

Protocol
of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Commission between the
Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia on Economic, Industrial,
Scientific and Technical Cooperation

The First Session of the Intergovernmental Commission between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held on November 27, 2008 in Chisinau.

The Moldovan Delegation was headed by Mr. Iurie Muntean, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Republic of Moldova.

The Latvian Delegation was headed by Mr. Kaspars Gerhards, the Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia.

The members of the delegations of both Parties are listed in Annexes I and II.

The Parties adopted the agenda for the First Session of the Intergovernmental Commission (Annex III).

During the First Session the following decisions and recommendations were reached:

1. Cooperation in economics and trade

The Parties informed each other about the current economic situation in the Republic of Moldova and The Republic of Latvia.

The Moldovan Party effectuated an evaluation of current economic tendencies and emphasized measures taken for the development of a market economy in the Republic of Moldova.

The Parties recognized the present conditions of bilateral economic relations as

satisfactory. At the same time, it was agreed that the present relations are not reflecting the real potential of the two countries.

The Parties agreed to make common efforts in order to intensify cooperation between the two countries, especially by promoting trade of products and services, by attracting foreign investment and by increasing the participation in the development of bilateral cooperation in the private sector, especially the participation of small and medium enterprises.

The Moldovan Investment and Export Promotion Organization (MIEPO) and the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia noted the possibilities of cooperation in trade and investment.

The Parties exchanged opinions and agreed to launch the following activities of mutual interest:

- intensification of the exchange of information related to bilateral and multilateral trade promotion activities;
- identification of possible areas of trade and investments with a potential of increasing the trade flow between both countries and the development of common, high quality investments projects;
- intensification of the cooperation between MIEPO and Latvian organizations – Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry etc.;
- implementation of regular experience exchange between relevant authorities of both countries on entrepreneurship development and entrepreneurship support mechanisms;
- cooperation in organizing economic missions, business forums, exhibitions and fairs for the purpose of supporting bilateral co-operation between Moldova's and Latvia's entrepreneurs.

2. Cooperation in the following sectors:

2.1. Agriculture and wine industry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia characterized the current situation in the agricultural sector of both countries and reconfirmed common interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in this sector.

In order to contribute to the growth of trade of agro-industrial products and the diversification of exported/imported product types, the Parties reached an agreement to exchange information related to export potentialities and decided to invite representatives from agricultural sector of both countries to participate in exhibitions, fairs, seminars, conferences and forums dedicated to agricultural issues.

The Veterinary-medicine diagnostic center of the Republic of Moldova and the Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Latvia are already successfully engaged in a joint project - "The optimization of the Moldovan Food and Veterinary surveillance system". Both Parties have expressed their willingness to continue the successful cooperation in future.

The Parties have agreed on the following:

- continue to exchange information on technical assistance to ameliorate the legislation in the veterinary - sanitarian and fito-sanitarian field according to the EU standards;
- exchange experience between the veterinary - sanitarian experts in the field of internal procedures related to inspection and the control methods or\and the sanitarian veterinary inspection in the food industry units;
- develop and strengthen practical and scientific cooperation between experts of agriculture in Moldova and Latvia, mutual participation in international projects and exchange of information in the agro-industrial field.

The Agro-industrial Agency "Moldova- Vin" presented the current situation in the wine industry and confirmed increasing interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation. At the same time, the permanent and operative information about the formal modifications in normative documents which could have an impact on the Parties' interests was discussed. The Moldovan Party solicited the Latvian Party for mutual practical and methodological assistance to realize promotion programs, study the regulation, verification and appreciation methods of different product categories and their compliance with EU regulations.

2.2. Industry

In order to intensify cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia in the industrial sector, the Parties agreed to examine the possibilities of cooperation and establishment of joint enterprises, in prior economic branches of Moldova, including organizing informational visits in the following sectors: light industry, machine and equipment manufacturing, electronic industry and cardboard manufacturing.

2.3. Standardization, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment and consumer rights

The Parties noted the importance of co-operation in standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment (i.e. certification, testing, inspection) fields to contribute to mutual collaboration. The Parties agreed to ensure implementation of the following activities of mutual interest:

- exchange of experience on collaboration with CEN and particularly with TC/CEN;
- exchange of experience on adoption of EN standards in the Republic of Latvia, the policy for their translation into Latvian;
- exchange of experience of application of the EN standards in English: opportunities and risks;

- the organization of the National Technical Committees, their involvement in the standardization activities of medium and small enterprises, etc.;
- exchange of experience related to the creation of legislative norms regarding consumers rights protection, practice of informing consumers, involvement of nongovernmental institutions in consumers rights protection;
- collaboration and exchange of information and experience in the field of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

2.4. Development of material reserves

The Parties noted importance and mutual interest of cooperation in the field of material reserves and agreed to continue cooperation.

In order to strengthen and intensify close relations between the institutions from the same sector, the Parties discussed a possibility to organize a visit of Moldovan experts to Latvia in order to exchange experience in the field of development of material reserves.

2.5. Regional development

The Ministry of Local and Public Administration of the Republic of Moldova expressed its interest in initiating cooperation with Ministry of Regional Development and Local-governments of the Republic of Latvia and organizations responsible for the regional development policy.

In this context, the Latvian Party was informed about the Moldovan local public administration reforms. The Moldovan Party explained that the regional development policy is a promising field for cooperation and sustained the necessity of long-term activities for the development of relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia in this sector.

