

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING

22-23 October 2008

STRASBOURG

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13 January 2010
PCC/APB/ES

The 11th meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) opened on 22 October, 2008 at 15h00 under the co-chairmanship of Mrs Marianne MIKKO (PES, Estonia), and Mr Grigore PETRENCO (Party of Moldovan Communists, Moldova).

Mrs Marianne MIKKO welcomed the Members of the EP Delegation and the Members of the Moldovan delegation, in particular the new Co-Chairman, Mr Grigore PETRENCO, and the Deputy Minister of Justice Mrs. Elena MOCANU.

Mrs Marianne MIKKO also welcomed Mr Eric MILLET, representative of the French Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, Mr David GEER, representative of the European Commission and the Head of the Permanent Representation of Moldova to the Council of Europe, Mr Andrei NEGUTA.

In his brief introduction, Mr Grigore PETRENCO informed those present about Moldova's achievements in the European integration process. He also introduced the Members of the Moldovan Delegation: Mr Iurie ROȘCA, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, the leader of the Christian-Democratic Popular Party, Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN, member of the Committee, first deputy leader of the Moldovan Democratic Party (PDM), Mrs Irina VLAH, member of the Committee, representative of the Communist Party of Moldova.

1. The draft agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes were adopted without amendments.
3. Mrs Elena MOCANU, Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova, enumerated the main priorities of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the EU:
 - We need to value the commitments which we made in April 2008; we want to receive the support of the European Commission, the EU member states in order to launch the negotiations on a future agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the EU that we hope would be an Association Agreement.
 - We would also like to refer to the dialogue with the EU in order to establish the conditions we have to meet in order to obtain the visa-free status;
 - We want to receive the European Union's support with regard to solving the Transnistrian conflict. We should consider 5+2 format in this respect.

In conclusion, speaking about the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova Mrs. MOCANU stated that support from Ukraine and the EU could bring the sides closer to the settlement of the conflict.

Mr Eric MILLET, on behalf of the French Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, tackled the issue of the EU-Moldova relations, stressing that these relations are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). He pointed out that during 2008 the European Union and the Republic of Moldova have been able to extend their relations in the area of justice, freedom and security. Mr MILLET reminded that the EU and the Republic of Moldova have signed very important documents:

- the visa facilitation and readmission agreements
- a joint declaration on a mobility partnership

He also spoke about Transnistria, saying that the European Council noted some progress on the situation in Trans-Dniester region. It includes as well Russian initiatives and contacts between all sides of the conflict. The existing format of negotiation 5+2 should be pursued, concluded Mr MILLET.

The next speaker, Mr David GEER, representative of the European Commission, underlined three issues he would like to address in his speech:

- progress in implementing of the EU-Moldova Action Plan;
- to discuss some of the challenges the EU-Moldova cooperation faces at present;
- identify the future of the EU-Moldova cooperation;

Mr GEER expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the EU. From the Commission's point of view, Moldova had made very good progress in implementing the Action Plan. He pointed out some developments in the internal reforms, in particular the adoption of the new laws and regulations. However, implementation of these laws and regulations remains in many cases weak, concluded Mr GEER.

The main challenges for the Republic of Moldova from the perspective of the European Commission in the Action Plan are:

- firstly, it is essential that the government continues to implement the reforms in the area of governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
- the upcoming elections (April 2009) would be a critical indicator of Moldova's progress;
- freedom of the media should be among Moldova's highest priorities.

Mr GEER underlined that it is vital that Moldova will continue on its path to reform the key areas of economy. The efforts to combat corruption and strengthening of independent judicial system will also need further development, emphasised Mr GEER.

As regards the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, the European Commission has made continuous efforts towards the settlement through support to the development and implementation of confidence-building measures. The Commission remains strongly engaged in this process and will be ready to provide its support to consolidate any settlement in the 5+2 format, as soon as a real breakthrough occurs, stressed Mr GEER.

As for the future, the European Commission expects to be in a position to start negotiations on a new agreement between the EU and Moldova. It will depend upon Moldova's success in implementing key reforms in the upcoming year, concluded Mr GEER.

Mrs Marianne MIKKO thanked the speakers for their statements.

4.

Mrs Marianne MIKKO spoke about the relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. She mentioned that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement had expired and the new agreement will be negotiated, in order to insure a deeper level of cooperation between the EU and Moldova.

