



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the Fourth session Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards
of the Economic Commission for Europe
delivered by Mihaela GORBAN, Head of International Cooperation Department
within the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon colleagues.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Moldova delegation is very pleased to participate at the Fourth session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards of the Economic Commission for Europe, therefore we would like to express our gratitude for giving us the possibility to share the information of our country as a follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

Dear colleagues,

As a result of a review of the regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Moldova carried out by the UNECE, a Needs Assessment has been developed, containing **38 recommendations** for eliminating the identified barriers. Immediately the Government of the Republic of Moldova launched a concerted effort to address the business environment and foreign trade conditions using the evidence based analysis of the study, which creates a factual solid background for measures to be undertaken. As such, it has integrated the recommendation into the National Action Plan for implementing the country's commitments under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The draft of the Action Plan was a result of a broad consultative process with active participation of all stakeholders: Business community, Public authorities, Donors community (WB group, UNECE) and international experts. In this order I would like to emphasize that **the Republic of Moldova has chosen a broader approach to trade facilitation**, addressing also relevant elements of technical barriers to trade and market surveillance issues. By selecting this approach, Moldova wants to promote high inter-dependence among these issues, thus enhance prioritization and coordinated action. **The National Action Plan for Trade Facilitation was adopted on 12 December 2017 pursuant to Government Decision No. 1065.** The Plan comprises **92 actions** divided into **20 thematic chapters** and **35 articles**. Through the main areas of intervention of the National Action Plan, I would like to underline the following: **Access to information, ensuring transparency in trade regulation** (Trade Portal, guides, authorities webpages, information points, consultations in decision-making); **Ensuring predictable rules for carrying out trade** (Notifications,

prior decisions, regulated detention procedures, tests, trade-related taxes, applicable and appropriate sanctions); **Simplifying administrative procedures applicable to trade** (Developing AEO, simplified customs procedures, urgent deliveries, perishable goods, single window for trade implementation (**June, 2018**), NCTS (Electronic Transit System) implementation); **Implementation of modern information technologies in state control procedures of commerce and automation of business interaction processes** (Up-grade ASYCUDA, update Customs Code, development of electronic customs clearance, implementation of electronic procedures at other agencies, use of electronic documents); **Improving necessary infrastructure and foreign trade control.**

Dear colleagues,

As regards the implementation of the UNECE recommendations integrated in the National Action Plan on Trade Facilitation Agreement, I would like to inform you about the following:

TRANSPARENCY AREA recommendations no1 and no.2

- In order to consolidate public-private sector consultative mechanisms and bolstering the information dissemination function, the Republic of Moldova undertook a lot of actions to identify assistance for **developing the technical design of the Trade Point commercial modular information system, and updating the official websites of the Customs Service and National Food Safety Agency (NFSA) are in progress. The Integrated Customs Tariff of the Republic of Moldova (TARIM) has been updated and is accessible – the database is accessible directly on the Customs Service website, from where detailed information on tariff quotas, tariff preferences, tariff and economic policy measures applicable to goods imported / exported to / from Moldova can be found; We continue the efficient activities to improve visibility and communication relating to AA/DCFTA between Republic of Moldova and EU: conducting opinion survey and detailed qualitative research into public and businesses' awareness and information needs related to AA/DCFTA; developing and utilising a web platform (EU4Business) and social media networks to provide information for businesses and the public; creating an "Online News Bureau" to provide factual information about AA/DCFTA implementation and opportunities; providing information and details of available support to businesses online and through "One-Stop Shop" bus tours of regions to assist businesses to take advantages of opportunities and overcome challenges in relation to DCFTA; Public awareness-raising programme. Action include: organising three national communications campaigns; producing and disseminating 15 video spots; organising 40 training sessions/workshops/visibility events throughout the Republic of Moldova. **In addition, all the new legislative acts concerning trade matters are consulted with interested stakeholders and a regulatory impact assessment is requested before being submitted to the Government for approval.****

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS AND TRADE DOCUMENTS (no3 and no4). Address instances of repetitive submission of documentary requirements, including those associated with commercial exchange between the two banks of River Nistru – from the perspective of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure I would like to draw the attention that at present the Moldovan authorities offer to all economic agents registered from left bank of the river Nistru unhindered access to all internal procedures for obtaining documents accompanying goods (eg certificates of origin) for export to the external markets. As regards access to the necessary information on customs procedures and other mandatory elements, we mention that this is stipulated in the Government Decision no. 815/2005 "on the regularization of the traffic of goods and services which are the object of the foreign

trade activity of economic entities in Transnistria, as well as the provision by them of the electronic communications networks and services" and in the Government Decision no.1001 / 2001 "Regarding the declaration of goods by the economic agents from the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova". **The total number of economic agents registered at the State Registration Chamber performing export / import operations is 2439**, of which permanent - 473 and temporary 1966.

