

Minutes of the 16th meeting

29 October 2012

Chi in u

The 16th meeting of the EU–Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (EU–RM PCC) took place in Chi in u on 29 October 2012, co-chaired by Ms Corina FUSU, Member of the Moldova Parliament, and Ms Monica MACOVEI, Member of the European Parliament.

The following members of the EU–RM PCC attended the meeting:

- The Parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Moldova: Ms Corina FUSU, Chair; Mr Ghenadie CIOBANU, Vice-Chair, Ms Inna UPAC, Vice-President; Ms Oxana DOMENTI, Mr Vladimir HOTINEANU, Mr Sergiu ȘÎRBU, Mr Simion GRI CIUC, Ms Zinaida GRECEANÎI, Mr Alexandr PETCOV, Mr Nae-Simion PLE CA, Mr Boris VIERU, Mr Miron GAGAUZ, Ms Ana GUȚU and Ms Valentina STRATAN.
- EP Delegation: Ms Monica MACOVEI, Chair; Ms Tatjana ŽDANOKA, First Vice-Chair; Ms Elena B SESCU; Mr Cristian BU OI and Mr Tadeusz ZWIEFKA.

Ms FUSU opened the meeting at 11.15 and welcomed the participants. She introduced the members of the two delegations.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with no objection.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 15th meeting of the EU–RM PCC that took place in Brussels on 29 May 2012

Ms FUSU submitted for adoption the minutes of the 15th meeting.

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the EU–RM PCC, organised in Brussels on 29 May 2012, were adopted unanimously.

3. Current status of cooperation and progress of the relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova

Ms FUSU referred to the fact that during the preparatory meeting of the Moldova delegation the opposition Members insisted on setting up internal regulations for the works of this meeting, but Ms FUSU expressed her opinion that regulations should pertain to the speeches, questions and comments so that the proposed time is not exceeded. Some 30 seconds were proposed for questions and 1–2 minutes for comments. Ms FUSU later proposed moving on the topics of the discussion.

Ms FUSU spoke to the participants, presenting the socio-political developments and the latest progress the Republic of Moldova has recorded since the 15th meeting of the EU–RM PCC in Brussels at the end of May 2012. She pointed out that the election of the President of the Republic of Moldova on 16 March 2012 ended the political deadlock that had lasted for almost three years, making it possible to speed up the reforms the state of Moldova has committed to. The President of the Republic of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti, stated on several occasions the determination of the Republic of Moldova on her European road, for the rule of law, the reform of the judiciary and the fight against corruption. Within the UN General Assembly in September 2012 in New York, President Timofti requested that OSCE, the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, the EU and the USA join their efforts in order to solve the Transnistrian conflict for good. In the same context, the President repeated the October 2012 Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that requests that the Russian Federation withdraw their troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in compliance with the international commitments undertaken at the OSCE Summit of 1999 in Istanbul. It is considered that the withdrawal of these troops and the removal of the military depots of arms and ammunition of the Russian Federation from the Transnistrian region would be a significant step in the process of [a](#) peaceful settlement of the conflict on the left bank of the Dniester. Ms FUSU expressed the opinion that it is necessary to replace the current peacekeeping forces with an international civil mission in order to build trust and ensure the peaceful solution of the conflict. In the context of negotiations with regards to the Association Agreement with the EU, Ms FUSU invited the Council of the EU, the Commission and the European External Action Service to extend the mandate of the EU negotiators in order to draft a more explicit wording of the provision and perspective of EU integration in the Preamble of the Association Agreement, in compliance with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union. Ms FUSU reiterated the statements made by Mr Stefan FULE, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, at the EU–Moldova forum in Berlin, on 22–23 October, namely that the ‘EU response to the reforms undertaken by the Republic of Moldova should be an appropriate one, matching the undertaken effort, that is, granting the perspective of EU accession — Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, which refers to obtaining the status of EU Member State, indicating the road to the future of the Republic of Moldova’. On his turn, the German Member, Mr Andreas SCHOCKENHOFF, Vice-President for European, Foreign and Defence Policy of the CDU/CSU faction in the Bundestag, mentioned that the European perspective is the best catalyst for pursuing the reform and that this should be offered to Moldova.

Ms FUSU referred later to energy security, considered to be a challenge in the global context of increasing energy prices and dependence on gas import from one source, i.e. the Russian Federation. Intensifying the construction works of the Ia i-Ungheni pipeline would be a first step in the diversification of gas supply to the Republic of Moldova. In the same context, Ms FUSU requested that the Commission provide financial and technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure meeting the commitments resulting from the country’s accession to

the Energy Community Treaty and to the Third Energy Package. Ms FUSU briefly addressed the three documents that the Republic of Moldova and the EU are negotiating:

- 1) The Association Agreement — one of the major objectives is to bring the Association Agreement near completion. Starting with 12 January 2010 there have been 12 plenary rounds of negotiations carried out according to the principle of rotation in Chisinau and in Brussels.
- 2) The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area — 6 chapters from 13 areas covering trade in goods, non-tariff barriers and technical barriers to trade, sustainable development, public procurement, customs and trade facilities have been closed temporarily.
- 3) The dialogue with regards to visas — on 26 June 2012 Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, pursuant to the presentation of the third progress report with regards to the implementation of the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan, made public the decision with regards to the Republic of Moldova advancing to the second stage of the visa dialogue.

Ms FUSU pointed out the fact that the road map for the Eastern Partnership is going to be an ambitious agenda for the period of time until the next Eastern Partnership Summit, held in Vilnius in November 2013. Ms FUSU appreciated the EU decision to offer EUR 28 million for the current budget year. From the Eastern Partnership countries the Republic of Moldova benefits from the largest EU assistance, about EUR 150 million per year.

The next topic Ms FUSU referred to was reforms in the area of corruption. A key element of these reforms is the reform of the Centre for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption which, according to the Law of May 2012, became the National Anticorruption Centre; the law entered into force on 1 October 2012. On 26 October 2012 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova elected the new manager of the NAC, Mr Viorel Chetaru. The new manager of the Intelligence and Security Service, Mr Mihai Bălan, and the President of the National Integrity Commission, Mr Anatolii Donciu were also elected. Ms FUSU communicated that the Alliance for European Integration gave a strong vote of confidence to the managers of these three institutions. The reform process of the ISS has to be intensified in view of the fact that the Republic of Moldova has not yet reformed its national security system. Ms FUSU noted that the support of the EU Member States is necessary in achieving the complex reform process of ISS through adopting legislation in compliance with European norms and EU intelligence mechanisms and practices. Towards the end she reiterated the fact that European integration is an irreversible vector for the Republic of Moldova, a desire stated in the Government programme of activity and in the 'Moldova 2020' National Development Strategy, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova this July. Ms FUSU gave thanks for the attention.

Ms Monica MACOVEI congratulated the Republic of Moldova on its progress. She underlined that the first stage of the Visa Liberalisation Plan has been completed, and that the most complicated part follows, namely the implementation, and at this chapter the Moldavian party benefits from all the support of the EU. In what follows it is important to complete the negotiations regarding DCFTA, an agreement that has to be applied to the Transnistrian region, too, which participates as an observer at these negotiations. She pointed out that it is very important to meet the proposed deadline, namely September 2013, when the negotiation will be concluded and the Association Agreement that includes also DCFTA signed.

Mr Andrei POPOV, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, pointed out that the decision with regards to doubling the frequency of the meetings in this format is clear proof of the maturity and intensity of the EU–Republic of Moldova relations of cooperation. He noted that the parliamentary dimension has a very important role in supporting and facilitating the European road map of the Republic of Moldova. In this context he expressed his gratitude for the support of the Members of the EP delegation for the relations with the Republic of Moldova in meeting the objective of the country’s European integration. Thus, the Resolution of the European Parliament, adopted in September 2011, which explicitly refers to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, is an important reference point of the Moldavian endeavours for the acknowledgement of the European perspective of the Republic of Moldova. Mr POPOV noted that Moldova highly appreciates the dialogue between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, and he expressed the plenary commitment for the implementation process of the reform agenda, undertaken for the European road map of the Republic of Moldova. The Republic of Moldova is an active participant of the Eastern Partnership. The fact that the Republic of Moldova is considered a leader country in this format encourages the Moldavian authorities even more in achieving the objectives set forth with regards to European integration, including through building on two principles: that of differentiation and the principle of ‘more for more’. In this sense the parliamentary dimension acquires a very important role in pursuing the objective of the European integration of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr Dirk LORENZ, Chargé d’Affaires, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, pointed out that with regards to the negotiation of the Association Agreement, the last meeting organised this September in Chi in u, was carried out in a constructive atmosphere, and a lot of topics had been discussed, including the institutional configuration. Some topics are still open, such as the one pertaining to the perspective of membership, but here he reminded of Mr FULE’s speech in Berlin, where the Commissioner referred for the first time to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, saying that his vision is that the Republic of Moldova become a prosperous country, loyal to the European values, consolidated, modern and integrated in the European family. Mr LORENZ noted that significant progress can be noticed in what concerns the DCFTA as well. As it has already been noted, at the third round that took place this September in Chi in u, the dialogue was an open one and consequently a large number of chapters had been preliminarily approved. He underlined the fact that a complicated task still remains to be completed, namely to include the Transnistrian region in DCFTA, the aim of which is to be implemented all over the territory of the Republic of Moldova. It is important that the process of association within DCFTA and the Association Agreement be completed by the next Summit of the Eastern Partnership. He stated that the Republic of Moldova is ready to move on to the second stage of the Action Plan regarding the liberalisation of visas. Another agreement signed is the one of this June regarding the Common Aviation Area, based on which some additional flights have already been opened. Mr LORENZ considered that more things could have been achieved at the implementation of this agreement. Another agreement pertains to Geographical Indications, signed this June and ratified in October by the European Parliament. An additional important element is the dialogue set up between the EU and the Republic of Moldova with regards to human rights, a topic that has been discussed in Brussels at the end of May 2012. At the same time, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Law on equal opportunities, a law welcomed by the European Parliament. Another important element of this dialogue included the freedom of the press; the Government’s actions, i.e. to not open the call for bids for the NIT frequency before a Court ruling is issued in this case, were welcomed. The discussions regarding human rights are planned to be continued in an ad-hoc meeting that will