The Parties expressed their firm belief that establishing of relations will contribute to progressive development of both states, and agreed to exchange

experience in the following fields:

- local government issues;
- middle term development planning;
- regional development policy;
- management of EU support program's.

2.6. Statistics

The Parties considered intensification of collaboration in the field of statistics, which would insure the performance of the comparison of statistical data, mutual exchange of statistical information related to social economic situation of the countries.

2.7. Health care

The Moldovan Party expressed its interest in continuing and extending the bilateral cooperation in the field of medical science and health protection, especially regarding reforms in the hospital sector and in the pharmaceutical industry development.

The Parties agreed to promote the cooperation between institutions of the health protection system of both countries.

The Moldovan Party submitted the following proposals for activities and cooperation:

- put into practice the experience of Republic of Latvia related to the creation of an efficient management system of the medical service quality in the Republic of Moldova, according to the standards of EU;
- organization of bilateral study visits, as well as workshops in the Republic of Moldova, with the participation of Latvian experts in order to increase the capacity of the Ministry of Health in the elaboration of policies, aimed towards the increase of the health care system performance, the access of the population to basic medical care and

secure cost-efficient medical treatment foreseen in the medical insurance;

- establishing direct collaboration between the educational institutions from the medical and pharmaceutical fields, in order to organize internships and trainings for Moldovan students and young specialists from this field, in the institutions of the Republic of Latvia;
- exchange of information and experience related to the controlling of contagious diseases, especially of tuberculosis and HIV/ AIDS, and major non-infectious diseases (cardiac diseases, diabetes, cancer, etc).

2.8. Tourism

The Parties recognising the significance of tourism development and the contribution of tourism in the economic, cultural and social life of the countries and emphasizing the existence of possibilities to increase mutual tourist flow have agreed on the following:

- the Parties shall favour close co-operation between the national tourism administrations and national tourism organisations, as well as other organisations involved in the development of international and domestic tourism;
- the Parties shall invite tourism companies from both countries to participate in exhibitions, fairs, seminars, conferences, forums in the field of tourism. Latvia is inviting Moldovan tour-operators to participate in the international event for tourism professionals “Buy Latvia, Buy the Baltic’s” to be held in Riga, Latvia on February 2-6, 2009 organised in conjunction with the tourism fair BALTTOUR.

2.9. Development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The Parties positively assessed the productive cooperation between the Ministry of Information Development of the Republic of Moldova and the

Secretariat of Special Assignments Minister for Electronic Government Affairs of the Republic of Latvia within the framework of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Cooperation in the field of Information Technologies (signed on 24th August 2007), The Parties exchanged opinions about attained achievements - the visit of ICT officials of Moldova in Latvia for exchange of experience in the e-services development area on March, 2008 and common Development Cooperation e-Government project for future EU integration processes on October, 2008, and agreed to extend cooperation in future.

Latvian Party proposed to transfer knowledge and experience of the Latvian IT Cluster in the area of informatization of financial sector (Banks, Insurance), as well as in any field connected with lifelong learning, retraining and implementing improved life quality activities using e-Learning system. The IT Cluster offers generally to introduce computer-based training and competency management development and implementation. One of the methods for transferring knowledge and experience would be organizing workshops in one or the other country.

Latvian Party invited representatives of the Ministry of Information Development of the Republic of Moldova and other organizations and enterprises which work in the field of ICT to participate in the 13th International Forum „Baltic IT&T 2009”, in Riga, 1-3 April, 2009.

The Parties exchanged opinions and agreed to extend further cooperation with corresponding institutions of both countries in the field of electronic public acquisition system.

2.10. Science and research

For the development of cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia in the sector of science, the Parties agreed upon the following:

- both Parties shall encourage direct cooperation between universities,

academies of sciences, scientific and research institutions. The content of this cooperation shall be agreed upon by the competent institutions.

- both Parties shall encourage mutual exchange appointments of scientific and research workers with the objective of research, studies, consultations and discussions in scientific disciplines. The terms and conditions of such exchanges shall be agreed upon through governmental channels.
- the Parties shall encourage joint scientific and technological research and development projects in areas of mutual interest, as well as exchange of scientific and technical information and publications.

3. Development of bilateral legislative basis

During the Session Parties agreed to prepare and to sign in the time and date agreed through diplomatic channels the following bilateral documents:

- Agreement of collaboration between standardization services of the Republic of Moldova and authorities in the same sector from the Republic of Latvia;
- Agreement of collaboration between metrology services of the Republic of Moldova and authorities in the same sector from the Republic of Latvia;
- Bilateral cooperation agreement between the Center of Accreditation in the Field of Products Conformity Assessment (CAECP) of the Republic of Moldova and the Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (LATAK);
- Agreement of collaboration in the statistical sector between the services of the Republic of Moldova and authorities in same sector from the Republic of Latvia.

4. General provisions

The Parties agreed to hold the next session of the Intergovernmental Commission between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Latvia on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Republic of Latvia, at the date established through diplomatic channels.

This Protocol was signed in Chisinau, on November 27, 2008, in two original copies in the English language.

For the Republic of Moldova

For the Republic of Latvia

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Deputy minister of Economy and Commerce
Chairman of the
Intergovernmental Committee

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Minister of Economics
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