

PROTOCOL
OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT MOLDOVAN-SLOVENIAN
COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The First Session of the Joint Moldovan-Slovenian Commission on Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Commission) established in accordance with the Article 3 of the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Economy and Trade of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of the Economy of the Republic of Slovenia, signed in Ljubljana on 18 April 2007, was held in Chisinau on June 7th, 2012.

Moldovan delegation was led by Mr. Viorel GUTU, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova and Slovenian delegation was led by Mr. Stanislav RAŠČAN, Ambassador, acting Director-General, Directorate for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

Members of the two delegations present at the Session are listed in Annexes I and II.

The Joint Commission agreed upon the following Agenda for the First Session:

I. Adoption of the Agenda for the First session of the Joint Commission

II. Trade and Economic relations

1. Overview of the trade and economic cooperation between two countries;
2. Measures for enhancing and developing the trade and economical ties.

III. Other topics

1. Cooperation in the field of industry;
2. Cooperation in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises;
3. Cooperation in the field of agriculture;
4. Cooperation in the field of tourism;
5. Cooperation in the field of transport;
6. Cooperation in the field of information society development;
7. Cooperation in the field of construction and regional development;
8. Cooperation in the field of health;
9. Cooperation in the field of education;
10. Cooperation in the field of science;
11. Cooperation in the field of culture.

IV. Signing of the Protocol of the Session

The meeting of the Joint Commission was conducted in a friendly atmosphere, based on mutual understanding and desire for further development of bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

The results of the deliberations of the Joint Commission are summarized as follows:

I. Adoption of the Agenda for the First session of the Joint Commission

The two delegations reviewed and adopted the Agenda for the First Session of the Joint Commission.

II. Trade and economic relations

1. Overview of the trade and economic cooperation between two countries

Both heads of the delegations, Viorel GUTU, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova and Stanislav RAŠČAN, Ambassador, acting Director-General, Directorate for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, introduced the current economic situation and exchanged information on the macroeconomic trends in both countries.

The two sides analyzed the developments in the bilateral trade relations between the two countries and agreed that the volume of trade does not match with the expectations of both sides, taking into account the potential of their economies.

The two sides agreed to extend the cooperation in the economic fields like FDI, transfer of experience and technologies, technological cooperation in the field of industrial production, cooperation in the field of IT, pharmacy and chemical industry, engineering, agriculture, energy efficiency and others.

With the aim to foster the bilateral business relations the two sides agreed to:

- provide information on business and investment opportunities in Slovenia and Moldova on regular basis;
- encourage the co-operation of Slovenian and Moldovan investors;
- provide information on legislation, including tax, customs and other regulations in both countries;
- promote the organization of business meetings between Slovenian and Moldovan companies;
- increase bilateral investment potential through various means including advertisements, fairs, exhibitions, business forums, seminars, conferences, presentations and round tables;
- promote technical cooperation as a part of development cooperation between the two countries.

Slovenia and Moldova welcomed the start of the negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement as a part of the future Association Agreement between the EU and Moldova. Both sides are convinced that the conclusion of this Agreement will contribute to strengthening of the economic cooperation between the two countries.

2. Measures for enhancing and developing the trade and economical ties

With the goal to extend the trade and economic cooperation, the sides agreed upon the necessity of wider exchange of juridical and market information, tighter cooperation

between the specialized institutions, trade promotion organizations, organization of joint business forums, and other instruments.

In this regard, the two sides exchanged information about common and specialized international exhibitions organized in their countries, and agreed their readiness to encourage their companies and enterprises to actively participate in these activities.

In order to develop and maintain the investment cooperation between Moldova and Slovenia and achieve joint investment projects, the Ministry of Economy of Moldova will provide Slovenian counterpart with promotional materials on the investment opportunities offered by free economic zones and industrial parks in Moldova. If there are expressions of interest from Slovenian businesses (entities), the Slovenian part will inform the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova, which will facilitate negotiations process between stakeholders (interested counterparts).