bring together colleagues from the Council of Europe and the UN this November. In what concerns the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the Republic of Moldova continues to be active. The first forum of the civil society outside the EU will be hosted by the Republic of Moldova, upon their proposal, in the autumn of 2013, an action welcomed by the European Parliament. The EU assistance to the Republic of Moldova for the current year exceeds the amount of EUR 150 million. It is planned to provide more than EUR 100 million each year, which is unprecedented, being the highest assistance granted through the Eastern Partnership and in the neighbourhood. Referring to the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), four programmes have been approved. For 2013 an additional element will be added, meant to support security and mobility, which in practice means the facilitation of the visa regime. In this context, EUR 28 million was offered to the Republic of Moldova within the project 'more for more'; in the future other funds will also be granted within this programme. Similarly, an amount of EUR 8 million was provided for the implementation of the National Action Plan regarding human rights. To summarise, in the 'Europe 2020' Strategy the Commission states certain commitments regarding 11 new decisions, the implementation costs of which will be about EUR 222 million.

Mr Miron GAGAUZ thanked the EU Delegation for the assistance in the implementation of the reforms. In his opinion this process is carried out unilaterally, as Moldova has not yet received a clear answer whether a divided country, as is the Republic of Moldova, can become a Member State of the EU. The present situation shows that the country is more and more divided, and according to Mr GAGAUZ, this is largely the fault of the Alliance for European Integration, which does not have the right approach to the current situation on the left bank of the Dniester. He expressed his opinion that the citizens in the Transnistrian region need an incentive to wake their interest for union, by proving that there are better living conditions in the Republic of Moldova.

In this context Mr LORENZ replied that the commitment of the EU in solving the Transnistrian conflict has been intensified in the last years, both in the 5+2 format, and in terms of financial assistance. In what concerns the 5+2 format, the EU, currently an observer, wishes to become a mediator, but this decision cannot be taken unilaterally solely by the EU. In what concerns the commitment of the EU to solving the Transnistrian conflict, expressed in financial terms, 15 % of the financial assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova for the 2011–2013 period is invested in measures for consolidating trust, totalling EUR 40 million, of which EUR 12 million is for 2012 and EUR 28 million for 2013. At this chapter the EU is the biggest donor. Another element is the assistance offered through the EUBAM programme. According to his opinion the EU is intensifying its commitment in the 5+2 format as well, both at political level, and through actual projects, involving the two banks of the Dniestr and the EUBAM mission.

Ms MACOVEI noted the fact that the process of European integration is a long and complex one. She considered that changes in mindset should not be expected to occur by themselves; instead, changes must be undertaken in various areas, and with such changes the mindset will also change. She is convinced that travelling without a visa will greatly help the population on both sides of the Dniester to see what the EU and the European values mean. This is a process that has already started and must be supported to ensure that it takes place as soon as possible. Ms MACOVEI stated that the European Parliament supports the option of European integration of the Republic of Moldova, this being the reason why two meetings are organised every year with the Republic of Moldova.

4. Follow-up of the recommendations of the 15th EU–RM PCC meeting of 29 May 2012; internal political situation and progress of reforms in the Republic of Moldova

a) Recent political developments

Ms Corina FUSU announced moving on to the next point on the agenda, regarding the recent political events in the view of each parliamentary faction.

Mr Valeriu STRELEȚ, President of the PLDM faction, mentioned that the works of the EU–RM PCC are important events and the implementation of the adopted resolutions is being monitored closely. In this context he referred to some aspects that characterise the current political field. He reported that at the opening of the autumn-winter session he was sometimes filled with mixed feelings, optimism on the one hand, thanks to political stability conditioned to the election of the President of the country. Similarly, this optimism was fuelled by the fact that the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova observed strictly the calendar with regards to adopting more laws that pertain mainly to the RM–EU Action Plan, and documents that concern day-to-day internal politics. On the other hand, concerns related to the economic indicators pending on the acute drought, as a result of which the results Moldova counted on were not achieved, led to the amendment of the budget. Mr STRELEȚ expressed his hope that the year would end without any further amendment of the budget. There are also concerns related to the conduct of the opposition which started fuelling sentiments dangerous to the internal stability of the Republic of Moldova, insisting on calling a referendum with regards to the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the Russia–Belarus–Kazakhstan Customs Union. Mr STRELEȚ considered that this is an unproductive sentiment for the European integration of the Republic of Moldova as there are enough reasons already for the division of the society. Another feeling the session started with was that of responsibility for achieving the commitments the Republic of Moldova undertook. He later proposed to give an overview of the calendar of the main events that marked the parliamentary session in the past few weeks. He pointed out the fact that the calendar of achieved commitments had been strictly observed for the first time, occasionally even moving forward in certain stages in adopting the budgets. The draft budgets received in due time from the Government had already been adopted at first reading. Mr STRELEȚ noted that the projected budget deficit for 2013 is low and it is within the limit of 1.1 %, considerably lower than the requirements imposed by the EU on its Member States. In continuation of this process an ambitious objective was proposed that in an as-near-as-possible future the 2013 budgets be adopted in their final reading. An outcome of the recent events is the appointment of the managers of the institutions, the main mission of which is to fight corruption. He noted the fact that these appointments represent the end of a long process of discussions regarding the competence of these people to ensure the in-depth reform of the institutions in question. The speculations regarding this topic are considered unsubstantiated by the Alliance for European Integration. This action is a sign that the Alliance for European Integration is an efficient and viable body in achieving the commitments it undertook. Then Mr STRELEȚ included on the agenda the immediate objectives of the Republic of Moldova. The first objective refers to continuing the implementation of the legislative actions that would provide the Government full political support in the implementation of the legislative action plans for signing the three agreements regarding free movement of citizens, free trade with the EU and the Association Agreement. Another important objective is to consolidate cohesion, unity and cooperation within the Alliance for European Integration. Any attempt to reshape the Alliance is void of perspective;

it has been proven that it is the interest of the Alliance to continue its mandate at least to the end of the current legislature, i.e. to the end of 2014. Another objective is strengthening parliamentary control. Several laws have been adopted in this regard at a fairly fast pace, and in terms of implementation some deficiencies are to be noted, and here Parliament must be given its parliamentary role to control the implementation of laws and not accept deviations from the norms.

Mr Dumitru DIACOV, President of the PD faction, stated that the Democrat Party is one of the few parties that laid the foundations of this EU–RM cooperation as early as 1998–1999, when the Government programme focused on the cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with the European Union. Around 2005, the communists understood that they should pursue the same direction and they reinforced this message. In the last years, the RM and EU dialogue has been more dynamic, and there have been many achievements during this period, but there are also a series of issues. The political crisis that represented a significant impediment to speeding up the Moldova–EU dialogue was overcome, and the Republic of Moldova has two years to prove that it is a serious partner, observing the undertaken commitments. The ongoing cooperation projects prove that the political environment and political class have matured and found that the only viable objective for the Republic of Moldova is European integration. In Mr DIACOV's opinion the Republic of Moldova should become a positive example of realistic progress for the population on the left bank of the Dniester. In this regard some real steps toward rapprochement with the Transnistrian region should be taken in order to get an integral and sovereign state. He confirmed that the Alliance for European Integration is clearly evolving towards achieving all the undertaken commitments. In what follows, Mr DIACOV noted that the EU needs a stable neighbour that conveys security, democracy and development. PD will make all efforts so that the projects set out are fully completed.

Mr Ion HADÂRC , President of the PL faction, underlined that the Republic of Moldova is heading with small, yet sure steps towards the big European family. The Republic of Moldova has undertaken governance in order to keep on this course not only through statements, but also through actual facts, through promoted reforms, through the consolidation of democracy, through the provision of the appropriate legal framework, through an additional effort to ensure almost outstanding stability under the conditions of a global crisis, regional instability and a constant economic and energy blackmail from the East. The dialogue with the EU is gradually transforming into a sound and predictable partnership; and he expressed his hope that in the near future the Association Agreement will be signed. In their parliamentary endeavour for the current session PL has a few priorities for the areas they monitor within the act of governing:

- 1) rehabilitation of roads, infrastructure development and modernisation;
- 2) protecting the environment;
- 3) adopting the Code of Education and the Broadcasting Code;
- 4) administrative decentralisation.

Mr HADÂRC stated that the in-depth reform of the constitutional framework has been launched, and two options are being discussed in this regard:

- 1) in-depth reform of the current Constitution;
- 2) adoption of a new text of the Constitution.