Mrs MIKKO stated that another positive step in the EU-Moldova relations is the entry into force of the Visa facilitation and readmission Agreements and the Autonomous Trade Preferences Agreement in March 2008. It is important that the Moldovan government continue to implement the necessary reforms particularly regarding the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, she added.

We are confident that the Moldovan authorities will ensure that the elections of April 2009 will be free and in full accordance with international standards, stressed Mrs MIKKO. Particular attention must be given to the implementation of a newly-adopted electoral code. It would be advisable to go back to the previous threshold of 4%, emphasised Mrs MIKKO. The good functioning of the local public administration is a must, she added.

Mrs. MIKKO urged the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to strengthen the fight against corruption, organised crime, trafficking in human beings.

The institutionalised children, in particular regarding their physical development and access to adequate healthcare services and education should receive a special attention from the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, stressed Mrs MIKKO.

The government must take urgent measures against practices of torture and inhuman treatment in Moldovan prisons, she said.

The Moldovan authorities are expected to insure the freedom and independence of the media and free access to the Internet, concluded Mrs MIKKO.

5.

Mrs MIKKO opened the discussions on political, economic and social reforms in Moldova with a first topic: preparation of the forthcoming legislative elections in 2009 by giving the floor to Mr Grigore PETRENCO and Mr Iurie ROȘCA.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO, representing the Party of Moldovan Communists, tackled the issues of the electoral code and the threshold with regard to the preparations of the forthcoming legislative elections in 2009.

Mr PETRENCO spoke about the changes in the electoral code. Specifically, speaking about increasing of threshold from 4% to 6%, he stressed that the elections in Moldova in the years 2001 and 2005 were according to 6% threshold. Moldova never had elections in the last 10 years with 6% threshold, he added. It couldn't be said that the authorities of Moldova increased the threshold, but, he argued, the threshold was before and still is 6%. Mr PETRENCO stated that the elections in 2001 and 2005 were democratic. We are highly interested that the elections in 2009 be recognised as democratic, transparent and free. We are experienced in organising elections, and so far our elections have been recognized as democratic, and the opinion of our European partners is important to us. We are open for discussion, we are willing to answer any question on this subject.

In conclusion Mr PETRENCO emphasized the commitment of Moldovan authorities to have a high-level legislative elections abiding by European standards and norms.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA, representing the Christian Democrat Popular Party of the Republic of Moldova, made several remarks on the issues of electoral laws and threshold with regard to the preparations of the forthcoming legislative elections in 2009.

Mr ROȘCA reminded that the current electoral code of the Republic of Moldova entered into force in 1993, and introduced the proportionality system. The Republic of Moldova has one national constituency and electoral threshold is currently at 6% for parliamentary scrutiny. This national constituency was established for a very simple reason, that citizens of Moldova who live in Transnistria may express their choice and be represented in the National Parliament, explained Mr ROȘCA.

At the second point, Mr ROȘCA mentioned that the electoral law was modified substantially after the elections in 2005 as the initiative of the Social-Democrat Parliamentary group. The modifications included all legislative recommendations made by the Council of Europe and the OSCE after the elections in 2005. The nine members of the Central Electoral Committee are elected by the parliament, most of them representing opposition parties. The members of the Electoral Committee, like judges, are fixed in their office. Their contract could not be terminated, unless they are under the incidence of the criminal law. The same goes for the Broadcasting Council members in order to consolidate the independence and the autonomy of these institutions, concluded Mr ROȘCA.

Concerning the electoral threshold, Mr ROȘCA said that the rising of the threshold was imposed by the need to limit the access of populist parties which were set up before the elections to enter the parliament. He reminded that many European countries have a five-percent threshold.

Regarding the election factor, Mr ROȘCA stated that the main obstacle in Moldova is the Russian factor. The influence of the Russian factor and presence of undeclared funds going

towards the political parties which obey orders from other countries, and towards the media outlets that obey orders from other countries are serious risks that may destabilise the internal political system of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr ROȘCA drew attention to a fact that a large number of Moldovan citizens are living and working abroad. The Moldovan authorities should insure the possibility for its citizens abroad to vote in the elections. The Republic of Moldova is a transitional democracy with all drawbacks that characterize such a transitional democracy, concluded Mr ROȘCA.