The two sides exchanged the information about the direct investment. Both sides welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments (JAPTI) and the Moldovan Investment and Export Promotion Organization (MIEPO), which was signed on this occasion by the legal representatives of both organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding will contribute to development of mutual economic cooperation and to establish direct contacts between business circles of both countries.

Moldovan side informed Slovenian side about the opportunities offered by the free economic zones of the Republic of Moldova. Slovenian side presented the Slovenian advantages and investment opportunities. Both sides will strive to increase mutual investment.

The two sides will ensure the exchange of experience concerning the practices used by Slovenia for promoting exports and attracting investment, by organizing seminars and trainings.

III. Other topics

1. Cooperation in the field of industry

The Joint Commission took into account the information about the present situation and cooperation perspectives in the field of industry and investment, considering these directions especially important.

The both Sides have agreed the following:

- the Slovenian side will provide the necessary support to attract economic agents from the European Union in quality of investors/residents of the Moldovan Industrial Parks;
- to create joint ventures that will produce industrial wares and will be sold in CIS and European countries;
- to encourage the cooperation on “outsourcing” bases;
- mutual participation of economic agents from both countries in fairs and exhibitions

held in Slovenia and in the Republic of Moldova.

The sides agreed to exchange information about the situation in industry, realization of the industrial policy concept, the development of new technologies, market situation and other issues concerning the development of industry in both countries.

2. Cooperation in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises

The sides agreed the fact that the development of small and medium-sized enterprises sector has an important role in the development of the economies of both countries. In this sense the sides decided the following:

- to establish the cooperation between the State institutions (Ministries, agencies, offices), responsible for promoting the policy of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises;
- to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and good practices in the preparation of legislative acts, policies and strategies in support of small and medium enterprises sector;
- to establish and develop business contacts between small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting partnerships and organizing trade fairs, exhibitions, round tables, and work-shops.

3. Cooperation in the field of agriculture

Emphasizing the important role of agriculture and food processing industries in the economy of the two countries, the parties agreed:

- to promote the exchange of agricultural products and food processing industries of both countries;
- to encourage the establishment of joint ventures in the field of food processing industry;
- to encourage the establishment of joint enterprises of agricultural mechanization and to find strategic partners in both countries.

The two sides agreed that special attention should be given in the area of cooperation between the Agency for Agricultural Market and Rural Development of Slovenia (AAMRD) and the Agency of Intervention and Payment for Agriculture of Moldova (AIPA):

The two sides agreed that, in cooperation between AAMRD and AIPA special attention should be given to:

- encourage cooperation through twinning projects between AAMRD and AIPA;
- establishment of joint working group aiming at the harmonization of farmers' support measures of the Republic of Moldova with the EU farmers' support measures;
- establishment of joint working group for the development European assessment of the dossiers submitted for subsidy;
- exchanges of experience regarding the methods of control and monitoring of the investment projects for the agro-food area;

- training courses on utilization of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS);
- technical exchanges of experience in the management of agricultural market mechanisms, intervention measures and direct support to farmers.

The two sides shall encourage cooperation and/or exchange of information, experience and experts in the specific fields of agriculture already enlisted in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in the field of agriculture, food processing industry, veterinary medicine and food safety, signed in Radenci on August 19, 2011.

The two sides agreed on the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between Moldovan extension and consultancy service and Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture.

Considering the severe global economic situation and the limited financial resources available, the two sides agreed to build cooperation through previously established contacts and networks, and concentrate on the sectors where cooperation can provide mutual advantages and may lead towards win-win situations.

4. Cooperation in the field of tourism

The two sides exchanged the basic statistics and information about the tourism sector in the two countries. The Slovene side presented to the Moldavian side the most important national documents and strategies about tourism development in Slovenia.

In order to accelerate the development of this field, the both sides should propose the following:

- exchanging information in the field of tourism by the central public authorities which elaborate politics and statistics in the tourism domain;
- spreading of information on tourism opportunities in both states through embassies;
- promoting cooperation between public institutions and economic agents which activate in the tourism industry;
- participation of the representatives of the central public authorities and economic agents from the tourism industry of the Republic of Moldova and Slovenia in the exhibitions, forums, conferences, seminars organized in both countries.