For the Republic of Moldova, the model of European democracies is important. He stated that they would make all efforts to fully achieve as soon as possible the commitments made to the EU in order to obtain the signature of the Association Agreement, and the Free Trade and Free Movement Agreement. He reminded that in his recent speech delivered at the Berlin Forum on

22 October 2012, Stefan FULE, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, pointed out that 'for the remarkable commitment of the Republic of Moldova, its Government and citizens with regards to our joint initiatives, the EU should anticipate the outcomes of these and set out the areas of cooperation with the Republic of Moldova in order to turn this dream into reality'. Mr HADÂRC expressed his gratitude for the tone of high appreciation and his hope for the continuation of the dialogue with the development partners in order for the Republic of Moldova to return to the natural road of the EU.

Ms Inna UPAC, member of the PCRM faction, mentioned that the last meeting of the EU–RM PCC took place on 29 May in Brussels. Ms UPAC proposed the joint assessment of the implementation of some EU–RM PCC recommendations from that meeting. Point 22 of the Resolution of 29 May 2012 encouraged all political parties to be involved constructively in the political dialogue. Ms UPAC stated that for over a month and a half the colleagues from the government alliance have reflected on how to start the dialogue with the parliamentary opposition more efficiently and came up with the solution on 12 July 2012, when the MPs of the Alliance forbade the use of the hammer and sickle symbol in the territory of the Republic of Moldova; promoting totalitarian ideologies, including communism, has also been forbidden. She expressed the view that the principle of democracy has been defied in this way. These actions have demonstrated that the decision of 12 July 2012 tried to limit the political activity of the parliamentary opposition. PCRM challenged before the Appeals Court the decision of the Central Election Commission that refused to record the election symbol of PCRM. Ms UPAC announced that in the event that this file ends up in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights will apply the practice of a similar case, when a Hungarian citizen was convicted for the use of the Soviet symbols. In that case the ECHR admitted the violation of rights and liberties committed by the Hungarian authorities. Point 27 of the Resolution welcomed the progress with regards to freedom of speech, independence and pluralism of the media, and point 28 endorsed the High Court of Justice in the case of closing the NIT TV station, in compliance with ECHR case law. Six months have gone by since then, but no progress has been noted in the issue of NIT. Ms UPAC announced that at the same time another case of so-called media progress occurred, namely the case of the Unimedia portal. Ms UPAC pointed out in full awareness the fact that the judges' decisions had been influenced by the political decisions in Moldova. She recalled the agreement setting up the Alliance; according to this agreement all state functions are divided, including those that are supposed to be independent, at least according to EU practice, i.e. the judicial system, the Central Election Commission, the Broadcast Coordination Council, the Court of Auditors, the Constitutional Court, and the Intelligence and Security Service. Ms UPAC believed that this resulted in a paradox; PCRM, the party that initiated the dialogue, is today forbidden to use its symbols, pressure is put on its members and supporters, and the citizens that participated in the protest against the Government, filing criminal and administrative files, are intimidated through dismissal on political grounds. The opposition's practice of taking over important state institutions was stopped in 2009. She recalled the survey results. According to these the number of supporters of European integration is decreasing from 70 % in 2009 to 47 % this year. Ms UPAC proposed an honest assessment of the situation, without using slogans such as 'The Republic of Moldova is a success story' or it 'will soon have a free visa regime'. In July 2012 the Government decided to stop compensations for the vulnerable strata of society. Following the enhancements, about 100 schools were closed down by 20 September 2012. In the draft of the state budget for 2013 a considerable increase is stipulated for some state institutions. In Ms UPAC's opinion these resources could have been used more reasonably and more efficiently. Ms UPAC noted that it is very likely that at the end of the

present meeting the Final Resolution would be adopted with a majority vote, with a great deal of praise and back-slapping, as in the previous documents. Similarly, it is very likely that at the present meeting the discussions around each topic on the agenda will be limited to only 10 minutes, an unprecedented case in the history of the EU–RM PCC meetings. Ms UPAC stated that the superficial approach to existing issues and the lack of a critical attitude led to the disappointment of citizens with regard to the idea of European integration, and that they should all reflect together on the way to solve this issue.

In the end Mr Cristian BU OI announced that in the past two years the Republic of Moldova had had a good reputation within the EU, and confirmed that there had been important progress, though he also admitted that there were many things to be corrected. Some of the topics brought to the table by the representatives of the opposition, such as the NIT TV, are issues that had been taken into account by the EU officials. Out of the six countries of the Eastern Partnership, the Republic of Moldova made the most progress in its relations with the EU. Implementing the liberalisation of the visa regime as soon as possible would be a step forward that would reinforce the confidence of Moldovan citizens in the EU. He expressed his desire to encourage the representatives of the governing alliance to have a dialogue with the opposition. Mr BU OI asked Ms UPAC whether in the opinion of PCRM there was anything positive that could be noted in the evolution of the RM–EU relations in the last year beyond the topics discussed by her.

Ms UPAC replied that the only positive thing is the fact that the EU offers considerable amounts of money for the development of certain sectors in the Republic of Moldova. The EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova has to discuss the way in which these resources are used. It would be welcome if the EU officials also came up with an opinion regarding this issue, to carry out at least an audit to ensure the transparency of the allocated money, as the citizens of the Republic of Moldova do not feel the impact of these funds.

Ms Elena B SESCOU asked whether there is a possibility that the Government and the opposition would be reconciled in the Parliament in order to discuss topics of national interest, such as the reform of the Constitution.

Ms UPAC stated that over a period of three years PCRM had submitted a series of draft laws pertaining to the socio-economic development of the country, and that no draft law had been put on the agenda in Parliament. Secondly, in the case in which the Government Alliance has decided to fight the opposition by banning the communist symbols, it is difficult to talk of any political dialogue. Thirdly, with regard to the constitutional reform, at the previous meetings there were lively discussions with Ms MACOVEI who claimed that in the Republic of Moldova there was a constitutional crisis, while PCRM stated that this crisis was actually a political one. In the Draft Recommendations of the current meeting the representatives of the European Parliament had also acknowledged the fact that there was no constitutional crisis, so it was not necessary to change the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

Ms ŽDANOKA asked that the rules regarding time limits for comments and questions be observed. She went on to ask the leaders of the Alliance for European Integration two questions. The first question was whether the leaders of the Alliance consider the Republic of Moldova not to be a European state. The second question, previously also addressed to Mr Filat, was whether the agenda of political dialogue in the Republic of Moldova tackles the topic of the recent trends in the EU, namely the transformation of the Union into a federation, entailing various levels of

participation, and the actual question was what level of participation the leaders of the Alliance for European Integration saw in the process of European integration.

Mr STRELEȚ declared that the first question was difficult to understand and he was confused. At the same time he took this opportunity to note the fact that the opposition representative had exaggerated matters, i.e. through the statements that referred to the division of the institutions of justice, he declared that the Alliance has no control over the ISS, having Mr RE ETNICOV as head of the Parliamentary Sub-commission of control over the Intelligence and Security Service. Mr STRELEȚ noted that Ms UPAC had exaggerated matters when saying that several amounts were set aside in the state budget for the development of the infrastructure of the country and for the development of the country and less for the social sphere, as in terms of actual figures it was not less than during the period when the communists were in power. With regard to the European perspective of the Republic of Moldova, he declared that all those present at the meeting have to be sure of the fact that the Moldovan side considers the Republic of Moldova to be a European state and meeting the European objective of the Republic of Moldova will be pursued, including through constitutional reform.

Mr DIACOV pointed out that the Republic of Moldova had some time ago set itself the objective of European integration, and the plan was to complete this process. He recalled a discussion within the Council of Europe, when the question was asked of whether or not the Republic of Moldova can become part of the EU, as it was not in control of a part of its territory. At that point the Moldovan side answered that if the Republic of Moldova was not accepted, divided as it was, then separatism was being encouraged. Mr DIACOV announced that the Democratic Party was in favour of cooperation with the opposition, but that this cooperation was supposed to be bilateral in order to have a viable dialogue, which was in the interest of the entire country.

Mr Ion HADÂRC replied that out of respect for the people he represents it is desirable that in the future the phenomena of totalitarianism, deportations and organised famine not be repeated, and therefore the Republic of Moldova needed European integration, a total break from the area of blackmail and a total integration into the area of the EU.

b) Legislative reforms in the following areas:

i) Economic and financial policies. Progress in the negotiation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement

Then, due to the fact that Mr Valeriu LAZĂR, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, and Mr Octavian CALMÎC, Deputy Minister of Economy were not present, Ms Inga IONESCU, Head of the General Directorate of Commercial Policies, Ministry of Economy, attended. Ms FUSU asked that Ms IONESCU return to addressing the topic in the second part of the meeting.

ii) Political life and financing of political parties

Mr Iurie CIOCAN, President of the Central Electoral Commission, informed the meeting that in May 2011, CEC carried out two major activities:

1) the institution's Strategic Development Plan for the period 2012–2015 was approved. In this plan the values of CEC are mentioned explicitly: integrity, impartiality, professionalism, independence, transparency and focus on innovation.