Recommendations from no 6 to no22 my colleague Mr Iurie Ceban, Deputy Director of the Customs Service will present the report.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICAL SERVICES no 23 and no 24. Among main achievements, I would mention: Approval of Road Transport Code in the national legislation - entered into force from 1 January 2017 for all transport operators; Establishment of the Naval Agency of the Republic of Moldova; Approval of the Regulation on the inland transport of dangerous goods; Approval of the Regulation on transport of dangerous goods by road transport; Approval of the Regulation for reducing the emissions from air-conditioning systems in motor vehicles; A project of a new Railway Code has been drafted; implementation and ensuring the activity of Dispute Settlement Council by amendments to the "Regulation of National Agency of Road Transport" according to Government Decision no. 258 from 28.03.2018 whose composition and regulation of activity are approved by the Director of Agency.

TECHNICAL REGULATION no 25, 27

STANDARDISATION

- Adoption of 18700 EU standards and withdrawal of conflicting standards process
- To obtain the full membership of international bodies in the field of standardisation.

ACREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT:

- On October 5th 2017 Multilateral Agreement Council of EA has taken the decision of accepting MOLDAC into the community of MLA signatories. As a result there has been signed Bilateral Recognition Agreement (EA BLA).
- MOLDAC has become a Full Member of International Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (ILAC) by signing on October 1, 2017 ILAC-MRA agreement.
- Introduced modification into a number of documents in MOLDAC Management System, thus improving them and better harmonizing them with European and international requirements.
- MOLDAC has introduced modifications to the Regulation of Accreditation Council's operation and functioning, thus established a new composition of the Council.
- MOLDAC has accredited 123 conformity assessment bodies: laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies.

METROLOGY:

- NMI became an associate member of WELMEC (11.05.2017) and EURAMET (17.05.2017);
- The Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions (COOMET) reconfirmed the recognition the Quality Management System implemented by INM based on the reference standard SM SR EN ISO/CEI 17025:2006 (Certificate no. QSF-R52 from 31.01.2018);

- NMI has published, on the International Bureau for Weights and Measures (BIPM) website, its Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMC tables) in the area of length (29.10.2017). Thus, NMI has CMC tables published in the area of thermometry, ionizing radiation and length.
- Ongoing inter-laboratory comparisons at international level in the framework of COOMET (22 comparisons), EURAMET and 17 national comparisons;
- The National Database of Measurement Standards comprises 15 standards. In 2018 - two more standards to be modernized/declared.
- NMI also has cooperation agreements with National Metrology Institutes from **Romania** (INM and BRML), **Belarus** (BELGIM), **Czech Republic** (CMI), **Turkey** (TUBITAK UME), **Poland** (GUM), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (IMBIH) and is in the process of signing agreements with Uzbekistan and Ukraine (Kharkov).
- NMI has created a *Conformity Assessment Body* based on MID and NAWI European Directives, which is now in the process of accreditation.

MARKET SURVEILLANCE:

- Elaboration of the Regulation on the functioning of the national information and communication system for market surveillance and information. **913 economic agents** were advised by CPA: **14 roundtables**, with business areas from different fields of activity, where 250 economic agents were consulted; **3 information campaigns** - consulting 195 economic agents; **55 consultations** were carried out - consulting 109 economic agents; telephone consultation was granted to 187 economic agents; **172 petitions** / notifications / minutes examined; **116 media appearances** (TV, Radio, written press, live shows, etc.), 2 advertising spots; **24 press releases**, 9 useful information, 16 success stories were placed on the web page; web page has been viewed by 121410 individuals; a total of **7535 leaflets** / cards were distributed.

