

**Question for written answer P-006318/2017/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Michał Boni (PPE)

Subject: EU-Moldova cooperation in the context of funding from the EU budget

Proceedings have been brought against Moldova before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes at the World Bank in Washington relating to the 1993 United States-Moldova Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) by an EU citizen, Mr Zbigniew Grot (who also has American nationality). This is a continuation of cases brought in Moldova in which the first-instance and appeal courts and the Supreme Court all ruled in favour of Mr Grot, confirming that Moldova had unlawfully terminated a mutual agreement. This situation can be interpreted in various ways, but the independent consultants Deloitte have estimated the losses incurred at USD 18 million. In accordance with the BIT, if a case was brought to court both parties were to bear the costs of the arbitration on a joint and several basis. Moldova, however, refused to pay, seeking to avoid the trial and ignore a basic provision of the mutual agreements. In light of the above:

Since Moldova is failing to abide by the agreement with the United States, is the Commission satisfied that it will respect the agreements signed with the EU, and that the Commission's recent decision to transfer EUR 100 million in 2017 will be implemented in compliance with all the procedures?

How does the Commission intend to protect those citizens who are planning to set up a business in Moldova, so as to avoid similar situations?