2) in November 2011 a working group was set up to draft the proposals for amendment of the law in force, at the chapter regarding the funding of political parties and election campaigns. Some 25 public and non-governmental institutions had been set up within the working group. The Government parties participated in this working group. Some 45 restricted membership meetings and 6 extended membership meetings have been organised in the working group. More than 200 proposals were drafted to amend the legislation in force, i.e. to amend seven laws: The Electoral Code, the Law on political parties, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Law on the Court of Auditory, the Offences Code and the Fiscal Code. Based on these proposals a draft law was worded and proposed to the Government, and would subsequently go on to be approved by Parliament. In compliance with the law of the Republic of Moldova, the CEC has no right of legislative initiative, and all draft laws promoted by the CEC are promoted through the Government. Based on this draft they tried to limit large donors, regulate membership fees, and achieve fairness in allocations from the state budget. They tried to specify the rules of financial records with regards to the resources received by the political parties, and the reporting of such resources to the CEC. He emphasised that an issue that has been categorically identified is the fact that the political parties do not report their financial activity to a body, except for the two months of the election period, when the reports are submitted every two weeks to the CEC. They proposed the enforcement of sanctions for the accepted irregularities, including removal for a certain period of time, or for the entire period of a mandate, of the right to receive funding from the state budget. In this draft they kept the possibility of excluding the candidate from the electoral round, based on a final court ruling. Similarly, the monitoring aspect and the use of financial resources in election campaigns was consolidated. Before drafting this draft law they conducted a study and found that, for example, in the practice of the last five national election campaigns, starting with 2009, the volume of financial resources used in the election campaigns had grown, and the number of donors had decreased, which shows a trend towards oligarchy. They set themselves the aim of establishing some clear rules for the necessary conditions for donating money, and proposed a decrease of the maximum threshold of donations. In the current legislation it is stipulated that a natural person can donate 500 times the average salary into the account of one or more political parties, and corporate entities can donate up to 1 000 times the average salary. They proposed the decrease of these figures, for natural persons to up to 400 times the average salary, and for corporate entities to 70 times. Thus they are trying to stimulate small donations under the conditions of the law. Through this draft law they proposed granting the CEC additional competences pertaining to collecting and publishing financial reports; Mr CIOCAN stated that through this action the CEC does not need to assume any competences of a financial oversight body; they require instead the right to collect these reports, centralise them and present them to the public. If they subsequently find any shortcomings, the CEC will be entitled to notify the competent bodies to carry out a degree of oversight. He noted the fact that special attention was given to the right of persons from abroad to make donations to the political parties. Direct donations are not admitted from outside of the Republic of Moldova; only transfers through the banking system of the Republic of Moldova are accepted. This draft law was submitted for the approval of a series of international organisations accredited in Moldova, and of the parliamentary factions. Mr CIOCAN is of the view that after its approval this draft will be kept as close as possible to the version proposed initially, based on the reasoning that the then Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Centre for Fighting Economic Crime and Corruption, and last but not

least, the parliamentary factions have participated in its wording. Mr CIOCAN announced that two copies of the amendments will be presented to Ms MACOVEI.

Ms MACOVEI considered that financing political parties and election campaigns is a vital anti-corruption measure, and is very difficult for the politicians to accept. She expressed the hope that the CEC would find a compromise on the matter of adopting this draft law in the harshest version possible. Similarly, Ms MACOVEI inquired whether the CEC was working on this draft law with the assistance of the EU and of the Council of Europe.

Mr CIOCAN made the meeting aware that the draft had been finalised and presented this June to the Government, distributed in the form of brochures to all members of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, and the debates in Parliament with regard to this draft were due to start on 30 October 2012.

Ms MACOVEI asked whether there was any other draft regarding the topic under discussion.

Mr CIOCAN confirmed that there was another draft law, drafted by a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. He made the meeting aware that the difference between the existing draft laws amounts to the following:

- The CEC amended the current laws; the Member of Parliament went down the route of creating a new law;
- differences in content; making a comparison, the CEC proposes much tougher conditions regarding the issue of donations, membership fees and sanctions.

Ms Elena B SESCU asked whether the draft had been put up for debate, and when it was estimated that this draft law would enter into force.

Mr CIOCAN answered that this draft law was going to be debated in the plenary session of Parliament. With regard to the period, the Republic of Moldova has the obligation to the Council of Europe, within the limits of the GRECO project, to adopt these amendments by the end of 2012 at least on the bill's first reading. Mr CIOCAN expressed his confidence that this obligation would be honoured enthusiastically.

Mr STRELEȚ intervened with a specific issue regarding this topic. Being one of the stakeholders in the process of debating this draft, he considered that they have the political will and determination to tackle this issue firmly, to regulate clearly the principles of funding the political parties, and considered that the deadline for adopting and studying this law will not be a long one.

Mr CIOCAN stated that all four parties present in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova have delegated their representatives to the working group, and have participated actively in the drafting of this bill, which makes him certain that the bill in question will be adopted fairly soon.

Ms FUSU thanked colleagues for the good cooperation in the first part of the meeting and announced a break in proceedings.

The meeting was adjourned at 13.05 and resumed at 15.30 on 29 October 2012.

The second part of the working meeting

Ms FUSU opened the second part of the meeting at 15.30. The following EU–RM PCC members attended the meeting:

- Moldovan Parliamentary delegation: Ms Corina FUSU, Chair; Mr Ghenadie CIOBANU, Vice-Chair, Ms Inna UPAC, Vice-Chair; Ms Raisa APOLSCHII; Ms Oxana DOMENTI, Ms Zinaida GRECEANÎ, Mr Simion GRI CIUC, Mr Vladimir HOTINEANU, Mr Sergiu ȘÎRBU, Mr Boris VIERU, Mr Miron GAGAUZ, Ms Ana GUȚU, Mr Alexandr PETCOV, Mr Nae-Simion PLE CA and Ms Valentina STRATAN.
- EP Delegation: Ms Monica MACOVEI, Chair; Ms Tatjana ŽDANOKA, First Vice-Chair; Ms Elena B SESCU and Mr Tadeusz ZWIEFKA.

Ms FUSU announced the resumption of the 16th meeting of the EU–RM Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and gave the floor to Ms Inga IONESII, Head of the General Directorate for Trade Policies, at the Ministry of the Economy.

Ms Inga IONESII briefly presented the progress made during the negotiations of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. From the perspective of foreign trade, the EU market remains an important market and a bunch of economic reforms are planned, as well as the implementation of legislation that would ensure the development of a sustainable economy. To date, three rounds of negotiations have been organised. The third round included an exchange of tariff offers pertaining to the access of goods to the market. During the fourth round, which is scheduled to take place on 20–23 November 2012 in Brussels, there will be an exchange of offers regarding the liberalisation of the services market. As regards the legal text of this agreement, the negotiations on all chapters have been finalised. For 2013, two to three rounds of negotiations are planned and the negotiations are scheduled to end by September 2013. Ms IONESII declared that the Moldovan side had made progress in implementing the EU recommendations and revealed the approval of a law on the foundation of the National Agency for Food Safety and the Agency for Consumer Protection. The protection of competition law and the law on state aid were also approved. In terms of standardisation and technical regulations, a law on standardisation and metrology was approved. All these represent a necessary legal framework that allows these negotiations to lead, in a practical way, to a positive result. At the same time, the Transnistrian side, which participated in all the rounds of discussions, is also involved in the negotiation process, as an observer. Periodically, round tables take place with the involvement of finance officials from the Transnistrian region.

Ms Oxana DOMENTII asked if the Ministry of Economy has conducted a multi-factor analysis of the impact of this agreement on the national economy and if this impact was reflected in the medium term expenses for 2014–2015, as the negotiations for this agreement are scheduled to be finalised towards the end of 2013.

Ms IONESII replied that this impact on the budget would be estimated, in real terms, when the tariff offers are decided and the concessions in the field of agriculture and industry, as well as the transition periods, are known. At the time of the removal of customs duties, the state budget will also be affected; at the moment, based on the estimates, this will be reduced by approximately MDL 50 million. She mentioned that the state budget was to be formed not only from the accumulation of customs duties, but that internally, the drawing up of a fiscal policy and the accumulation of tax to the state budget would be analysed. In the framework of the above-mentioned negotiations the transition periods will also be discussed.

Besides this, Ms DOMENTI recommended not to focus on customs duties only, but also on VAT and import and export tax, because these will be affected too if dynamic import and export are recorded. She also indicated that attention should be paid to the labour force sector, as well as to the need for a multi-factor analysis during this negotiation process.

Ms IONESII replied to this remark by saying that VAT is paid anyway for exports, so there will not be any negative effect in this respect. In terms of employability in the various sectors, she replied that some sectors would certainly be affected, but this could not be avoided. For this, a series of draft bills to support the increased competitiveness of the sectors vulnerable during the transition is anticipated. In this regard, a World Bank project relating to the development of the competitiveness of Moldovan businesses has been put together.

Ms Zinaida GRECEANÎI considered that this impact influences economic activity and the activity of the economic operators, because they can become uncompetitive due to energy sources, which are more expensive, and the quality of the labour force. Ms GRECEANÎI noted that, at some point, due to multiple factors, economic operators will no longer have anything to export. The 10-year preparatory phase, in her opinion, might not be long enough for the transition period. The Moldovan side is hurrying to conclude this agreement but, in her opinion, the economy should be raised first to the level of the provisions of this agreement and then the deadline for the completion of this agreement should be negotiated. The laws that are adopted by the Moldovan authorities are adjusted to European standards, and often do not work in the Republic of Moldova.

Ms Oxana DOMENTII intervened with details regarding the economic situation in the Republic of Moldova. In her opinion, there are worrying assumptions regarding the macroeconomic dynamics in the first quarter of 2012. In the first six months of this year, GDP increased by only 0.8 %, the lowest index since the onset of the crisis in 2009. She declared that several economic experts consider that these are the effects of the restrictive policies implemented in 2010–2011. In the first half of the year, stagnation was also recorded in most economic sectors:

- decrease of industrial production by 0.3 % compared with the same period last year;
- decrease of the volume of exported goods by 5 %;
- a 35 % decrease in the flow of domestic and foreign investments;
- a decrease of approximately 40 000 in the number of employed people.