5. Cooperation in the field of transport

The Joint Commission took into account the information about the present situation and cooperation perspectives in the field of international road transport between Moldova and Slovenia.

The sides stated that the international transport of passengers and goods by road between both countries is performing in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the international road transport.

In accordance with the Article 12 of the Agreement are organized the Joint Committee meetings on road transport in order to discuss the principles of collaboration in the field

of road transport with a view to facilitate the carriage of passengers and goods between both countries.

Taking into account that the last Joint Committee meeting was organized in Chisinau, in 2005, the Slovenian side propose to hold the next Joint Committee meeting on road transport in Ljubljana, in the beginning of July 2012. During the meeting will be discussed the subject of increasing the quota of permits, on the basis of reciprocity.

The Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Moldova expressed their will to enhance the cooperation in the implementation of Priority Area 1b: To improve mobility and multimodality / road, rail and air links within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in particular for common transport vision and joint projects with added value for the macro-region.

6. Cooperation in the field of information society development

The two sides mentioned the good bilateral cooperation in the field of information society development existing between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Slovenia, on the regional and international level.

The both sides expressed their interest to promote the collaboration in the field of IT and Communications, and the Moldovan side proposed to continue the dialogue with the Slovenian counterparts on further information society development.

7. Cooperation in the field of construction and regional development

1) Collaboration in the regional development field

The Moldovan and Slovenian side agreed to diversify the areas of co-operation including the regional development policy:

- exchange of experience in the field of the functioning of the institutions and bodies for the implementation of regional development policies;
- transfer of knowledge and experiences in accessing and managing funds within the assistance programs of the European Union;
- exchange of experiences and knowledge of public authorities of both countries in the field of cross-border cooperation according to the European Union rules and practices;
- exchange of experiences and information in the field of regional development.

2) Collaboration in the construction field

Collaboration in architecture and design:

- organization and participation in international exhibitions in architecture;
- share of experience, collaboration for training of students, young professionals and architects in both countries by their training inside the institutions of both countries;
- organization of mutual visits to familiarize with modern objects, built or under construction.

Collaboration in Urban and Regional Planning:

- examination and exchange of acts and planning practice used in Slovenia in this area;
- implementation of modern technology for urban-technical communications utilities and other facilities in towns.

Collaboration in housing area:

- energy consumption conservation in housing by saving resources, providing information about economic mechanism of energy conservation in household utilities;
- exchange of information about promoting housing policy, including how to attract financial resources to ensure social housing to vulnerable groups of population and practice of policy elaboration in this area;
- development of housing construction, forms of housing maintenance and operation;
- exchange of information about operation of programs for apartment buildings renovation and some forms of financial support for renovation of housing stock;
- examination of possibility of investment attraction in housing renovation program.

8. Cooperation in the field of health

The both sides expressed their interest to promote the collaboration in the field of health, and in this context the Moldovan side proposed to initiate the negotiations on an Agreement of Cooperation between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova and the counterpart Ministry of the Republic of Slovenia.

9. Cooperation in the field of education

Aiming at establishing a legal framework for the collaboration in the field of education, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova has elaborated and presented to the competent authorities of the Republic of Slovenia a draft of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports. In this context, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova expresses its availability to start with the negotiations on this Agreement.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova is interested in developing cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia in terms of:

- sharing experience and exchanging good practices in the field of the Bologna Process implementation;
- academic mobility of students and teaching staff;
- teacher training for pre-university and university academic staff;
- establishment of direct cooperation between the educational institutions of the states;
- development of joint research projects.

10. Cooperation in the field of science

The parties welcomed the fact that Moldova has become since 01.01.2012 an associated country to EU FP7 Research and Technological Development. Slovenian side will provide advice and expertise in order to increase the participation of entities from Moldova in this program, including creating joint partnerships, between research institutions and universities.