In the reaction to the presentations of previous speakers, Mrs MIKKO said that the recommendations which the European Parliament have made after the elections in the Republic of Moldova in 2005 were not fulfilled by the Moldovan authorities. She emphasised that threshold of 4% should be a good improvement to the electoral code of Moldova.

Mrs MIKKO drew attention to the pre-electoral campaign in Moldova, stressing that it should be free and democratic. She reminded that the problem of the opportunity to vote is also an issue to be solved in Moldova. Taking into consideration the fact that many of the citizens of Moldova who are working abroad are not able to take part in the elections, the access to the ballot boxes of all citizens that actually want to vote should be guaranteed by the Moldovan authorities, concluded Mrs MIKKO.

Mr Jelko KACIN (2nd Vice-Chair of the Committee) referred to several issues: the state of media freedom, human rights, and free elections in the Republic of Moldova.

Mr KACIN expressed his concerns over the independence of Moldovan media outlets: it is about the possibility of opposition parties to get a fair share of public media attention or a suspicious reorganization of Antena C Radio Station or controversial reform of the Broadcasting Coordinating Council for the audiovisual media. He also raised concerns over violation of the freedom of assembly and suppression of pluralism democracy in Moldova. Mr KACIN also tackled the issue of the upcoming elections, by saying that the 4% threshold would allow minorities to be represented in the parliament. He concluded that there is not need for statements but concrete actions from the Moldovan side.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA said that the European Parliament should consider the complete and precise view on the political situation in Moldova in order to make judgements about the democracy level in Moldova. He dismissed Mr KACIN's concerns over the issue of Antena C Radio Station.

Speaking about the access of political parties to the media, we are referring to the National TV station and Radio channels. Private media outlets are following their own policies without taking into account the will of one or the other political group. During the electoral period, according to the norms and force, all of the TV and Radio channels have to give the certain amount of time to every political party to express its opinion.

Responding to the points made by previous speaker, Mr ROȘCA said that he was the author of audiovisual reform in Moldova. He argued that Audiovisual Council is a democratic body.

Speaking about the freedom of assembly, Mr ROȘCA said that any social or political group is free to organize meetings and demonstrations in Moldova. As to the speculations about the 6% elections threshold, Mr ROȘCA stated that democracy doesn't mean that each and every individual is represented. No, each and every individual can vote, but they can not be represented. I don't see any difference between 5% and 6% of election threshold, the difference is small. As far as the pre-election period is concerned, we need support from the European partners to continue Moldova's road to legislative reforms, concluded Mr ROȘCA.

Mrs Maria PETRE welcomed the colleagues from Moldovan delegation. She suggested to Mr PETRENCO and Ms MIKKO to return to procedural rules and asked to have brief interventions from the speakers, so that everyone could contribute to the discussion. Mrs PETRE informed the audience that Mrs CUJBA, who was present at the preparatory meeting last week, has said in relation to the topic of electoral legislation that all necessarily changes in the electoral legislation are set to be made, and it was a message from the Moldovan authorities. Mrs PETRE emphasised that the entire package of the changes in electoral legislation of the Republic of Moldova was sent to the Venice Commission.

Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN representing the Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM) spoke about the electoral legislation saying that his party was the one which, in 2005, made the suggestion to reduce the electoral threshold to 4% and maintains this position at the present. Mr SEREBRIAN argued the point made by Mr PETRENCO about the political blocks, saying that the electoral system should be improved in order to give the possibility to small parties to be represented. If the party gets 5,9% of the popular vote and wouldn't be represented in the parliament it means that the interests of the citizens are not taken into account, stated Mr SEREBRIAN.

Mr Victor BOȘTINARU referred to the issues of human rights, access of the opposition to the media. He said that the upcoming elections should be held in a free and fair. The modernisation of the electoral code should be addressed and carried out by the Moldovan authorities.

Mr Jiří MAŠTÁLKA described the problems that the young democracies face, including the elections that will take place in Moldova next year under the Czech Presidency of the EU. He underlined the friendly nature of the relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr Henrik LAX informed that he would not be able to attend the second day of this meeting and raised two issues:

- the visa regime between the EU and Moldova;
- the impact of the Georgian crisis in Moldova.

Mr Zdzisław Zbigniew PODKAŃSKI, speaking about the level of democracy in Moldova, said that there is a problem with democracy if small parties or average individuals do not have influence in politics and there is a lack of pluralism.