All these factors also affected the state revenue, which decreased by 6 % compared with the planned targets. This situation is also reflected in society in the Republic of Moldova. Ms DOMENTII considered that if the Government did not take urgent measures to remedy the economic situation, then the Republic of Moldova would continue to record an economic downturn.

Ms IONESII announced that the economic crisis on the foreign markets significantly affects the Republic of Moldova's economy. The year 2012 was also a difficult year in terms of weather conditions, with the drought leading to a reduction in export goods.

Ms DOMENTII specified that the indicators presented represented the economic situation in the first half of 2012 and did not reflect the impact of the drought.

iii) Human rights

Ms Tatjana ŽDANOKA made the meeting aware that she is a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs within the European Parliament. Ms ŽDANOKA is also the rapporteur of the European Parliament's legislative resolution on the 'Multiannual Framework' for the 2013-2017 activity of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. The EU was initially formed to ensure trade facilities and a common space for goods and labour. If reference is made to human rights, one refers to the Council of Europe. In recent years, it can be observed that the EU has the ambition to become a champion of human rights. EU Member States undertake additional obligations and, in this respect, more and more directives have been adopted. All these directives are different; some of them even have a narrow objective, but they are extensive in terms of their scope of application, such as, for example, the directive concerning minorities. At the moment, there are many requests submitted by Parliament to the Commission, which initiates legislation, to take on the so-called horizontal objectives of non-discrimination, which cover a broad range of topics and fields of implementation. Referring to the Republic of Moldova and the local legislation on discrimination, Ms ŽDANOKA said that the Moldovan side should be ambitious and implement legislation that would cover a wide range of topics and fields. Her opinion was that this was a chapter that could not be considered to be finalised, and in order to achieve the proposed objective, the Republic of Moldova should work together with the EU.

Ms UPAC intervened with details about how children's rights are being violated in the Republic of Moldova in terms of access to education. According to the official data of the Ministry of Education, by 20 September 2012 approximately 100 schools were streamlined and closed in the Republic of Moldova, specifying that most of them were schools where subjects were taught in the language of the ethnic minorities. Related to this topic, the BBC Russian service ran a story on 25 September 2012 about a case in the village of Ol ne ti in the Itefan-Vod District.

c) Judicial and public administration reforms on fighting corruption and organised crime

Mr Dorin RECEAN, Minister of Internal Affairs, announced that, in the context of the Action Plan regarding the liberalisation of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, the main achievements were the following:

- The law on fighting organised crime, adopted in March 2012;
- The law on special investigation activities, adopted in June 2012;
- The National Strategy for Fighting and Preventing Organised Crime for 2011–2016, followed by an Action Plan for 2011–2012 adopted in December 2011;
- Adoption of the government decision on the establishment of the National Council for the Coordination of Activities for Fighting Organised Crime.

Also, the collaboration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other ministries is important, as illustrated by the following example: in July 2012, the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, as well as with the Ministry of Education made a joint decision with regard to the recruitment of young people in fighting organised crime. An information exchange point was created within the framework of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, which was adopted on 15 November 2000. With the support of the UN, a functional analysis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was carried out, and the result was the integration of the Police and the Border Police into the Ministry of Internal Affairs on 1 June 2012. In order to tackle the challenges of *e*-crime, the Ministry of Internal Affairs plans to establish a special centre, and this plan is expected to be adopted soon. Mr RECEAN expressed his opinion that it is important to establish bilateral and multilateral agreements of common interest in order to have exchanges of experience and collaboration activities with Romania, Poland, Slovenia, Austria, etc. He declared that the alignment of national legislation with EU law would continue and likewise, the involvement of civil society in preventing crime will also be promoted.

Mr Viorel CHETRARU, Director of the National Anti-Corruption Centre (NAC), said that, in the context of anti-corruption reform, he would refer to the efforts to promote a new principle for the organisation of corruption-related activity in the Republic of Moldova, based on a novel idea. The efforts to reform the NAC envisaged to a great extent the consolidation of its institutional capacity. Starting from 1 October 2012, the new law on NAC entered into force, which sets forth new principles regarding its organisation, passing it entirely under parliamentary control, and with amendments to the procedure for selecting and hiring its managers and staff, which allows for the hiring of competent officials. In terms of the anti-corruption efforts, there is a proposal to extend the preventive mandate of anti-corruption, namely the evaluation of the anti-corruption risks that manifest themselves in the various authorities, evaluations that must manifest themselves in concrete actions by the authorities and the purpose of which is to prevent the occurrence of such corrupt activities. Another aspect of the anti-corruption reform pertains to attracting competent people in the public service through actions such as increasing the salaries of civil servants who work in this field. Then, Mr CHETRARU addressed the topic of the modification of the legal framework, especially of criminal trial regulations, which would allow for efficient activities by the authorities in the field of the prevention of, and the fight against, corruption. Thus, important changes have been made in reducing judges' immunity in corruption cases, which allows the authorities to intervene immediately when judges are involved in cases of a corruptible nature. Mr CHETRARU also referred to the implementation of the GRECO recommendations on extending the liability for acts of corruption by public servants, those holding public positions, foreign public servants and international civil servants, new notions for the criminal and criminal trial framework of the Republic of Moldova and important modifications of the legal framework pertaining to the declaration of the interests and income of civil servants. Mr CHETRARU declared that the National Commission for Integrity is an authority which will become operational in the near future.

Mr MACOVEI requested the clarification of certain aspects, including, first of all, the tasks of the NAC, if it carries out investigations in criminal cases and the power it has. Secondly, as Mr CHETRARU referred to the reduction of judges' immunity, Ms MACOVEI was interested to find out what exactly this means and what permits are necessary in order to investigate a judge.

Mr CHETRARU replied that, for the moment, the NAC is an investigation body that also has criminal prosecution competences, which means that, besides prevention activities, the institution is responsible for the investigation of corruption cases, prosecution and the referral of those cases to the prosecutors. There is a specialised authority, namely the Anti-corruption Prosecutor's Office, which subsequently defers such cases to the courts. Another responsibility of the NAC is the prevention of money laundering. Starting with 1 October 2012, the investigation of economic crimes has been transferred to other authorities, in particular the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Customs Service. NAC has competence exclusively over corruption cases and crimes related to money laundering.

Mr PETCOV said that Mr CHETRARU has not been recently appointed Director of the NAC, but he has held this title for almost three years, and he was interested to know if Mr CHETRARU has some answers regarding what should be done and why he has not done all that while he was in his current position. Likewise, Mr PETCOV said that Mr CHETRARU publicly recognised that only 42 % of the cases investigated by the NAC go to court, of which even fewer result in convictions. He also added that Mr CHETRARU, when he was the Head of the NAC, publicly declared that the officers carried out political orders, this statement being considered by the politicians an inconceivable declaration in a state under the rule of law. Mr PETCOV also asked if the political document signed by the governing forces, which assigned Mr CHETRARU's position in a political manner, was still in force.

Mr CHETRARU's answer to this remark was that the NAC is under parliamentary control. He announced that the de-politicisation of this institution, which in its more than 10 years of activity had been used for political purposes, had been discussed in the past. This is why it was insisted on so much that this institution be moved under parliamentary control, in order to ensure efficient control over the NAC. As regards the appointment, he was appointed to this position based on a public open competition, publicly monitored by the mass-media in the country.

Related to this topic, Ms FUSU had some comments. She said that in the first half of the meeting, the leaders of the parliamentary factions had expressed their position regarding the long talks about the candidatures of some people responsible for the three very important institutions, namely ISS, NAC and the National Commission for Integrity. She said that the discussion started from the criterion based on which these institutions should be politically independent, due to which these three directors should be granted a vote of confidence and a period of time to state their professional positions. It is in everybody's interest to decrease as soon as possible the level of corruption existing in RM and admitted by Moldova. Ms FUSU asked the parties present not to criticise, but to wait a while to see the final results.

Ms DOMENTI expressed her opinion that corruption is a general characteristic of power and when anti-corruption measures are presented by the power, this is only a miming of the fight against corruption. She said that as long as the opposition will not be present in such institutions as NAC, the Court of Auditors and CEC to ensure a control over power, all these anti-corruption measures will remain on paper.

Ms FUSU declared that they expect the contribution of the opposition in involving everybody in diminishing the scourge of corruption.

Ms MACOVEI stepped in and asked that these meetings not be used for the political disputes that are present every day in the plenary sessions of Parliament. She reminded the participants that the purpose of these meetings is to cooperate, to have an information exchange and to find solutions. Ms MACOVEI declared that acts of corruption are for those that control power. Secondly, those that have power may decide to fight against corruption from now on. According to Ms MACOVEI's opinion, the opposition is not the only one that has the power to control the anti-corruption institutions.

Mr CHETRARU wished to say that, in terms of the opposition's presence in anti-corruption activities, the College for the monitoring of all processes within the NAC is formed from the representatives of the Centre as well as representatives of civil society.