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES:

- With the support of the Project (MAC-P), the National Food Safety Agency - launched **4 veterinary and phytosanitary Border Inspection Points (BIP)** at Tudora, Criva, Giurgiulești and Leușeni (*WB support*);
- Operational procedure PO-05/03 **Notification of the alert system for food and feed RASFF** at the central of the NFSA - elaborated and approved;
- Project (MAC-P), in the year 2017, the **laboratory for testing of the quality and health of plants, feed and food** in Bălți district was built and put into operation (*WB support*);
- **LIMS Information System** is functional and allows faster monitoring of the results of the investigations and the stage of the required investigation;
- The Law **No 160 of 22.07.2011** on the regulation of authorization of entrepreneurial activity was amended **21 September 2017**, thus reducing the number of permits issued by the NFSA from **34 to 8**, therefore excluding the sanitary-veterinary permit for import, export and transit.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION NO 33

The Government considers the DCFTA with the EU, the FTA with CIS, the Central European Free Trade Area and the FTA with Turkey as complementary cooperation arrangements, which, together, provide the country with the opportunity to establish a conducive environment for business development, investment attraction, and consolidating a **development hub between the east and west**. The Republic of Moldova has launched the negotiations on the FTA with EFTA countries, China and examines the possibilities of

FTA with other trading partners. The analysis also shows that the existing bilateral and regional cooperation arrangements provide a conducive environment

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT no 34-no 36:

- Optimization of the number of permissive acts (from 416 to 151), which led to a decrease of the administrative burden by 70%;
- Optimization of the number of control institutions, (from 58 to 18), along with the digitalization of the control processes. The guiding principle of the reform is to request minimum documentation and ensure maximum transparency, priority being given to electronic documents;
- **Establishment of the One stop shop, which will be launched in May 2018;**
- Optimization of the reporting system as of January 1st, 2018 (1 report instead of 5);
- Simplification of the voluntary business liquidation procedure, including cost and time cuts, optimization of the procedures and the period of liquidation of the taxpayer.
- In order to develop the SME sector, a set of Financial Support Programs and Access to SME Training is implemented, in this regard, information and financial support is provided in the form of grants to small and medium-sized enterprises, such as the Programs: PARE 1 + 1 Remittance Income Economy Program, PNAET's Economic Empowerment Program, Efficient Business Management, The Loan Guarantee Fund and the "Women in Business" Program, the Business Incubators Network.
- As opportunities for attraction of the foreign investors are the Free Economic Zones, Industrial Parks and IT Parks – which are a innovation for the Republic of Moldova. In 2017 within the FEZ were attracted 115 million US dollars (the total volume of FDI for the entire activity period exceeded 400 million US dollars). In 2017 within the ZEL were created approx. 4 thousand new places of work (about 12 thousand new places of work were created for the entire period of activity). **10 projects** have been launched for the creation and development of industrial parks The first **IT Park “Tekwill”** established in Chisinau, comprises **100 resident companies** with a turnover of over **1 billion lei**. The estimated growth in the number of active IT companies is from 400 to 1000; of IT companies with foreign capital - from 150 to 250; in the number of employees in the IT industry from about 7,000 to 12,500, as well as the sector turnover increase up to USD 270 million and the IT exports increase from 1.5 billion lei to 3.5 billion lei per year. Now, we intend to launch **2 others IT Parks**, in the northern and southern regions of the country.

AGRI INDUSTRIES no 37 and 38. Launch targeted technical assistance programmes for food producers to enable them to implement the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) principles. 38. Launch targeted, sector- focused programmes to develop the productive capacity of farmers and industries.

Dear colleagues,

Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure organised a coordination with relevant on-going donor projects to optimise their involvement in the implementation of the Action Plan. The objective of coordination has been to also demonstrate and promote a clear link of trade facilitation agenda with the implementation of other important agreements such as DCFTA between the Republic of Moldova and European Union. The first analysis of the currently available support shows that it consists mainly of technical assistance. Additional resources will be needed especially: Development of **ASYCUDA** functionality, Development of notification and alert system; Creation of **Trade Points**; Enhancement of Customs infrastructure; Laboratory testing; Enhanced systems for urgent deliveries; Risk management;

Development of analytical tools to identify high-risk transactions (for use by NFSA and NATA); Development of the e-NFSA integrated information system; Strengthening national standardization process; Enhancement of transit regime (Upgrading of Border Police IT system, Improvement of border crossing infrastructure); Enhancing capacity of **MOLDAC**, Launch targeted, sector- focused programmes to develop the productive capacity of farmers and industries. **In order to secure the necessary funding Moldova intends to organize a donor conference dedicated to the implementation of TFA during the current year.**

I thank you.