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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

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## **DRAFT REPORT**

containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the negotiations of the EU- Moldova Association Agreement  
(2011/2079(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Graham Watson

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the negotiations of the EU- Moldova Association Agreement (2011/2079(INI))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the ongoing negotiations between the EU and Moldova on the Association Agreement,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions on Moldova on 15 June 2009 adopting the negotiating directives,
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed on 28 November 1994 between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union and which entered into force on 1 July 1998,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit of 7 May 2009,
- having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on Eastern Partnership of 25 October 2010,
- having regard to the Joint Communication on A new response to a changing Neighbourhood of 25 May 2011,
- having regard to the Protocol to the EU-Moldova PCA on the participation of Moldova in Community Programmes and Agencies,
- having regard to the joint EU-Moldova European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan that lays out the strategic objectives based on commitments to shared values and effective implementation of political, economic and institutional reforms,
- having regard to its resolution of 7 May 2009 on the situation in the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the European Commission Progress Report on Moldova adopted on 25 May 2011,
- having regard to the EU- Moldova visa dialogue launched on 15 June 2010,
- having regard to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region,
- having regard to Rules 90(4) and 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on International Trade (A7-0000/2011),

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P6\_TA(2009)0384.

- A. whereas Moldova has the potential of becoming the success story of the ENP,
  - B. whereas within the ENP, the Eastern Partnership has created a meaningful political framework for deepening relations, accelerating political association and furthering economic integration between the EU and Moldova, by supporting political and socio-economic reforms and facilitating approximation towards the EU,
  - C. whereas the Eastern Partnership provides for strengthening of bilateral relations by means of new Association Agreements, taking into account the specific situation and ambition of the partner country and its ability to comply with the resulting commitments,
  - D. whereas the active engagement of Moldova and commitment to shared values and principles, including democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights is essential to take the process forward and to make the negotiation and subsequent implementation of Association Agreement a success, that has a sustainable impact on the development in the country,
  - E. whereas in deepening its relations with Moldova, the EU should promote stability and confidence building, including by pro-active engagement to find a solution to the Transnistrian conflict,
  - F. whereas the negotiations with Moldova on the Association Agreement are proceeding at a steady pace and have achieved good progress to date, as well as on the Visa Dialogue, however the negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) have not yet begun,
- 1. Addresses, in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the Association Agreement, the following recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS:
    - (a) to base the EU engagement and ongoing negotiations with Moldova on the assertion that the long term perspective of EU Membership is both a valuable lever in the implementation of reforms and a necessary catalyst for public support for these reforms;
    - (b) to take the necessary action to ensure that the negotiations with Moldova continue at the current steady pace and, to that end, enhance dialogue with all political parties, and encourage inter-party dialogue in Moldova, rather than opt for fresh general elections, as a means to overcome the current constitutional stalemate;
    - (c) to realise the powerful impact of the joint and coordinated support of Member States, as embodied by the action of the Group of Friends of Moldova, and to call for constructive cooperation and political restraint from the neighbours that have traditionally influenced Moldova;
    - (d) to ensure that the Association Agreement is a comprehensive and forward looking framework for the further development of relations with Moldova in upcoming years;
    - (e) to redouble efforts to find a solution on Transnistrian conflict and, to that end, to adopt confidence building measures, including promotion of people to people contacts and of trading relations;

- (f) to ensure that the pro-active role of the EU in 5+2 talks is adequately resourced, especially since the termination of the mandate of the EUSR;
- (g) to take the necessary action in support of visa liberalisation with Moldova once all the necessary benchmarks and conditions are met and preferably before the conclusion of the Agreement;
- (h) to adopt as soon as possible the negotiating directives on the part concerning trade and to ensure that the DCFTA is an integral part of the Agreement;
- (i) to offer greater support to Moldova in boosting its competitiveness in order to benefit from the advantages DCFTA could offer;
- (j) to ensure that Transnistrian region is covered by the reach and the effects of the Association Agreement and particularly the DCFTA;
- (k) to include dispositions on protection and promotion of human rights reflecting the highest international and European standards, taking full advantage of the Council of Europe and OSCE framework and to encourage the Moldovan authorities to promote the rights of minorities, in respect of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on National Minorities;
- (l) to emphasise in the Agreement the importance of the rule of law and the fight against corruption and continue supporting the reform of the judiciary as one of the priorities; to convey to the Moldovan government the desirability to conduct full, transparent and impartial investigation into the events of April 2009;
- (m) to encourage the Moldovan authorities to adopt anti-discrimination legislation both in line and in spirit with the EU legislation;
- (n) to take the necessary action to ensure that the dispositions contained in the Protocol to the EU-Moldova PCA on the Participation of Moldova in Community Programmes and Agencies are reflected in the Association Agreement;
- (o) to reflect in the Association Agreement highest standards regarding environment, considering *inter alia* the participation of Moldova in the Strategy for the Danube region, and to call for the modernisation of major industrial installations, among others those located on the right bank of the river Dniester;
- (p) in view of importance to economic development of reopening of railway line between Chisinau and Tiraspol, to examine what further steps are needed to ensure smooth trafficking of goods through the country;
- (q) to promote greater reform in the energy sector, particularly through the promotion of renewable energy sources;
- (r) to encourage and support Moldovan authorities to address the needs of the 34,5% of the population living in absolute or extreme poverty, considers that EU assistance to Moldova should better reflect this reality and its programmes should be refocused accordingly;

- (s) to emphasise to the Moldovan authorities the necessity to liberalise air traffic services, which would have significant impact on the mobility of the Moldovan society;
  - (t) to encourage the EU negotiating team to continue the good cooperation with the EP, providing continuous feedback on the progress in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, which states that the Parliament shall be immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure;
  - (u) to consult the European Parliament regarding the dispositions on parliamentary cooperation;
  - (v) to include clear benchmarks for implementation of the Association Agreement and provide for monitoring mechanisms, including the provision of regular reports to the European Parliament;
  - (w) to provide sufficient financial and technical support to Moldova to ensure it can meet the commitments stemming from the negotiations of the Association Agreement and its full implementation, by continuing to provide Comprehensive Institution Building programmes and by ensuring that the EU financing programmes reflect this goal;
  - (x) to invite the EU High Level Advisory Group to Moldova to report to the Parliament on their activities to date;
  - (y) to increase the EU assistance to the civil society organisations in Moldova in order to enable them to assure internal monitoring of and greater accountability for the reforms and commitments the government has undertaken;
  - (z) to maintain strong pressure on Moldovan authorities to consolidate reforms and achieve tangible progress in the fight against corruption, reform of judiciary, prosecution and police services;
  - (aa) to inform the Moldovan people of the Association Agreement in order to build support for the reform agenda;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the EEAS and the Commission and, for their information, to the Republic of Moldova.