Mr Oleg EFRIM, the Minister of Justice, took the microphone and presented the evolution of the justice reforms in RM. He said that as a Minister, he tried to analyse the unsuccessful attempts of his predecessors at reforming justice. He noticed that these reforms followed a fragmentary approach. In the summer of 2011, the drafting of a sector-based strategy for justice was started for a medium-length period of time, 2011–2016, which covers the entire range of problems that exist in the justice sector. Mr EFRIM declared that he is proud of this strategy, because it is one of the few important policies unanimously approved in the last three years, having also received the vote of the opposition, which, in his opinion, speaks about the quality of this document. Based on this strategy, an action plan was drafted, which provides a clear timetable for the modifications provided. The costs for the implementation of this strategy have been estimated at around EUR 124 million for the period up to 2016. Thanks to this systemic approach of the government, they became eligible for European funds and, using this opportunity, he thanked the EU representatives for the contribution of approximately 50 % to the funds necessary to implement this strategy. He referred to EUR 52 million in budgetary support, to which another EUR 8 million is added due to the 'more for more' policies. At the end of November 2012 it will be one year since this strategy was implemented and, in general, the timetable with the proposed actions has been observed. The modifications that have been made relate more to the judicial system and Mr EFRIM talked, for example, about approving a legal framework related to admission to the trade, the evaluation of judicial performance and career promotion. These colleges for judicial performance evaluation, selection and career are to be formed by 1 January 2013. Important changes have been made in offering the proper conditions to the magistrates for fulfilling their mission. Briefly summarising this chapter, Mr EFRIM noted that there are two big problems with the justice system: the first one is related to the integration of the players in the field of justice; the second one refers to the conditions under which the magistrates do their job. Further, Mr EFRIM addressed the important reforms implemented with the Supreme Court of Justice, which consist in the reduction of the number of judges by 33 %. With this reduction, the competence of the Supreme Court of Justice was revised; it must on one hand become a real cassation court, and on the other hand, the main preoccupation is the unification of judicial practice. Referring to important anti-corruption measures, Mr EFRIM said that up until 31 January 2012, judges had been immune to any criminal liability, in the sense of the agreement of the Superior Council of Magistracy, for any criminal investigation. Starting with 31 August 2012, the new modifications entered into force, modifications according to which for acts of corruption, action can be initiated by the Attorney General, without the approval of any authority. These measures have been analysed by EU experts. These changes have also been welcomed by civil society, the political class and less so by the representatives of the judicial system. According to Mr EFRIM's opinion, a difficult task follows, and that task consists in

changing the prevailing mentality. Having the objective to achieve independent and fair justice, the proposal is to actively involve civil society, which is rather passive at the moment, in supporting the judicial system. For 2013, the amount allocated for the justice system is 53 % higher than the budget for the current year. This law was approved in Parliament, following two readings, and, related to this topic, Mr EFRIM expressed his hope that by 2016 this allocated budget would continuously increase.

Ms MACOVEI addressed a question related to judicial immunity, namely whether this category also includes the Attorney General.

Mr EFRIM replied that when the topic of judicial immunity was addressed, the Attorney General was not included.

Then, Ms MACOVEI asked if a permit was necessary for an act of corruption, if the suspect could be taken into custody without approval, and if the approval of the Superior Council of Magistracy was necessary to start investigations for any such offence.

Mr EFRIM answered with a simple example: approximately three to four months ago, when this provision had not been in force, the Superior Council of Magistracy was requested to remove the immunity of a judge, who was suspected of corruption. Until this approval was received and until the officers went into the territory, the magistrate had already left. This is a clear proof that there is no need for prior approval when corruption is concerned.

Ms MACOVEI also asked for clarification related to whether the anti-corruption department has a specialised office that handles corruption in the justice system, because, according to her opinion, if people do not trust justice, then they do not trust any other system. Ms MACOVEI believes that the most important task of the Moldovan authorities is to fight against corruption in the justice system.

Mr CHETRARU answered this question, specifying that there is a specialised subdivision which handles offences in the justice system. Yearly, up to 10 cases of bringing to court people who have mediated the corruption of judges are solved, and most of these persons are lawyers. According to the data of the last 10 years, no judges have been sent to court because those cases were considered not to be flagrant.

Mr Valeriu ZUBCO, Attorney General of RM, said that in relation to the reform of the Prosecutor's Office he will refer to Law 294, under which the RM Prosecutor's Office operates, and which was the basis for the first stage of the reform of the Prosecutor's Office starting with 2009. For the first time, a collegial body was formed, which guarantees the independence and autonomy of the prosecutors, namely the Superior Council of Prosecutors, which has two colleges under its subordination: The Qualification College and the Disciplinary College. This Council is formed of prosecutors, civil society representatives, the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General and the President of the Superior Council of Magistracy. Also, through a decision of Parliament, a new structure was decided on for the RM Prosecutor's Office; this structure includes the Attorney General Office, the district prosecutor's offices and the specialised prosecutor's offices. At the moment, there are in RM 44 district prosecutor's offices and 11 specialised prosecutor's offices. In 2010, the number of prosecutor positions was reduced; in 2002–2009 there were 910 prosecutors in the RM Prosecutor's Office, whereas starting with

2010 there are only 773 prosecutors. Following the modifications approved, also due to the approval of Law 231, which envisages a reform strategy for the justice sector, the second stage of the reform of the prosecutor's office has started. This includes three important aspects:

- de-politicisation of the prosecutor's office;
- demilitarisation of the prosecutor's office;
- guaranteeing the prosecutor's independence during proceedings.

One of these stages has already been completed through Law 66, which entered into force on 27 October 2012 and which consists of revolutionary reforms. The latter guarantees the prosecutor's independence during trial and makes him/her accountable for his/her actions. In terms of the de-politicisation of the prosecutor's office, the issue of the appointment of the Attorney General was raised; the relevant study is being finalised and they are ready to come up with proposals to change the legal framework, according to the package provided for the period 2012–2014 regarding the reform of the Prosecutor's Office, where the Attorney General is to be appointed by the Superior Council of Magistracy, and the confirmation of that position is proposed to be done through a presidential decree, thus excluding political involvement. The second problem that needs to be solved is the reorganisation of the military prosecutor's office in RM, by excluding special military ranks by changing the dress code for prosecutors. Another topic is the founding of a new structure of the Prosecutor's Office based on the practice of Spain, Italy and Romania, namely anti-drug and anti-mafia structures. In the near future, Parliament will receive a request to have a specialised subdivision for fighting organised crime, *e*-crime, trafficking of humans and to create territorial services at regional level. Together with the reform of NAC, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office will also be reformed together with its subdivisions, which will no longer be in the newly created structure of the NAC. The project for the strategic development of the RM Prosecutor's Office for 2012–2014 was drafted recently and, subsequently, submitted to public debates with the participation of experts from Slovenia and Denmark, including from civil society. Within the General Prosecutor's Office a specialised section was created to handle the implementation of institutional reforms. Also, through a decision of the Superior Council of Prosecutors a new Regulation was approved recently, on the evaluation of the professional performance of prosecutors, an evaluation which will take place periodically or as the case may be.

Mr Boris VIERU addressed a question to Mr ZUBCO and to Mr CHETRARU about whether there was within their structures a special subdivision that would exclusively handle top-level corruption.

Mr CHETRARU answered this question by stating that within NAC there is no differentiation in topic, and delimitation is done based on form, namely passive or active corruption.

Mr ZUBCO, in his turn, replied that this question is more of a political notion than a legal one, because the Prosecutor's Office does not act based on a higher or lower level of corruption, since the phenomenon of corruption persists at all levels, and this is why there are two structures: the Anti-corruption Prosecutor's Office and the NAC.

Mr PETCOV said that the General Prosecutor's Office is an institution under the influence of certain political players in the RM Parliament. In terms of the de-politicisation of the Prosecutor's Office and the removal of politics from the activities of the Prosecutor's Office, Mr PETCOV was interested to find out to what extent the agreements between the components

of the parliamentary majority regarding the division of the institutions, especially the Prosecutor's Office, remain in force.

Mr ZUBCO replied to this that the Prosecutor's Office is not involved in politics and this is why he will not comment on political statements. He announced that the Prosecutor's Office, in its activity, is governed by the legislation in force.

Then, Mr SÎRBU had a question for Mr ZUBCO. He noted that the project itself, with the recommendations and the modifications on the agenda, includes the topic of unsolved events from 7 April 2009. Mr SÎRBU wished to know whether, in Mr ZUBCO's opinion, RM citizens will ever find out the truth about the events of 7 April 2009, regarding the organisers of the coup d'état attempted on that day.

Ms FUSU intervened with the recommendation not to use labels, the court of law being the one that will decide what that was and how things happened.

Mr ZUBCO replied that RM citizens, and not only they, will find out the truth in the end about the events of 7 April 2009. He explained that such categories of criminal cases need a long period of investigation.

Ms MACOVEI said that she completely agrees with the fact that the prosecutors and the judges have to carry out their activities in an independent way. It is possible for the person in charge of appointing people in these positions to be a political player; the important thing is for that person to not be involved in the split between the parties in the alliance. Prosecutors and judges must be selected based on transparent and competitive procedures. She said she is in favour of taking responsibility for these appointments, because collective institutions are not responsible for this. In terms of the resolutions, here, data about the victims of the event of 7 April 2009 are mentioned. Related to this topic she said that everybody is waiting for the results of the investigations, and that these offences are serious and it should be justice that gives an answer, not the politicians.

Ms FUSU underlined the presence at this meeting of the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Director of NAC and the Attorney General, who are the first people in RM responsible for important institutions that have not been reformed up to the present, and it is due to this fact that RM has a high level of corruption. Ms FUSU ensured the representatives of the European Parliament that the way in which these public servants presented themselves at the meeting gives an optimistic note and their competence should be trusted.

