

## **EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

### **Second Meeting**

**18 May 2016**

### **FINAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Pursuant to Article 441 (3) of the Association Agreement*

*(The adopted text may be subject to final linguistic and technical adaptations)*

Under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Andi Cristea on behalf of the European Parliament and of Mr Mihail Ghimpu on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter "Moldova"), the second meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held in Chisinau on 18 May 2016.

The Parliamentary Association Committee, having considered the state of play of EU-Moldova relations and of implementation of the Association Agreement, agreed upon the following final statement and recommendations.

The Parliamentary Association Committee:

1. Expresses great satisfaction about the completion of the ratification procedure of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement with its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and looks forward to its full entry into force as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016; emphasises that the Association Agreement covers the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova, and is for the benefit of the whole population;
2. Reminds of the aim of the Association Agreement of significantly deepening political and economic relations between Moldova and the EU; stresses that a full implementation of the agreement will bring tangible improvements to Moldovan citizens in their daily life in areas such as education, employment and justice, and increase their living standards and their security;
3. Stresses that the signature and ratification of the Association Agreement does not constitute a final goal in EU-Republic of Moldova relations and points out that pursuant to Article 49 TEU, the Republic of Moldova has a European perspective and may apply to become a member of the European Union provided it adheres to the principles of democracy, respects fundamental freedoms and minority rights, and ensures the rule of law;
4. Welcomes Moldova's active participation within the Eastern Partnership format and the valuable contribution to the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy; encourages both Moldova and the EU to further intensify efforts in order to make the most out of the opportunities that stem from the new ENP;
5. Underlines that the government formed on 20 January 2016 bears a unique responsibility to successfully address the lack of trust of the population towards some institutions of the country and the consequences that may arise from a lack of swift and effective implementation of reforms; stresses that there is now an opportunity for the new government to confirm the ambitions of the Association Agreement and to show that it is serious about reforms, to go beyond cosmetic changes and to finally deliver;

6. Welcomes therefore the adoption of a roadmap on priority actions for reform (hereinafter "roadmap") setting clear deadlines for concrete action until July 2016; underlines the role of the Parliament of Moldova in the adoption of the required legislation as well as in the political oversight of the executive in the implementation of the roadmap and of the Association Agreement; recalls that according to the Constitution of Moldova, the government is politically accountable for its actions in front of the Parliament;

7. Stresses that fulfilling these functions requires good coordination mechanisms within the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and appropriate resources; welcomes therefore the setting up of the Parliamentary Council for European Integration;

8. Stresses that reforms will be credible to the eyes of the population only if they go along with the exclusion of any political interference in the work of state institutions and the eradication of corruption at all levels;

9. Regrets that the budget 2016 has not yet been adopted and stresses that principles of budgetary oversight and of transparency should be respected; recalls that the resumption of the EU budget support is dependent upon the fulfilment of specific political, financial and macro-economic conditions;

10. Welcomes the long-awaited appointment of a new Governor of the National Bank; reiterates however its concerns over Moldova's financial and banking sector; recalls that thorough and impartial investigation on the banking frauds are needed in order to recover the diverted funds, to bring all those responsible to justice and to ensure fair trials in line with international standards;

11. Stresses the importance of a better, more transparent management of state-owned enterprises and of transparent rules for privatisation;

12. Welcomes the focus of the "roadmap" on fight against corruption and judicial reform; looks forward to the adoption of the package of laws on integrity in second reading; welcomes the adoption of a law reforming the prosecution service and the positive conclusion of the Constitutional Court on the legislative initiative to introduce the related amendments to the constitution; underlines the necessity to implement the law without delay;

13. Underlines the need to continue the work on a new audiovisual code in accordance with EU legislation and in line with international standards; encourages the Parliament to exclude all kinds of monopolistic threats and ensure the impartiality of the public media;

14. Stresses the importance of the adoption of the new law on energy and the revision of existing legislation in line with the Third Energy package;

15. Underlines the importance of implementing the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations stemming from the recent election observation missions; stresses that the law on financing of political parties should be carefully implemented, and the right of political parties to register and operate fully ensured;

16. Underlines that Moldova's civil society has a key role to play in monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement and of the reform agenda, and the related government's and parliament's action; encourages therefore the government and the parliament of Moldova to relaunch and renew the mechanisms of a systematic and sustainable cooperation with civil society, in line with the

commitments taken under the "roadmap"; welcome the recent launch of the EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform and the participation of its co-chairs at this meeting;

17. Welcomes the holding of the second EU-Moldova Association Council that took place in March 2016; invites the Association Council to adopt at each of its meetings operational conclusions regarding the implementation of the Association agreement; recalls that the Parliamentary Association Committee shall be informed of the decisions and recommendations of the Association Council; stresses that, in order to be able to meaningfully contribute to the implementation process, the Parliamentary Association Committee should further be kept informed about the work of the Association Committee and Sub-Committees;

18. Highlights the need for a comprehensive information campaign geared at the public on the aims and content of the Association agreement and the direct and concrete benefits for citizens arising from its implementation; underlines the importance of promoting objective, independent and impartial information in this regard, and of enhancing the capacity of the EU to counter misinformation and propaganda campaigns against itself and its Neighbourhood policy; welcomes therefore the efforts made by the EU to enhance its strategic communication and encourages Moldova's authorities to participate in these efforts as well;

19. Intends to hold the next meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee in the autumn 2016 in Brussels.