EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004 *2009*

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2007/0182(CNS)

9.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation
(COM(2007)0504 – C6-0000/2007 – 2007/0182(CNS))

Draftsman: Jan Marinus Wiersma

PA_Legapp

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Your draftsperson welcomes the swift conclusion of the negotiations on an agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on readmission, which was negotiated in parallel with, and makes possible, the agreement on the issuance of visas.

The agreement will intensify cooperation between the EU and Moldova in a number of important areas, including cross-border travel, border control, migration management and the fight against illegal immigration. The agreement will also help to tackle corruption and cross-border organised crime. In particular, as long as a comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict is not reached, closer cooperation between the EU and Moldova in this area should help to combat illegal activities originating from Transnistria. On the other hand, the agreement should not lead to unjustifiable restrictions on the freedom of travel of any Moldovan citizens.

The Commission is asked to provide all due assistance to support Moldovan authorities in their efforts to honour the commitments arising from the agreement.

Your draftsperson calls on the Moldovan government to ensure timely and effective implementation of all necessary provisions, so as to ensure a smooth entry into force. Cooperation in this important area should equally contribute to the overall strengthening of the rule of law in Moldova and its judicial and enforcement institutions. Your draftsperson calls on the Moldovan government to seize the agreement as an opportunity to bring law-enforcement practice closer to European practice.

Your draftsperson emphasises that the agreement aims also to ensure full compliance with international obligations related to human rights and the protection of asylum seekers and refugees.

Your draftsperson calls on both parties to proceed to a swift ratification so that the two agreements can enter into force on 1 January 2008.

******

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose approval of the Commission proposal.

PROCEDURE

Title	Agreement between the EC and Moldova on readmission
References	COM(2007)0504 - 2007/0182(CNS)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFET
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Jan Marinus Wiersma 12.9.2007
Discussed in committee	9.10.2007
Date adopted	9.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 8 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Michael Gahler, Anna Ibrisagic, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, Samuli Pohjamo, Charles Tannock, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García