Ms UPAC asked if the General Prosecutor's Office notified itself after information appeared in the European media that the Deputy Vice-President of the RM Parliament, Mr Vlad PLAHOTNIUC, was behind the raider attacks on some banks in Moldova.

To this, Ms FUSU replied that Ms UPAC requested time for a comment and not for a question.

Then, Mr Ruslan CODREANU, Head of the Department for Policies, Strategic Planning and Foreign Assistance, State Chancellery, spoke, and presented the progress made in the reform of central public administration. The period 2011–2012 marked the period when the delimitation of competences related to implementation and regulation policies was done. In 2012, RM

Parliament approved two readings of the draft law on central public administration. In 2011–2012, the implementation of the methodology for the ex-ante analysis of the policies continued, which comes to support the decisions made by the decision makers, and the organisation of a transparent and consultative process during decision making also continued. In the second quarter of 2012, an ex-post evaluation methodology was developed in order to ensure the decision-making process. Regarding the transparency of the decision-making process, 2008 was the year when the law on the transparency of decision making was approved. As regards statistics, in 2012 over 90 % of the legislation was done in consultation by the central public administration, compared to 38 % in 2009. Regarding the professionalisation of public service, he said that there is progress in terms of employment through open competition for public servants' jobs. If in 2010, 16 % of the employment was illegal, in 2011 only 3.1 % of such cases were recorded. Mr CODREANU underlined that the Government is more and more interested in the allocation, professionalisation and motivation of public positions through training, including abroad. During the reference period, the unique list of public servant positions, as well as the new law regarding the salaries for public jobs, the purpose of which is to offer an attractive salary, was approved. Based on the new law on the salaries for public positions, the secondary framework for individual performance evaluation was drafted. The year 2012 is the year when the Open Data Initiative was launched, Moldova being among the first 16 states that signed this initiative. Also, in 2011–2012 all public services rendered by central public authorities were inventoried, which revealed the existence of 583 services rendered for the citizens. In this context, the unique government portal of public services, servicii.gov.md, was launched.

Mr Tadeusz ZWIEFKA expressed his surprise at the fact that some issues addressed at this meeting by some Moldovan MPs and addressed to the Moldovan authorities, have never been discussed in the plenary sessions of the Moldovan Parliament, because, in his opinion, many of the topics on the agenda could have been debated in the parliamentary committees and in the plenary sessions of Parliament. He said that these MPs may not be inclined to discuss such topics in front of the EU representatives. Further, he said that he is a member of the Temporary Committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering in the EU Parliament. Mr ZWIEFKA stated that this Committee started its activity in May 2012, and expressed his hope that in 2013, it will be able to offer new tools in fighting these crimes. He said he intended to visit the Transnistrian region the day after the meeting, because it is a very important topic on the agenda. According to him, the high level of organised crime and the human trafficking in the Transnistrian region are crucial issues, which prevent the development of the region. Recent data show that each year approximately 5 000 people are affected by human trafficking. This region is one of the most popular resources in the field for Eastern European states. He declared that it is in everybody's interest to solve this problem. Mr ZWIEFKA strongly supports the implementation of the DCFTA in the entire Moldovan territory, including the Transnistrian region. He was impressed by the workload done by the Moldovan authorities in aligning the national legislation to European law. He expressed his interest in finding out what actions are planned to be used to fight organised crime, especially in the Transnistrian region, how the cooperation with international bodies works in fighting these crimes and what cooperation procedures exist with the neighbouring countries and the European organisations.

Ms UPAC commented that, according to the democratic principles, the topics tackled should have been discussed in the plenary sessions of the Moldovan Parliament. As a reply, she gave a recent example regarding the fact that the Members of Parliament had requested a parliamentary hearing with the Attorney General, but their proposal was rejected at the time. During this

meeting they took advantage of the presence of the Attorney General, to ask him important questions that concern them.

Mr ZWIEFKA said that, according to the parliamentary procedure, the Ministers may be asked to come to Parliament for meetings, but they may not be visited.

d) Progress in the negotiation of the Association Agreement and of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation

Ms Daniela CUJB , Head of the European Integration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, pointed out the most important landmarks of the process regarding the negotiation of the Association Agreement and of the Action Plan in the field of the liberalisation of the visa regime. The Association Agreement has been negotiated since January 2010, and it should be noted that the Republic of Moldova made considerable progress in the negotiation and in agreeing on the provisions of the future association agreement, in order to achieve the European integration objective of the Republic of Moldova. In the 13th round of the negotiations, which is planned for the end of November 2012 in Brussels, it is planned to continue the discussion regarding the preamble of the agreement and the provisions for the monitoring of the implementation of the future agreement. At the same time, negotiations continue regarding the provisions for creating a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, and the fourth round of the negotiations is planned for this November. In compliance with the aspects agreed on with the Commission, the objective of the Republic of Moldova is to finalise the negotiations of the Association Agreement in 2013, also taking into account the work of the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2013. As of this autumn works also started for drafting, together with the Commission and the European External Action Service, the association agenda that will facilitate the implementation of the future agreement. With regard to the dialogue regarding the liberalisation of the visa regime, the implementation of the criteria included in the first stage of the dialogue with the EU for the visa regime was completed this spring. Currently the authorities of the Republic of Moldova are focused on implementing the conditions of the second stage of the Action Plan, so as to ensure that it will be possible to host the EU evaluation mission soon. At the same time Ms CUJB mentioned that the progress and the good results achieved by the Republic of Moldova in fulfilling the conditions regarding the liberalisation of the visa regime are appreciated by the EU and the EU Member States, the representatives of Moldova being invited to share the accrued experience with the countries of the Eastern Partnership and, on a broader scale, with the states included in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

5. Progress of the negotiations in the ‘5+2’ format for a peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict

Mr Gheorghe B LAN, Head of the Reintegration Office, State Chancellery, stated that the 5+2 format represents the main negotiation platform, its aim being the identification of a viable solution for the Transnistrian conflict. Within the 5+2 format they currently pursue a step-by-step approach and the identification of a special legal status for the Transnistrian region within the Republic of Moldova. From September 2011 to date there have been five official meetings in this format. The first three were dedicated to drafting a series of documents pertaining to the principles and regulations of the negotiation process, as well as the general agenda consisting of three thematic packages: 1) socio-economic matters, 2) human rights and humanitarian issues, 3)

political aspects and security issues. At the last two meetings they managed to move on to the technical stage of the process, and discussed the issues pertaining to the first two thematic packages. Mr B LAN noted that their main position in drafting the agenda of the November 2012 meeting is based on the fact that in order to have more results it is necessary to tackle issues from all three thematic packages. The next round of the negotiations is going to take place on 27–30 December 2012 in Dublin, Ireland. In 2013 the OSCE Presidency will be taken over by the Ukraine, which showed a constructive position in the negotiations in the 5+2 format. Referring to the progress in the area of measures for strengthening trust, he emphasised the restart of freight train traffic in the Transnistrian region and the removal of the expired radioactive elements that are in the territory of the Transnistrian region. Addressing the subject of cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Moldova with regards to the Transnistrian file, he noted the fact that the Republic of Moldova enjoys the support of the EU in solving the Transnistrian conflict through its capacity of observer in the 5+2 format. In this context, the EU allocated about EUR 13 million this year for drafting a series of assistance projects and EUR 28 million is envisaged for 2014 and the following years. A close cooperation with the EU is proven also within the dialogue of the EUBAM border assistance mission, which manages to monitor the Moldova–Ukraine border, i.e. along the Transnistrian segment. In conclusion he stated that in the process of solving the Transnistrian conflict the role of the external partners remains crucial, the priority objective of the Republic of Moldova in this sense being to ensure the benefits of the European integration for its citizens on the left side of the Dniester.

Mr GAGAUZ announced that in his speech Mr B LAN mentioned as a positive factor the opening of freight operations in the Transnistrian region. According to the information of the Ministry of Finance, the Railway Company of the Republic of Moldova ended the first half of 2012 with losses amounting to MDL 114 million. He asked for a comment from Mr B LAN on this fact.

Mr B LAN replied that generally speaking any movement of trains should bring revenues, but regretfully since achieving independence this company has not been profitable. At the current stage there are certain deficiencies in train traffic, as this institution does not operate at full capacity, and it takes time to restart traffic at full volume. He expressed hope that in the future, activity in this segment would meet expectations.

6. Regional cooperation: relations of the Republic of Moldova with Romania, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and within the Eastern Partnership

This topic was tackled by Mr Andrei POPOV, who said that building strategic partnership relations with the neighbouring countries of the Republic of Moldova, such as Romania, the Ukraine and the Russian Federation, is set out as a priority objective in the government programme. These countries are the first three trading partners of the Republic of Moldova, but the importance of building closer relations with these states goes beyond the area of economy, trade or investment. In what concerns Romania, this is the only geographical area that constitutes an interface with the EU, and from which the Republic of Moldova can take over significant experience, accrued in the process of European integration this country underwent. Romania has an important role in the EU, as it supports, from inside the EU, the European aspirations of the Republic of Moldova. He stated that they managed to reach an unprecedented level of bilateral political dialogue, with visit exchanges taking place at the highest level, supported at the same time by cooperation at the level of sectors and ministers. In March 2012 the first joint meeting of

the two governments took place, whereby they signed the Action Plan regarding the Declaration for strategic partnership, signed in 2010. A new format of cooperation was set up, including videoconferences such as those carried out between Prime Ministers Vlad Filat and Victor Ponta in July 2012. During Mr Ponta's visit to Chi in u in July 2012, a joint declaration was adopted with regards to ensuring the energy security of the Republic of Moldova and making progress in achieving a truly strategic programme consisting of the construction of approximately 40 km of gas pipeline for interconnecting Iasi and the Republic of Moldova, through which the Republic of Moldova would obtain an alternative source.

