

Relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova

Moldova-EU honeymoon over, but marriage is good, says Dirk Schuebel

“The ‘honeymoon’ in the relations between Moldova and the European Union passed, but the ‘marriage’ is good, at least better than the average,” the Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova Dirk Schuebel said in the meeting of the Chisinau Press Club, quoted by Info –Prim Neo. “This does not mean that these relations do not see good periods and difficult patches. But we are on the way of ultimately becoming a good family,” said the official. According to him, each of the sides should contribute to strengthening the relations and understand that this is very important. Moldova should stimulate the Europeanization reforms in the areas agreed with the EU, while the EU should increase its technical and financial assistance for facilitating these reforms. “This is what I meant when I referred to the ‘more for more’ principle. If a sector of the national economy does well and promotes reforms in a better manner, it will benefit from better support, while the sectors that will not cope with the reforms will receive less,” said Dirk Schuebel. He stressed that he does not work with certain political parties in Moldova, but with the country. “If the reformation strategy agreed by Moldova with the EU is not put into practice, we will not look for the persons or parties to blame. In such a case, it is the final result that counts for us and it would be a pity as the country will suffer. But I hope that all the parties assume responsibility, including the opposition that claims to be pro-European. It would be very well if all the aspects of the relations between Moldova and the EU, the adjustment of the legislation and standards, the European integration process in general are backed by 101 votes in Parliament. At the same time, these aspects should not become a subject for domestic political struggles that are in fact common in any country,” said the Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova. He also said that if the Cabinet is reshuffled and the Alliance for European Integration re-formed, including with the participation of the opposition, the EU will continue to provide support to Moldova, if it implements the program of reforms that was devised and approved in concert.

IPN, 22 October 2011

Moldova, EU finish negotiation of general principles of Association Agreement

In the eighth round of the talks on the Association Agreement between Moldova and the EU, the sides finished discussions on the general principles, continued the negotiations on justice, freedom and security and exchanged information about the development of the negotiations on economic, sector and financial cooperation. The delegations also continued the preparations for launching the talks on the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. According to a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova’s participation in the programs and agencies of the European Union was a separate subject included in the agenda at the suggestion of the Moldovan side. Both of the heads of the delegations of negotiators stressed that Moldova is a leader among the EU’s Eastern partners in this cooperation, which represents an additional opportunity for strengthening the cooperation with the EU. At the end of the talks, it was agreed that the sides will continue the consultations and negotiations through videoconferences until the next round of talks. The eighth round of talks was held in Chisinau on 19 October. Moldova’s delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Natalia Gherman, who is the chief negotiator at the talks, while the EU’s delegation by Miroslav Lajcak, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia at the European External Action Service and chief negotiator on behalf of the EU.

IPN, 19 October 2011

Estonian Prime Minister: Moldova among most successful Eastern Partners

Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip met with Prime Minister of Moldova Vladimir Filat in Tallinn on 19 October, to discuss Moldova’s EU integration. Assuring Estonia’s support in that area, Ansip said that Estonia is willing to continue sharing its experience in implementing reforms and integrating with the EU. He also applauded Moldova for hard work towards social change, saying the country could be considered as one of the most successful EU Eastern Partnership nations. Read more in news.err.ee [en], 19 October 2011

Moldova steps closer to EU's common aviation market

The European Union and Moldova signed a comprehensive air services agreement on Wednesday on integrating the eastern European ex-Soviet country into the EU's common aviation market. The decision aims to bring Moldova's aviation legislation into line with the EU's in the areas of safety, security, environment, consumer protection, air traffic management, economic regulation and competition issues, the European Commission said in a statement. Similar agreements already exist with several other countries, including the western Balkan states, Georgia, Morocco and Jordan. Negotiations are currently ongoing with Israel, Lebanon and Ukraine.

Reuters [en], European Commission [en], 26 October 2011

Moldova to benefit from EU support in strengthening its customs

Improving cooperation, risk management at borders and speeding up customs procedures to secure and facilitate trade – these are the main priorities of the new strategic framework, which has been endorsed by Algirdas Šemeta, EU Commissioner for Taxation, Customs, Anti-fraud and Audit and Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat. The funds for various initiatives will be allocated in the period 2011 to 2014. Customs are an important link in the supply chain between Moldova and the EU, and the illegal trade on the EU's Eastern border has been a major challenge for years. This initiative towards a common approach on customs cooperation will benefit EU-Moldova trade relations and improve the protection of citizens against fraud. The new Framework will also allow a better risk assessment, information exchange and a dialogue on the fight against fraud - crucial for optimizing customs. The investments in customs modernization, such as development of border infrastructure on both sides of the border, are also foreseen for the future. The endorsement of the Strategic Framework for EU-Moldova customs cooperation will serve as a basis for a more structured approach in customs *relations and will help to address effectively growing challenges and opportunities on both sides.*

ENPI Info Centre [en], European Commission [en], 19 October 2011

Moldova, EU assess bilateral relations

The 12th meeting of the Moldova-European Union Cooperation Committee was held in Chisinau 18 October. The event was co-chaired by Deputy Foreign and European Integration Minister Natalia Gherman and the head of the European Commission's Unit for Relations with Russia, Eastern Partnership and acting director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia, in the Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations, Gunnar Wiegand. The participants in the meeting reviewed the events which took place on the Moldova-EU agenda. The sides agreed on the steps due to be undertaken to achieve the common objectives. The EU delegation emphasized the existence of a very good cooperation with Moldova. Also, Gunnar Wiegand stressed the significant progress which Moldova has made while fulfilling the assumed commitments. He said Moldova's actions in the rapprochement with the EU are coherent.

Moldpres, 18 October 2011