In this context, Moldovan side suggested the improving of the cooperation of the 7th Framework Program of the European Union, for achieving the following proposals:

- 1) To study and to take the experience of the Slovenian research institutions concerning

their participation in the European Union's Framework Programs.

Contact organization: Department of European Integration and International Cooperation of ASM.

2) To identify the research areas of common interest for both sides for creating partnerships and subsequent submission of proposals to European and international programs.

Contact organization: Center of International Projects of ASM.

3) To initiate collaboration between the innovative structures from Moldova and similar institutions from Slovenia, for staff training, information exchange and business opportunities.

Contact organization: Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer.

4) To establish partnerships between ASM and Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA), located in Brussels for exchange of information and organization of the promotional events.

Contact organization: Department of European Integration and International Cooperation of ASM.

5) To benefit of the expert assistance from the competent institution from Slovenia, for capacity building of the FP7 National Contact Points Network in Moldova.

Contact Organizations: Center for International Projects and the European Integration and International Cooperation of ASM.

11. Cooperation in the field of culture

Both sides expressed their interest in taking the necessary measures for the increase of the collaboration in the field of culture.

The sides decided to support the cooperation in the field of cinematography and will promote exchange of films, and delegations in the film festivals taking place in both countries.

Both sides expressed their interest in the development of cooperation in the field of opera and ballet, music and theater, as well as support for mutual exchange of artists, troupes of artists, experts, professional associations and performances.

Both sides will encourage the cooperation between national libraries and museums of both countries, as well as encourage exchange of publications and experts in the spheres of common interest.

The two sides expressed their readiness to develop the cooperation within the framework of the EU Programme Culture 2007-2013 and the future EU Programme Creative Europe.

Both sides will encourage the cooperation within the framework of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE).

The two sides decided to hold the Second Session of the Joint Commission in Ljubljana. The date of the Second Session shall be coordinated between the sides through diplomatic channels.

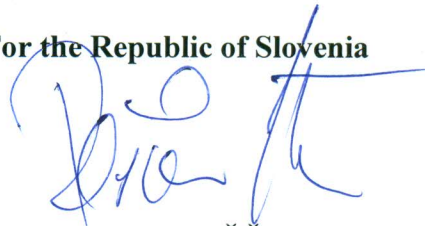
Done in Chisinau, on June 7th 2012, in two original copies, in English language.

For the Republic of Moldova



Viorel GUTU,
Deputy Minister of
Agriculture and Food Industry
of the Republic of Moldova

For the Republic of Slovenia



Stanislav RAŠČAN,
Ambassador, acting Director-
General, Directorate for
Economic Diplomacy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Slovenia

List of the Moldovan delegation

1. Viorel GUTU	Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, Chairman of the Moldovan side of the Commission;
2. Ala BELEAVSCHI	Director of the Bilateral Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Deputy Chair of the Moldovan side of the Commission;
3. Alexandru VLASENCO	Consultant in the International Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Economy, Secretary of the Moldovan side of the Commission;
4. Vladimir DIDILICA	Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova;
5. Tudor ROBU	Director of the Marketing and International Relations Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry;
6. Viorica GIRA	Main specialist in the Marketing and International Relations Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry;
7. Andrei TRIFAUTAN	Deputy-Head of the Investment and Export Promotion Division, Ministry of Economy;
8. Sergiu VOITOVSCI	Main Consultant in the International Relations and European Integration Department, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications.

List of the Slovenian delegation

1. Dr Stanislav RAŠČAN	Ambassador, acting Director-General, Directorate for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Co-Chair of the Commission, Head of Delegation;
2. Katarina KUŽNIK	First Secretary, Department for Bilateral Economic Cooperation, Directorate for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia; Secretary of the Commission;
3. Gregor FRANK	First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Ukraine (accredited for Moldova);
4. Jožko FORNAZARIČ	Head of the General Affairs Service, Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development, Ministry of agriculture and the environment;
5. Jože UNK	Secretary, Information Society Directorate, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport;
6. Igor PLESTENJAK	Director, Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments
7. Dragi MILOSAVLJEVIČ	Director, Iskratel representative office in Moldova, Kishinev