In what concerns the Ukraine, bilateral relations reached a turning point in the middle of 2011, when the two countries managed to break the vicious circle the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine had entered into in 2005–2006, solving amiably the Palanca issue, in compliance with the provisions of the Interstate Treaty with regards to the state border and with the Additional Protocol, ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Rada of the Ukraine in July 2011. The fact that the Ukraine is the transit country for energy resources and for the export of Moldavian products to the eastern markets of Russia, to Belarus and Kazakhstan, Mr POPOV was pleased that the Moldova–Ukraine relations had been unblocked after an approximate five year break, and that in November 2011 the Joint Commission of Commercial and Economic Cooperation of the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine was organised in Chi in u, where they concluded agreements on sensitive issues from the package: the completion of the demarcation; shaping the process of acknowledging the ownership right of the Republic of Moldova over a series of objectives located in the territory of the Ukraine, but also of the Ukrainian right over the hydropower node at Novodnestrovsk; concluding an agreement with regards to the operation of the Dneistrovsk hydropower node; ensuring sustainable development and the protection of the Dniester basin. In this regard the negotiation was completed and the signature of a complex agreement is being prepared. In what followed he acknowledged the constructive role the Ukraine plays in the 5+2 format and noted that consultations are in progress with the Ukrainian colleagues with regards to drafting the agenda of priorities of the current Presidency of the Ukraine within OSCE, during 2013.

With regards to the relations with the Russian Federation it is proposed to raise these relations to the level stipulated in the 2001 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. After a three-year break, when high-level contacts were carried out at the sidelines of multilateral meetings, this September marked the bilateral visit to Moscow and Sochi of Prime Minister Vlad Filat, on which occasion there were complex discussions regarding all the aspects of the bilateral relations with the partners from the Russian Federation. Russia is a fairly important trading partner, a significant market for the sale of Moldavian products and a source of energy resources. It is a country that has multiple leverages in the Transnistria conflict, and the Republic of Moldova wishes to use this constructively in order to find a viable solution for resolving the Transnistria conflict. In what follows he referred to the dimension in the field of energy. The debt of USD 4 billion accrued by Moldovagaz in the last years is due to the fact that the beneficiaries in the Transnistria region do not pay for the gas they consume. In order to solve this issue the colleagues from the Russian Federation were offered a systematic approach covering four areas that would be codified in an intergovernmental agreement; the contract for gas supply in the following years should be signed based on said agreement. These areas concern the following: the formula for calculating the tariff for the gas consumed; the tariff for the transit of Russian gas; finding a solution with regards to the issue of debts and the guarantee provided to investors from

the Russian Federation. With reference to the entire issue of the bilateral relations Mr POPOV stated that it would have to be approached systematically at the highest level for this setting.

Mr PETCOV noted the fact that in the negotiation process with the Russian Federation, at the chapter regarding debts to Gazprom for the past two years they talked about the official figure of USD 1.8 billion and about USD 2.1 billion accrued in over 10 years, and the report presented by Mr POPOV talks about a USD 4 billion debt for the last two years. Referring to the relations with the Ukraine he expressed his wish to be able to share the optimism with regards to the results, especially in the demarcation process, but he had recently witnessed the statements of a public person from the Cadastre Agency, who declared that in the process of completing the demarcation of the Novodnestrovsk–Naslavcea borderline the Republic of Moldova is far from achieving any results.

Mr VIERU, referring to the USD 4 billion debt, inquired whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration or the Ministry of Economy have tackled in their negotiations with Gazprom the possibility to propose losing this debt as a subsidy to the Tiraspol regime. With regards to the modernisation of the Russian army sub-units, he did not notice any reaction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration with regards to the action of the Russian Federation to equip the Russian troops on the left of the Dniester with new technology, and with regards to the Ukrainian transit permission granted for such military equipment.

Reflecting on what had been said so far, namely that Romania is the single interface with the EU, Mr GAGAUZ asked whether it was not considered reckless of the Republic of Moldova to have only one alternative for an interface, and besides Romania, which other state might be considered a quality point of interface with the EU. Addressing the topic of Russia as a trading partner, he asked whether trade was possible without politics. Likewise, he wished to see what were the important barriers in the cooperation with Russia, and whether becoming a part of the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan would be a solution for avoiding these barriers.

Ms DOMENTI asked whether within the cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with the Ukraine, at the chapter regarding the sustainable development of the Dniester River and the operation of the hydro-power plant on this river, they raised the issue of observing Articles 4 and 6 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment, adopted in Espoo, and what the current situation at this chapter was.

Mr POPOV replied that the USD 4 billion debt is a figure verified by the audit and provided by the company Moldovagaz. In the last years the volume of gas consumed by the business operators on the left of the Dniester has grown. In 2011 Moldovagaz purchased from Gazprom a volume of 3.1 billion cubic metres, of which only 1.2 billion cubic metres were directed to the consumers on the right bank, who paid fully for the gas consumed. The partners in the Russian Federation were proposed to separate the debts, and at the next intergovernmental meeting they would see the results. Regarding the subject of demarcation Mr POPOV replied that he had not heard of the statement presented by Mr PETCOV. He declared that the entire area of the 1.222 km Moldova–Ukraine border is divided into three segments. The North and South segment were fully demarcated. On the 50 km Transnistrian segment the process is in full swing. With regards to the modernisation with modern techniques of the Russian Federation army sub-units in the Transnistrian region, in the case of the 20 dual-use ‘Ural’ heavy machines, brought to the

Republic of Moldova from the Russian Federation on 17 August 2012, transiting the Ukraine, this case is being discussed with the colleagues from the Russian Federation. As regards the Russian Federation army presence in the region, it is possible to delimit two large components: the military contingent of approximately 500 that participates in the peace arrangements and the Colbasna warehouse, where there are about 20 000 tonnes of ammunition, some of it expired, a presence that has no judiciary support and that is contrary to the commitments of the Russian Federation, and does not have the approval of the host country. The Moldovan authorities insist on the unconditional withdrawal of this Russian component. In what concerns the question of Mr GAGAUZ, in order to meet its objective of European integration the Republic of Moldova should not be limited to relations with only Romania; on the contrary, Romania plays an important role in supporting the aspirations of European integration of the Republic of Moldova. At the same time the Republic of Moldova welcomes the fact that many European states greet the aspirations of the Republic of Moldova, and encourages other states to welcome the European integration perspective of the Republic of Moldova. With regards to Ms DOMENTI's question, a document was drafted in cooperation with the Ukraine. The Espoo Convention and its provisions are reflected in this agreement which has not yet been signed, and its draft includes a component pertaining to the environment.

7. Discussions and approval of the Draft Rules of Procedure of the EU – Republic of Moldova PCC

Ms MACOVEI proposed that the submitted amendments be read and each amendment be submitted to vote. The adoption of the amendments was subject to the majority of votes expressed by the two parties to the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the European Parliament and the Republic of Moldova. Both the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova (DRM), and the Delegation of the EP, formed of 15 and 4 members, respectively, agreed to this procedure.

The Rules were adopted with 11 votes for and 4 against.

8. Discussion and adoption of the recommendations

The amendments to the draft statement and recommendations have been studied by the two delegations to PCC. The adoption of the 32 amendments submitted in writing was subject to the majority of votes expressed by the two components of the PCC.

The final statement and the recommendations were adopted with 11 votes for and 1 vote against.

8. Other matters

None.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the EU-RM PCC will take place on 24 April 2013 in Brussels.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

16th MEETING
28-30 October 2012
Chisinau

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members

1. Mrs Monica Luisa MACOVEI, <i>Chair</i>	EPP	Romania	Budgetary Control; Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
2. Mrs Tatjana ŽDANOKA, <i>1st Vice-Chair</i>	Greens/EFA	Latvia	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs; Petitions
3. Mrs Elena B SESCU	EPP	Romania	Economic and Monetary Affairs; Petitions
4. Mr Tadeusz ZWIEFKA	EPP	Poland	Legal Affairs; Organised crime, corruption and money laundering;
5. Mr Cristian Silviu BU OI	ALDE/ADLE	Romania	Euronest Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Secretariat

6. Mr Yves MAISONNY, Administrator
7. Mrs Aneta POPESCU-BLACK, Administrator
8. Mrs Beata TURANOVA, Assistant

Political Group Staff

- | | |
|--|------|
| 9. Mr Marek HANNIBAL | EPP |
| 10. Ms Isabelle CLEENWERCK DE CRAYENCOUR | ALDE |
| 11. Mr Ivailo DIMITROV | S-D |

Interpreters

Booth RO

12. Ms Anca TUDORAS
13. Ms Ana-Maria DUSA
14. Ms Roxana-Cristina PETCU

Abbreviations :

EPP	European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	ECR	European Conservatives and Reformists
PSE	Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats	EUL/NGL	European United Left/Nordic Green Left
ALDE	Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe	EFD	Europe of Freedom and Democracy
Greens/EFA	Greens/European Free Alliance		