



Joint statement by the Co-Chairs of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee, MEP Siegfried MUREȘAN and MP Mihai POPOI,

on the 10th meeting of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee

Chișinău, 2 December 2021 – *“The European Parliament and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova held the 10th meeting of their Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) today in Chișinău, in a limited format, due to the Covid-19 related travel restrictions.*

This was our first meeting since the early parliamentary elections of 11 July. Voters gave a strong mandate to reformist forces to pull Moldova out of a protracted political and economic crisis, and to bring it closer to the EU by implementing the Association Agreement thoroughly. Further EU financial support, conditional on fulfilment of previously agreed criteria, will be of paramount importance in this regard.

We strongly support the Moldovan authorities’ ambitious reform agenda based on common values of respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We also took stock and welcomed the impressive list of key legislative initiatives already passed in past months by the Parliament of Moldova, in line with the expectations voiced by the Moldovan voters, in areas such as the fight against corruption, the reform of the judiciary, the increase in allowances and pensions or the digitalisation of the economy. We have applauded its recent ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (‘Istanbul Convention’). We have also welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on a joint framework for parliamentary democracy support between the European Parliament and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.

As our countries are being hit hard by the new wave of Covid-19 pandemic, we have very much welcomed the EU’s continued solidarity with Moldova in these difficult times, exemplified by the delivery of one million doses of vaccines via the COVAX platform with Team Europe’s support, or the drafting of an extensive Economy Recovery Plan for Moldova.

Also, we have appreciated the EU’s prompt reaction to the recent gas supply crisis artificially triggered by Gazprom, and its assistance in the form of technical expertise and emergency financial support. Albeit provisionally resolved, this episode further underscores the need for diversification of our energy providers and supply routes.

Last but not least, we have reiterated our support for a comprehensive, peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria.”

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