building measures designed to facilitate the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict by increasing confidence between Chişinău and Tiraspol through joint initiatives involving stakeholders from both sides. Confidence building measures have allowed 70 people from both sides of the Nistru River to set up businesses and create 350 jobs. The EU also supports confidence building measures designed to foster regional development in Gagauzia.

SECURING MOLDOVA'S BORDERS

The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine was launched in 2005. The aim of EUBAM is to support Moldova's and Ukraine's efforts to effectively manage their common border and actively support concrete measures contributing to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

COOPERATION IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Moldova is one of the non-EU states that participate in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. Moldovan experts take part in the EU Training Mission in Mali and have also contributed to the EU Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic. The EU continues to provide security sector reform-related advisory support to Moldova.