Mr David GEER, on behalf the European Commission, commented on the question concerning visa liberalisation by saying that the idea of visa free regime as a long-term perspective is already indicated in the Visa Facilitation Agreement and will be a subject of negotiation as part of a new ambitious agreement between the EU and Moldova.

Mr Eric MILLET, on behalf of the French Presidency-in-Office, said that the Russia-Georgian crisis is likely to have an impact on Moldova, on the situation in Transnistria in particular. Commenting the situation in Transnistria, Mr MILLET emphasized that the 5+2 format of negotiation should be kept and the solution that could be put forward for Transnistria should respect territorial sovereignty and integrity of Moldova.

Mrs Elena MOCANU stated that there are no parallel lines between conflict in Georgia and situation in Moldova. She also referred to the issue of the possibility for Moldovan citizens living abroad to vote, saying that the capacity of the Moldovan Embassies was strengthened in order to insure the access of the Moldovan citizens to express their political choice.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO stated that the majority of Moldovan citizens who live abroad do have the possibility to vote at the diplomatic missions in the countries where they live. Mr

PETRENCO, commenting on the recommendations made by Council of Europe, said that it is impossible to change the Elections Law six months before the elections. He confirmed that the Moldovan authorities accept only the 5+2 format of negotiations for the Transnistrian conflict.

Mr David GEER outlined the importance of the forthcoming elections. He stated that the elections should be in accordance to the democratic standards with the reference to the recommendations made by the Venice Commission.

Mr Eric MILLET also outlined the importance of the forthcoming elections, saying that the elections need to be democratic, in line with the commitments that Moldova made to the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

The next topic: *Functioning of the local public administration: management of the EU funds.* Keynote speakers Mrs Maria PETRE, Mr. Henrik LAX replacing Mr Jelko KACIN, Mr Jiří MAŠTÁLKA, and Mrs Elena MOCANU.

Mrs Maria PETRE said that the reform of the public administration will create the necessary conditions for a dialogue between the authorities and the opposition: That would help the Moldovan citizens build further trust in the public institutions. Ms PETRE expressed the hope that the new government will make progress in the issue of decentralisation of the public administration in Moldova.

Mr Jiří MAŠTÁLKA pointed to the positive developments in respect to the use of the EU funds in Moldova, focussing on the issue of the healthcare.

Mr Henri LAX asked the Moldavian colleagues about the unconfirmed reports which state that individuals who have a second citizenship will not be able to hold positions in a public administration. Mr LAX emphasised his concern regarding the issue of reported tensions in Chisinau between the municipal authorities and the government. The problem of fighting corruption was also raised by Mr LAX.

Mt MOCANU confirmed the awareness of the Moldovan authorities of the fact that the decentralization process of public administration should continue in Moldova. She admitted that there are some disagreements between the central government and municipal authority in Chisinau.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO, speaking about the functioning of local administration, stated that the move toward a more centralized administration was a right choice of the Moldovan authorities. Mr PETRENCO also commented on the question of allocation of public funds among the regions. He said that the funds were distributed regardless of the results of elections and political preferences.

Mr Nicolae Vlad POPA drew attention to the issue of education in the Republic of Moldova. He said that the EU has not made sufficient efforts towards Moldova. In particular Mr POPA mentioned the lack of eligibility for the Moldavian school children and high-school students to take part in the EU educational programmes. He emphasized that students from Moldova should have access to educational exchange programmes such as Comenius, Leonardo and Socrates.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA, commenting the issue of the reforms of public administration, said that the administrative and territorial re-organisation would be implemented only after the forthcoming elections. Speaking about the disagreements between Chisinau municipal

authorities and the Moldovan government, he accused municipal authorities of illegal activities.

Mrs Irina VLAH, speaking about the reforms of the local public administration, stated that one of the priorities of the Moldovan central authorities is the better implementation of the local democracy. She informed the audience about the number of laws and regulations that have been adopted in the sphere of the public administration in Moldova.

Mr David GEER, in his short remark welcomed the positive developments in the health sector; recalled the need to accelerate reforms in Moldova and the need to intensify reforms in key parts of the economy in order to maintain macroeconomic stability, effective public finance management, and efficient allocation of the public funds. In conclusion Mr GEER said that education and cooperation in this field should be included into the future Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr Eric MILLET appealed to the authorities of Moldova to speed up the reform of public administration. He underlined that an efficient public administration and future attraction of the foreign investments to Moldova should be sustained. Mr MILLET, speaking about corruption, emphasised that the efficient and independent judiciary is crucial in fight against corruption.

