



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Plenary sitting*

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**A7-0300/2010**

29.10.2010

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Moldova in Union programmes (10496/2010 – C7-0330/2010 - 2010/0102(NLE))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Graham Watson

***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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## **DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

**on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Moldova in Union programmes  
(10496/2010– C7-0330/2010 - 2010/0102(NLE))**

**(Special legislative procedure – consent)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the draft Council decision (10496/2010),
  - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, concluded on 28 November 1994<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council pursuant to Articles 114, 168, 169, 172, 173(3), 188, 192 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), Article 218(7) and the second subparagraph of Article 218(8) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C7-0000/2010),
  - having regard to Rules 81 and 90(8) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A7-0300/2010),
1. Consents to conclusion of the Protocol;
  2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of Moldova.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 181, 24.6.1998, p. 3.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Moldova and the European Communities was concluded on 28 November 1994 and since 2004 Moldova has been included in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

On 5 March 2007<sup>1</sup> the Council endorsed the approach outlined in the Commission Communication “on the general approach to enable ENP partner countries to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes”<sup>2</sup>. This communication envisages the possibility for the ENP countries to participate in selected Community programmes and agencies as a measure to promote reform, modernisation and transition. The draft recommendation under consideration deals with the participation to such Community programmes of the Republic of Moldova, following its expressed request.

On 18 June 2007, the Council issued directives for the Commission to negotiate Framework Agreements on the general principles for the participation of Community programmes with thirteen Neighbourhood countries. The negotiations with the Republic of Moldova began in March 2008.

The Protocol contains a Framework Agreement on the general principles for participation of Republic of Moldova in Community programmes and Agencies and includes the standard provisions contained in such protocols for ENP countries. Therefore the participation in each programme requires the drafting of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed by both parties. Furthermore the participation of ENP countries does not concern all Community programmes, since their statutes and objectives do not always allow for such participation. Three categories of agencies and programmes exist: open to participation<sup>3</sup>; those for which cooperation is possible<sup>4</sup>; and those for which no cooperation or participation are possible<sup>5</sup>.

Republic of Moldova shall contribute financially to the specific programmes it participates in. The financial implications vary from programme to programme and are determined in the MoU.

The conclusion of the Protocol would permit the gradual opening of or reinforced participation in certain Community programmes for Moldova, offering an opportunity to promote further cultural, educational, environmental, technical and scientific links, in addition to the reinforcing of the political relations through the Eastern Partnership and the negotiations of the new Association Agreement.

Finally, political stability and democratic development are essential for the comprehensive implementation of the Protocol and to enable the conclusion of the necessary MoUs. The current constitutional stalemate in Moldova is therefore a concern that should be addressed promptly and efficiently. The failure of the constitutional referendum on 5 September 2010 is

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<sup>1</sup> GAERC Conclusions of 5 March 2007.

<sup>2</sup> COM (2006) 724 final of 4 December 2006.

<sup>3</sup> For instance: EEA, EFSA; Customs 2013, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, etc.

<sup>4</sup> For instance: EUROFUND, EASA; HERCULE II, Pericles, Marco Polo, etc

<sup>5</sup> For instance: CEDEFOP, ETF; European Union Solidarity Fund, etc.

regrettable as it would have provided a respite from the constitutional crisis. It is essential for Moldova to proceed with the implementation of the ENP Action Plan and of the reforms it has set out in the document "Rethink Moldova". Holding of elections, as required by the constitution is essential for the future stability and prosperity of Moldova and the development of its relations with the EU. All parties should unite to find a solution and reflect the confidence of the Moldovan people for a European solution. The EU and Council of Europe have provided significant assistance and should continue to do so to overcome this impasse in a timely manner.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	28.10.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 49 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gabriele Albertini, Pino Arlacchi, Franziska Katharina Brantner, Frieda Brepoels, Elmar Brok, Arnaud Danjean, Mário David, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Tunne Kelam, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Alexander Mirsky, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols, Kristiina Ojuland, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Vincent Peillon, Alojz Peterle, Hans-Gert Pöttering, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Adrian Severin, Charles Tannock, Zoran Thaler, Geoffrey Van Orden, Kristian Vigenin, Graham Watson
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Christian Ehler, Kinga Gál, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Barbara Lochbihler, Norbert Neuser, Vittorio Prodi, Potito Salatto, Judith Sargentini, Marietje Schaake, Traian Ungureanu, Renate Weber