Mr Grigore PETRESCO announced the next subject of discussion: *Respect for human rights and fundamental freedom: freedom of the media, freedom of expression.*

Keynote speakers: Mrs Marianne MIKKO, Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN, Mr Grigore PETRESCO and Mr Iurie ROȘCA.

Mrs MIKKO referred to the report which has been published as a part of the project "Monitoring Implementation of the Broadcasting Code" financed by Soros Moldova Foundation. Mrs MIKKO informed the audience that according to this report, more than 40% of the subjects and news items broadcast by the National Public Broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova are biased. The senior officials (Vladimir Voronin, Zinaida Greceanii and Marian Lupu) enjoyed more air time, while the opinions of the parliamentary and extra-parliamentary opposition were absent.

Mrs MIKKO mentioned several cases when journalists were subject of harassment by the Moldovan authorities recently. She emphasised that it is essential to provide freedom of expression and exchange of views in the Moldovan media prior to the parliamentary elections in 2009. She urged the Moldovan colleagues to make concrete improvements to the press freedom situation.

Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN, speaking about the issue of the freedom of the media in Moldova, said that the media is influenced by the state authorities and the laws in this area are not implemented. He stated that the citizens are not informed about their rights, and it is a problem of not only the civil society but also the authorities of Moldova. He underlined that the situation with human rights and independence of the justice system in Moldova is not good. Mr SEREBRIAN drew attention to the issue of human rights in the territory which is not controlled by the Moldavian authorities - Transnistria. He criticized the EU Special Representative to Moldova for not raising the issue of human rights in the territory of Transnistria. In conclusion Mr SEREBRIAN talked about the critical situation with torture and penitentiary conditions in Moldova.

Mr Grigore PETRESCO reacted to the speeches of the previous colleagues, arguing that there are no facts of harassment by the Moldovan authorities towards media representatives. He emphasised that pluralisms exists in the media in Moldova. In relation to the remark of Mr

SEREBRIAN about the human rights situation in Transnistria, Mr PETRENCO argued that the authorities of Moldova always supported the rights of the citizens on the Eastern bank of the river Dniester.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA commented on media situation in Moldova. He admitted that radio stations favour the governing party and there is room for improvement there. Concerning the issue of press freedom, Mr ROȘCA stated that in the Republic of Moldova there are no journalists arrested or detained. In conclusion Mr ROȘCA said that the issue which should be resolved in the broadcasting code is related to the public company TV Radio Moldova.

Mr Victor BOȘTINARU, speaking about freedom of the media in Moldova, said that there is a presence of systematic pressure on the media, harassment towards journalists, restricted access for the opposition to the media and huge disproportionality between the governing party and the opposition in the media in the Republic of Moldova.

Mr Cristian Silviu BUȘOI stated that freedom of the media is essential for democracy. He said that not only state media but also private media outlets are influenced and controlled by the Moldovan authorities. The episode with Antena C Radio Station is only one example of media freedom situation in Moldova. There is no progress made in Moldova in the last year in terms of freedom of the media, concluded Mr BUȘOI.

Mr Jiří MAŠTÁLKA, in his remarks about media freedom in Moldova, said that the internet deserves complete freedom too. He agreed that the EU must play a stronger role in the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

Mrs Ewa TOMASZEWSKA, in regards to the freedom of media situation, asked if there is a Media Ethic Council present in Moldova. She suggested that this body could be an efficient instrument in promoting freedom of the press in Moldova.

Mr Eric MILLET said that the European Council doesn't make distinction between the implementation of human rights in Transnistria and Moldova. The message which the European Council wants to convey is that Transnistria is an integral part of Moldova.

Mr David GEER reiterated the importance of the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. He encouraged the Moldovan authorities to make all necessary efforts to strengthen the rule of law and to fulfil its human rights commitments.

Social development of Moldova: healthcare, education, employment, institutionalised children, and situation of the penitentiary system.

Mrs Ewa TOMASZEWSKA drew attention to the situation with employment and labour market in the Republic in Moldova. She mentioned that unemployment is an issue that the Moldovan authorities should address and suggested that public education and participation in the international education programmes such as is Erasmus could be efficient in this particular case. Mrs TOMASZEWSKA referred to the migration situation in Moldova. She warned that Moldova is suffering from massive brain drain. Mrs TOMASZEWSKA said that mostly young people are leaving the country and it is difficult to speak about the fast development in the economy of Moldova if educated people are leaving the country. Mrs TOMASZEWSKA also spoke about the penitentiary system and poverty problems in Moldova, urging the Moldovan authorities to solve these problems.

Mr Jiří MAŠTÁLKA raised questions about the orphans, care of children and social benefits to young families and children in Moldova.

Mr Grigore PETRESCO briefly addressed the several issues including healthcare, unemployment and penitentiary system in the Republic of Moldova. Speaking about healthcare, Mr PETRESCO informed that the Moldovan government adopted several laws referring to the control of tuberculosis, organ transplant and protective measures against HIV and AIDS. Concerning unemployment, he admitted the presence of such problem in Moldova, but added that there is a positive development in this area. Speaking about the penitentiary situation, Mr PETRESCO pointed out that Moldova made significant progress in this field.

Mrs Elena MOCANU, answering on the question concerning the detention conditions in the Republic of Moldova, stated that substantial progress had been made in penitentiary system; the number of prisoners decreased from 10,000 in 2005 to 7,000. Speaking about torture, she informed that the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in Moldova has been successfully implemented. The government of Moldova has a clear will to solve all the problems which are present in the penitentiary system, concluded Mrs MOCANU.

Mr David GEER drew attention to the fact that Moldova was the first ENP country to be selected for the Pilot Mobility Partnership, the initiative aimed to help fight the negative effects of migration and to protect the social rights of Moldovan migrants. He also mentioned the reports published by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), saying that these reports could be useful in addressing reforms generally.

Mrs Marianne MIKKO thanked the interpreters for their great work and closed the first day of the 11th meeting of the EU-Moldova PCC.

Mr Grigore PETRESCO opened the second day of the 11th meeting of the EU-Moldova PCC by reminding that there is a subject of discussion left from the previous day to be started with. He also listed the issues would be the subjects of discussion during the day, namely:

- The issue of the impact of the war between Georgia and Russia on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict;
- Regional cooperation: Moldova's relations with its neighbours, Moldova and the Eastern Partnership.
- Adoption of recommendations

Measures to tackle emigration, social exclusion and poverty

Mrs Elena MOCANU addressed several issues, specifically: the state of migrant workers living and working abroad, citizens of Moldova and the situation with illegal migration. Mrs MOCANU emphasised that there is a need for partnership, bilateral agreements on labour movements with the countries involved in order to better control the labour market. As far as the illegal migration is concerned, the Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova said that this problem has been solved.

Mr PETRESCO shortly commented on the migration question, saying that the number of migrants in Moldova should be examined and only reliable statistics should be used.

Mr David GEER drew attention once more to the fact that Moldova was the first ENP country to be selected for the Pilot Mobility Partnership, connecting this to the issue of an illegal immigration and migrant workers situation. Concerning the issue of returning of Moldovan migrant workers to Moldova, Mr GEER said that Moldova should ensure increased attractiveness for its own workers.

Mr Eric MILLET, commenting on the migration issue, said that the problem of human trafficking is evident in Moldova. In this respect, the fight against organised crime and prevention of money laundering should be carried on.

Mrs Irina VLAH concluded the discussion on migrant workers and migration in Moldova by saying that the main problem is social security of the worker migrants and their families.

6.

Mr Robert EVANS, speaking about the impact of the war between Georgia and Russia on the Transnistrian conflict, said that the conflicts in Transnistria and South Ossetia have more differences rather similarities. He stressed that peacekeeping and negotiations are essential in resolving the conflicts in the region.

Mr Jelko KACIN emphasised that there is a need to provide mutual respect and understanding in order to make progress towards the final and sustainable solution for the reintegration of Moldova.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA referred to the Transnistrian conflict, mentioning Russia's engagement in the region. He indicated that there is a big difference between the situation in Georgia and in Moldova. The conflict in Transnistria should be resolved with respect to the territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Moldova, concluded Mr ROȘCA.

Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN said that the democratization of the Transnistrian region is very important for Moldova. The EU involvement in this respect is strongly desirable, emphasised Mr SEREBRIAN. He raised concerns about granting Russian citizenship to Moldovan citizens by Russia and appealed to the EU representatives to tackle this issue during their talks with Moscow.

Mr Eric MILLET commenting the situation in Transnistria said that Russia is looking beyond the 5+2 format, which involves the Moldovan and the Transnistrian sides, as well as Ukraine, Russia, the Presidency of the OSCE, the EU and the US, as observer. Mr MILLET outlined that the 5+2 format of negotiating should be maintained. It is the only way whereby a balanced solution could be reached in the interest of Moldova.

Mr David GEER stressed that confidence building measures should be applied in the region of Transnistria. If the Transnistrian conflict is settled, the Commission is ready to provide assistance following the settlement.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO announced a fifteen-minute break.

7.

Mrs MIKKO opened a new discussion and gave floor for the first speaker Mrs Maria PETRE.

Mrs Maria PETRE expressed satisfaction with the level of economic cooperation between Moldova and Romania. She said that there are some basic agreements between the two countries such as the Local Border Transport agreement and Border crossing agreement, which should be signed. Mrs PETRE also mentioned some difficulties between Moldova and its neighbours Ukraine and Romania by saying that the problems in cooperation between these countries should be solved quickly.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO, speaking about the regional cooperation, mentioned several initiatives which involve the Black Sea countries. He referred to the Inter-parliamentary cooperation between Moldova and its neighbouring countries as an example of regional cooperation. Mr PETRENCO emphasised that the relations with neighbouring Ukraine and Romania are good, but some problems remain such as solution of border demarcation and signing of border agreement.

Mr Iurie ROȘCA said that Moldova's two neighbours Ukraine and Romania are the main trade partners of the country. He mentioned that there is not yet an agreement on transport between Romania and Moldova.

Mr Oleg SEREBRIAN commented the subject of the relationship between Moldova and its neighbours Romania and Ukraine. The border issue is still on the agenda in relations between Moldova and Ukraine, noted Mr SEREBRIAN.

Mrs Marianne MIKKO introduced the next speaker, Mr Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice President of European Parliament.

Mr Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ reaffirmed his support to the dialogue between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. He assured his support to Mrs MIKKO and her activity as a chair. The Vice President of European Parliament thanked the Secretariat, especially Mrs POPESCU-BLACK for her very efficient work. Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ stressed that the EU is reaffirming its commitment to work with Moldova. Mr MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ confirmed his support to the committee, to the delegation and indeed to Moldova's way towards full membership in the European Union.

Mr Grigore PETRENCO spoke about the regional partnership initiative launched by the EU member states Poland and Sweden, emphasising that this initiative should be further developed. Mr PETRENCO expressed his support for Moldova's rapprochement with the EU.

8.

The final statement and Recommendations pursuant to Article 89 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement were adopted after several votes and with some amendments.

9. There was no other business.

10. No final decision was taken on the day of next meeting of the PCC.

The meeting ended on Thursday October 23, 2008, at 13h10.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) MIKKO (PR), PODKANSKI (1st VP), KACIN (2nd VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/jäsenet/ ANDRKIENE (1), GOMOLKA (1), MASTALKA, PETRE , POPA (1)
Παρόντες	
Present	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Presentes	EVANS, LAX (1), LE RACHINEL (1), TOMASZEWSKA, WIELAND (2)
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Läsnä	
Närvarande	
Art. 147,7 /Art. 178.2	
Art. 166,3/ Art. 183.3	
Art. 162.6 Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì □/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	BUSOI (1), BUSTINARU (1)
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia- punto/punto orden del dia/ Esityslista Kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP)=Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies
Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

- (1) 22.10.2008
(2) 23.10.2008

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiesien kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:

Radet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)
MILLET

Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/
Kommissionen: (*)
GEER

Missions/Ambassades:
CUJBA

Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. de los grupos politicos Secr. groupes politiques Segr. dei gruppi politici Secr. van de fracties Secr. dos grupos politicos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IDM/DE MUEN NI	
Cab. du Président		
Cab. du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII VIII	
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschußsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		POPESCU-BLACK, WHITTALL, MAASS
Assist./Βοηθός		

- * (P) =Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande
 (VP) =Næstform./Vize-Pres./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.
 (M) =Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jäsen/Ledamot
 (F) =Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman