

Protocol

6th session of the Moldovan - Polish Commission on Economic Cooperation

The 6th session of the Moldovan – Polish Commission on Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”), established under the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Republic of Poland signed in Krynica on 7th of September 2006, was held in Warsaw on 13 of September 2022.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was headed by Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova.

The delegation of the Republic of Poland was headed by Mr. Grzegorz Piechowiak, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Poland.

The lists of the Moldovan and Polish delegations are attached in the Annexes 1 and 2.

The Sides approved the Agenda of the 6th session of the Commission:

1. trade and investment cooperation, entrepreneurship development
2. cooperation in financial and customs fields
3. cooperation in the field of environmental protection, green technologies and energy security
4. cooperation in forestry
5. cooperation in the field of regional policy and urban development
6. cooperation in the field of agriculture
7. cooperation in the field of transport infrastructure
8. cooperation in the field of labour migrations
9. cooperation in the field of cybersecurity and telecommunications
10. cooperation in metrology
11. cooperation in the field of accreditation
12. cooperation in the field of tourism
13. cooperation in the field of statistics
14. cooperation in the field of education, science and innovation

The Commission welcomed the steady development and increasing dynamics of bilateral relations between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Moldova. Recent contacts at the highest level have laid solid ground for reinvigoration of sectoral contacts in a number of areas where the cooperation could benefit both countries and societies.

The 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Moldova and of establishing diplomatic relations between our countries was yet another stimulus for renewed economic cooperation. Poland remains steadfast in its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

The Commission expressed their appreciation for the Polish support of the Moldovan administration, which constitutes part of the development cooperation. The Republic of Moldova has been a priority country in the Polish development cooperation program since 2004. In the years 2004-2021, nearly PLN 85 million was allocated from the Polish budget for the implementation of over 310 projects. Polish development aid for Moldova focuses primarily on the following issues: supporting the Moldovan administration in implementing reforms (anti-corruption), developing small and micro entrepreneurship in rural areas, developing Local Action Groups and improving living conditions in towns and villages. In 2021, projects regarding the prevention of cross-border crime, rescue and civil protection, the development of local governments by continuing the city development program (revitalization and involvement of the Institute of Cities and Regions Development) were implemented. The Commission welcomed the fact that in October 2021, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki appointed a special Plenipotentiary for supporting reforms in the Republic of Moldova - Director of the Center for Eastern Studies, Mr. Adam Eberhardt.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the decision of the European Council to grant the Republic of Moldova candidate status to the European Union. As part of supporting Moldova's aspirations and preparations for membership in the European Union, Poland declared its readiness to exchange experiences and support Moldova in adjusting individual sectors to the requirements and standards of the single market.

1. Trade and investment cooperation, entrepreneurship development

The Parties exchanged information on the current economic situation in Poland and Moldova, including the impact of the war in Ukraine on the economy and actions taken by the governments of both countries to minimize this impact. The Polish Side also presented information on the support provided to Ukraine.

The Commission underlined the importance of implementing the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement, an integral part of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, signed on 27th of June 2014 in Brussels, that has contributed to an increase in bilateral trade. The Moldovan Side informed about further plans regarding the implementation of the Agreement.

The Commission welcomed the Regulation (EU) 2022/1279 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2022 on temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions (plums, apples, cherries, table grapes, tomatoes, garlic and grape juice) applicable to Moldovan products under EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The purpose of the regulation is to increase trade flows from Moldova to the EU by granting additional unilateral duty-free quotas for agricultural imports to the EU for a period of 1 year in connection with the emergency events in Ukraine and the crisis situation in Moldova.

According to the data of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, in 2021 compared to 2020, there was an increase in Polish-Moldovan trade turnover by 32.5% (turnover amounted to USD 560.0 million). Polish exports to Moldova reached USD 314.1 million (+13.8%), and imports from Moldova reached USD 245.9 million (+67.7%). The most important share in Polish exports were: frozen pork, frozen poultry, cheese, hygiene articles, combine harvesters, while imports from Moldova were dominated by: bars and rods, apple juice, electric cables, furniture parts, wine. Noteworthy is the 340% increase in imports of Moldovan metallurgical products.

The Commission noted the commitment of the Export Credit Insurance Corporation (KUKE) and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego in supporting Polish-Moldovan trade through the implementation of the long-term government's "Financial Export Support" program. As of 21 of January 2022, KUKE's involvement on the Moldovan market in respect of short-term export insurance against non-market risk guaranteed by the State Treasury amounted to USD 16,525,537.69 and mainly related to the plastics, construction, wood, pharmaceutical, chemical, machine, metal and electrical engineering industries.

At the same time, the Polish Side stated that Polish companies are interested in establishing cooperation with Moldovan partners.

According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova the Republic of Poland remains one of the main trade partners of the Republic of Moldova for many years. In 2021, the Republic of Moldova (including enterprises and organizations on the left side of the river Nistru and the municipality Bender) exported goods to the Republic of Poland in the amount of USD 239.8 million, which is 1.7 times more than in 2020, and imported goods in the amount of USD 292.7 million, which is 20.6% more than in 2020. Significant shares in the structure of exports to the Republic of Poland in 2021 were recorded for the following groups of goods: cast iron, iron, steel and products from them (52.6% of total exports), wires, cables and other insulated electrical conductors (12. 2%), chairs (6.0%), fruit and vegetable juices (5.7%), clothing and clothing accessories, other ready-made textile products (4.6%), wines (4.5%), grapes, fresh and dried fruits (3.5%), rapeseed and sunflower seeds (2.5%). In the structure of imports

from the Republic of Poland in 2021, significant shares fell on the following groups of goods: machinery and devices, electrical equipment and their parts; sound and video recording or reproducing equipment, their parts and accessories (22.3% of total imports), plastics and plastic products (8.9%), meat and edible by-products (6.2%), cheese and cottage cheese, milk, dairy products and eggs (4.9%), cast iron, iron, steel and products from them (4.0%), essential oils; perfumes, cosmetics and toiletries (3.7%), ceramics, stone, plaster, cement and glass (3.0%), wood and wood products (2.9%), land vehicles (2.8%), paper, cardboard and products from them (2.7%), clothing and clothing accessories, other finished textile products (2.7%).

The investment cooperation between Poland and Moldova is of a small size. According to the data of the National Bank of Poland, Polish investments in Moldova as at the end of 2020 amounted to USD 50.3 million, and the balance of receivables from Moldovan investments in Poland amounted to USD -4.7 million.

According to the Public Services Agency of Republic of Moldova, at the end of 2021 in Moldova were registered 90 companies with Polish capital, with MDL 226 million investments in social capital. According to the value of invested capital, Poland is on 16th place among the main investors of the Republic of Moldova.

The Commission assessed that the trade and investment potential of both countries is greater and recommended taking active measures to create favourable conditions for trade and investment on both markets and reducing barriers to mutual cooperation, including the organization of trade missions, business forums, fairs, exhibitions, workshops supporting bilateral cooperation between Polish and Moldovan entrepreneurs, exchange of experience and information in the field of trade, investment conditions and entrepreneurship, and support programs for foreign entrepreneurs.

Both Sides emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation in the field of supporting small and medium entrepreneurship and innovation, by organising workshops, seminars, study tours and by other initiatives connected to matching entrepreneurs from both countries, including organising Polish-Moldovan trade missions and business meetings.

The Commission confirmed that one of the elements of entrepreneurship development and strengthening bilateral economic cooperation may be supporting Moldova through the exchange of experience in building a wholesale market in Moldova. This project could use the experiences and solutions adopted in Poland. The Commission expressed hope for deepening cooperation in this area with entities that declared their interest, including the Warsaw Agricultural and Food Wholesale Market in Bronisze.

The Polish Side declared that Polish companies are interested in cooperation with Moldovan economic entities in the field of the development of container rail transport.

The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development has expressed its willingness to exchange experience with business environment institutions from the Republic of Moldova, especially in the area of start-up development, internationalisation of companies and competence improvement.

The Future Industry Platform has expressed its readiness to cooperate with the countrywide initiatives of the Republic of Moldova in the field of Industry 4.0, in particular in the development and implementation of programs to support entrepreneurs in the processes of digital transformation, especially in the field of agriculture mechanization, agri-food processing, textiles and household appliance assembly, including the joint European initiative for the development of semiconductor manufacturing, to ensure the resilience of supply chains and increase external independencies.

The Moldovan Side proposed to enhance the cooperation and exchange of institutional experience between the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) and Invest Moldova Agency. The Sides agreed to sign a *Memorandum of Understanding between The Polish Investment and Trade Agency and Invest Moldova Agency* when the Invest Moldova Agency will pay a visit to Poland in the coming period.

In order to share experience and take over international practices the Invest Moldova Agency is interested to collaborate on the Free Economic Zones and Industrial Platforms segment.

The Sides will encourage the elaboration and signing of a Joint Memorandum of Understanding between Tekwill Technology Hub of the Republic of Moldova and the Future Industry Platform of the Republic of Poland in order to start a cooperation in the field of digital transition in the industrial sector, with support of the European Union programs.

Additionally, Polish Side expressed readiness of Polish companies to introduce Polish products and solutions, which could support digitalization of the administrative processes and government services in Moldova, including health services (e-Prescription or e-HealthRecords systems), tax collection or identification documents, and all infrastructure necessary for safe and efficient functioning of such services.

The Moldovan Side expressed the willingness of entrepreneurs from ATU Gagauzia to cooperate with entrepreneurs from Poland. This cooperation could include collaboration of small and medium-sized enterprises, investments, innovations, exchange of experiences, joint organization of conferences and seminars. The Commission recommended considering establishing cooperation between institutions and organizations supporting business, including the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, the Future Industry Platform Foundation or Special Economic Zones.

The Commission took note that in the Entrepreneurship area, Poland has made a big step towards supporting Moldova. In May 2022, the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA) (former ODIMM), undertook a study visit at the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) and Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP). Both organizations have shown a considerable interest in consolidating the relations with ODA, as well as supporting the improvement of ODA's capabilities to deliver qualitative services to Moldovan entrepreneurs and improve the Moldovan business environment.

As followed, after the meeting between ODA and BGK, both Sides have signed a Memorandum of Understanding expressing their intentions to develop institutional and business relations and cooperate in the following areas:

1. Communication of opportunities to structure and implement projects of common interest;
2. Provision of expertise, know-how, training and support by BGK to ODA in executing and developing its statutory activities, particularly as a public development institution;
3. Exchange of experience and expertise in the area of internal audit;
4. Exploration of possibilities and undertaking efforts for obtaining financing from the European Union budget by BGK with the aim to support the economic development in Moldova, mainly through support for the SME sector in Moldova.

At the same time, BGK expressed its intention and readiness to support ODA in designing and applying for a Twinning Project on, inter alia Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Principles, that will allow ODA to boost its performances, achieve its sustainability targets and become a forward-looking Organization.

2. Cooperation in financial and customs fields

The Commission took note of the activities carried out to renegotiate the agreement of 14 May 2014 between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on granting a loan under tied aid at the amount of EUR 100 million, as well as activities aimed at effective implementation of this loan in the form of projects in priority areas indicated by the Moldovan Side. The priority areas include (1) agriculture, (2) modernization of transportation sector and digitalization of the services, and (3) public order and security.

The Polish Side noted that further execution of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on extending a tied aid credit done on 14 May 2014, should depend on agreement of projects planned to be financed within the Polish Governmental Credit and determination of Credit

implementation scheme in Moldova. After making all above mentioned arrangements, the Polish Side may consider resuming works on the text of the Annex to the Credit Agreement with regard to extension of the term of signing contracts within the Agreement, and other amendments to the Agreement including determination of new financial conditions of the Credit according to OECD rules. The Commission expressed hope for the quick signing of the annex to the loan agreement and swift operationalization of the loan.

The National Revenue Administration confirms its readiness to support the modernization processes in the Moldovan customs administration, both bilaterally and as part of the work of the EU-Moldova Customs Subcommittee established under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement to monitor the implementation of provisions on customs issues. The vast majority of activities will be aimed, as before, at the exchange of good practices and support for Moldova in the implementation of the provisions of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, one of the main elements of which is the harmonization of customs practices and procedures. A similar goal is also pursued by the series of workshops for young managers from customs services of the Eastern Partnership countries, including Moldova, organized in Poland since 2012 as part of the Eastern Partnership Program. The last edition of the workshops took place in September 2019. The project is planned to be continued after the pandemic situation has resolved. The National Revenue Administration is ready to support the Moldovan customs administration also in other important areas, e.g. the prevention of corruption.

On the basis of the memorandum in the field of cooperation in combating money laundering and terrorist financing of 18 June 2009 and also initiated in December 2018 within the framework of the Lithuanian-Polish-German consortium, the EU twinning project for the Republic of Moldova called "Strengthening the system for prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism in the Republic of Moldova", implemented in previous years by representatives of the General Inspector of Financial Information for Moldovan authorities and services, the Polish Side maintains its willingness to cooperate and exchange experience with its Moldovan counterpart in strengthening the Moldovan Financial Intelligence Unit in the area of anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism.

The Sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the development of customs on the subjects provided for by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, especially in the part related to trade facilitation, anti-fraud activity and the exchange of experience.

The Moldovan Side expressed its interest in intensifying the collaboration with the Polish side in the fiscal sector in the following areas:

- (i) Effective fight against VAT fraud and

(ii) Analysis of the risks of tax evasion, taking into account risks identified within the BEPS and BEPS 2.0 projects.

3. Cooperation in the field of environmental protection, green technologies and energy security

The Commission recommended that the Sides develop cooperation in the field of green technology transfer to strengthen their joint efforts to protect the environment. In this context, the Polish Side presented an offer of Polish green technologies covered by the program of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Republic of Poland "GreenEvo - Green Technology Accelerator" in the areas of: waste management, water and sewage management, passive construction, renewable energy sources, energy saving and air and environmental protection. The Polish Side emphasized that these are innovative solutions with proven effectiveness that can be a response to many, often complex, environmental problems, and also serve in the process of building a circular economy.

The Polish Side confirmed its commitment to provide practical support for Moldova's energy security and reforms of the Moldovan gas market by sharing knowledge and experience in transformation of the gas market model (market liberalization) and building its security (diversification of supplies, regulatory and organizational solutions). In this context, Polish gas Transmission System Operator is ready to continue support for the development of the competitive gas market in the Republic of Moldova, i.e. implementation of cross border projects, regulatory aspects as well as tools for effective operation of the gas market. Polish entities (DISE) have expressed their readiness to organize a training project for representatives of the government administration, the National Energy Regulatory Agency (ANRE), wholesale gas recipients, as well as the local government authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Sides encourage and support the cooperation in the energy field between the Republic of Moldova and Poland, this being an opportunity to strengthen the energy security and to establish a competitive energy market in Moldova. Therefore, in the energy field, the Republic of Moldova is interested in cooperating with Poland in aspects regarding natural gas and petroleum products. In this respect, Sides discussed:

- possibilities of access, of Moldova companies to the natural gas storage infrastructure in Poland as a viable option for increasing Moldova's gas security of supply in respect of Moldova Governmental project "Security of gas supply" within which some natural gas stocks will be created for emergencies as well as availability of an additional financing line is made for emergency procurement in case of supply restrictions according to the basic contracts, in order to reduce the risks related to possible

limitations / suspensions in the supply of natural gas related to the current energy crisis and the tense regional situation.

- opportunities of Moldova traders for natural gas purchase, including LNG, from Polish traders considering the high level of development of the Polish natural gas market, as well as import possibilities of natural gas at reasonable prices to the Republic of Moldova through Ukraine or Slovakia, taking into account the current energy crisis, and the energy vulnerability of the Republic of Moldova.

- Polish Side will explore the possibility of providing the Moldovan Side necessary support in the dialogue with the largest suppliers of petroleum products in Poland for the heavy oil purchases as necessary for the district heating power plants in Chisinau.

The Moldovan Side will provide technical details including the name of the product, specifications, volume and logistical possibilities for receipt from Poland.

The largest consumer of natural gas in the Republic of Moldova is S.A. "Termoelectrica", a company with two power plants that operates in cogeneration mode and delivers thermal energy to approximately 500,000 consumers in the municipality of Chisinau, covering also approximately 15% of the national electricity consumption. At the same time, it is the only large-scale consumer that can operate on the alternative fuel, thus reducing the consumption of natural gas at the national level. In this way, it is an opportunity to provide the necessary support to the Moldovan side in the dialogue with the largest suppliers of heavy oil (mazut) in Poland for the realization of fuel purchases at a reasonable price when necessary, particularly in emergencies.

The Sides also agree to increase the dialogue and cooperation in the field of energy security as well as discussed the establishment of solidarity measures/mutual aid mechanisms in exceptional situations in the energy field. Based on the offer and experience of the Polish Energy Exchange (TGE S.A.) Polish Side expressed its commitment to support Moldova in building its own energy exchange to promote development of market mechanisms in energy trade.

The Polish Side confirmed readiness of Polish companies to engage in the projects related to improvement of energy efficiency and development of alternative energy sources in Moldova, with particular focus on modernization of public lighting and installation of photovoltaic systems or waste-to-energy projects. It also underlined possible interest of Polish businesses in supporting Moldova in addressing challenges related to waste water treatment. While a number of projects in the above mentioned areas can be identified by the Government of Moldova as priority local development projects for 2023-2025, Polish Side encouraged the Government of Moldova to explore the possibility of engaging Polish entrepreneurs in the implementation of these projects.

The Sides discussed the possibility of allocating a tied aid credit from the Government of the Republic of Poland for improvement of energy efficiency and optimization of the electricity costs for Î.S. "Calea Fetată din Moldova", in terms of current operational

activities and also in the context of a potential transition to electrification of national railways, by implementing solutions based on electricity storage systems.

4. Cooperation in forestry

The Polish Side offered the Moldovan Side an exchange of experiences in the broadly understood subject of multifunctional and sustainable forest management, including practical experience in afforestation, as well as readiness to cooperate and exchange research and scientific experiences in the field of forestry in the topics and areas of interest proposed by the Moldovan Side.

The State Forests of the Republic of Poland expressed interest in sharing practical knowledge on the afforestation of former agricultural land and nursery production, as well as the use of appropriate machines for this purpose.

5. Cooperation in the field of regional policy and urban development

The Commission observed a dynamic cooperation between the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova in the field of regional policy and urban development. In 2016-2022, 4 Polish Aid projects were implemented, aimed at strengthening the Moldovan administration in the field of urban development, with particular emphasis on the revitalization of urban areas. As a result of the granted support, a urban revitalization system was implemented, which has become an important instrument of the development policy in cities. In this regard, a number of institutional, legal and financial solutions have been implemented, thanks to which local authorities of Moldovan cities can carry out revitalization activities in a systemic manner and with financial support from the state budget. Urban revitalization programs were developed and adopted in around 22 Moldovan cities, and a number of infrastructure and social revitalization projects were financed. In addition, support was provided to local administration in 6 growth poles cities (Cahul, Comrat, Ungheni, Orhei, Soroca and Edineț), which was prepared in terms of organization and methodology for the implementation of urban programs and projects under the National Program for Urban Development - Growth Poles in Republic of Moldova 2021-2027 (Program National de dezvoltare a orașelor-poli de creștere în Republica Moldova pentru anii 2021-2027). The effects of cooperation in the field of urban development will have a positive impact for urban residents and contribute towards improving the quality of their life and work.

Following the invitation of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland (MDFRP), representatives of the Republic of Moldova participated in the 11th session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice on June 26-30, 2022. As part of the event, the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland organized a session in the Polish Pavilion on "Poland's cooperation within the EU Eastern Partnership - Challenges and success factors in building an urban revitalization system in the Republic of Moldova". In addition to representatives of MDFRP, the session was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova as well as mayors and experts from Moldovan cities - Edinets, Ungheni, Ceadir-Lunga and Cimislia. During the session, the experiences from the process of creating the urban revitalization system in the Republic of Moldova were discussed, as well as the successes and challenges related to the ambitious urban revitalization presented.

The participation of the representatives of Moldova in the World Urban Forum brought an additional impulse for the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of urban policy.

In regard to obtaining the status of a candidate country to the EU by the Republic of Moldova in 2022, the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland expressed its interest in supporting the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development in the integration process with the EU in the fields related to infrastructure development, regional policy, urban development policy, spatial planning as well as programming and implementation of pre-accession and European funds.

At the same time, both Sides agreed that the existing cooperation in the area of regional and urban development will be continued in the coming years.

In order to strengthen the institutional cooperation in the context of the accession process of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union in the field of regional policy and infrastructure development, both Sides agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova.

The Sides confirmed their commitment to explore cooperation opportunities with Association of Polish Urban Planners.

6. Cooperation in the field of agriculture

The Sides declared their willingness to continue cooperation in the field of agriculture. They also agreed that it is necessary to take measures to increase the volume and value of mutual trade in agricultural goods.

The Polish Side expressed readiness to develop expert cooperation with the Moldovan Side, especially in such areas as:

- research and development cooperation with Moldova in the field of agriculture (through the exchange of practices, implementation of joint R&D&I projects for new and innovative solutions in agriculture);
- veterinary issues;
- topics related to the activities of the National Center for Support in Agriculture (KOWR). The companies supervised by the Center express their interest in cooperation with the Moldovan side on the latest achievements in the field of plant breeding, animal breeding and modern agriculture.

On the other hand, the Moldovan Side shows its interest in strengthening cooperation in the following fields:

- Bilateral cooperation in order to attract external investments for the rehabilitation / construction of centralized irrigation systems for agricultural lands with soils suitable for irrigation;
- Providing Polish support for the horticultural scientific institutions reform in the Republic of Moldova;
- Taking over good practices in order to neutralize and liquidate phytosanitary products and unusable / prohibited fertilizers, as well as destroying their packaging.

The implementation of cooperation is possible on condition that external financing is provided.

Moldovan Side would like to explore the Polish experience with regard to expired and unused veterinary medicinal products and state control of this process in order to prevent the return of these products to the veterinary medicinal products circuit at national level. The Polish Side confirmed its readiness to cooperate in this regard.

The Commission highly appreciated the cooperation of the Representation of the International Solidarity Foundation, the National LEADER Network in Moldova and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova in implementing the LEADER approach for rural development in Moldova. The support for this project, financed by the EU and Polish aid, was involved, inter alia, MARD. The

Commission also noted with satisfaction the information that the Moldovan authorities decided to launch a pilot edition of the National LEADER Program, which will be implemented in the period 2022–2023.

The Commission also welcomed the information about the twinning project "Continuation of support for agriculture, rural development and food security in the Republic of Moldova" which is implemented in Moldova (project partner from the Polish Side - the Agency for Reconstruction and Modernisation of Agriculture).

7. Cooperation in the field of transport infrastructure

In order to expand and deepen cooperation, the Sides agreed to continue activities and recommendations in the following areas:

- the Sides have confirmed their interest in the continuation of the development of freight transport between Moldova and Poland, as well as rail transit through the territory of both countries;
- the Sides have positively assessed the bilateral cooperation in the field of road transport, including the increase of number of road transport operations by both Polish and Moldovan hauliers;
- the Sides positively assessed the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on the carriage of freight by road, signed in Lyon on 29th of June 2022, providing for the temporary liberalization of bilateral and transit transport;
- in this context, Sides have agreed to monitor of effectiveness of functioning of the the agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova and its impact on road transport market of both countries;
- the Sides have confirmed their interest in exchanging experiences between road transport authorities as well as in the realization of specific projects related to the road transport;
- the Sides have agreed on the need to organize a meeting of the Joint Committee on International Road Transport in the first half of the 2023. The date, place and form of the meeting will be agreed at a working level;
- the Sides confirmed their interest in business cooperation in the modernization of the Moldovan transport sector, including the participation of Polish suppliers in the replacement of rolling stock and long-distance bus fleet in Moldova;

- the Sides expressed interest in the exchange of know-how and cooperation to develop a multi-annual strategy for the development of zero-emission transport in Moldova, including e-mobility;
- the Sides are pleased to note the renewal of direct flights between Chisinau and Warsaw operated by LOT Polish Airlines, which were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the Sides have emphasized the need to continue cooperation within the framework of the International Civil Aviation Organization;
- the Sides have recognized sea transport as a prospective area for the development of cooperation;
- the Sides have proposed to consider establishing cooperation between seaports in Poland and the Moldovan Port of Giurgiulești;
- the Polish Side expressed interest in the exchange of best practices and willingness to share Polish experience in the field of water management;
- the Sides support the development of cooperation in the field of water supply and drains. Moreover they have confirmed their interest in exchanging experiences in this area as well as in the realization of specific projects related to the development of infrastructure in this field.

8. Cooperation in the field of labour migrations

The Polish Side is interested in creating permanent forms of information and experience exchange and joint development of new solutions in the field of economic migration management with the participation of social partners. The cooperation should concern, in particular, ethical job placement and facilitating contact between employers and potential employees. The Commission noted that Moldova is among the countries whose citizens are allowed to work in the Republic of Poland on the basis of declarations of intention to entrust the performance of work to a foreigner. The register of such declarations is run by district (powiat) labour offices under the regulation of the Minister of Family, Labor and Social Policy on countries, whose citizens are subject to certain provisions on the seasonal work permit and provisions on the declaration of entrusting work to a foreigner (Official Journal, item 2349).

At the same time, the Moldova Side proposes to deepen cooperation in the field of labour migration with Poland, in order to ensure the rights of migrant workers.

9. Cooperation in the field of cybersecurity and telecommunications

The global cybersecurity market is now (2020) estimated to be worth between USD 115 and 180 billion per year. Research and innovative projects are the driving force behind its growth. In recent years, Poland has had many successes in this field. An example is the "CyberMadeinPoland" cluster or the PW Cyber public-private partnership initiative. Poland have huge experience in R&D projects and is interested in starting cooperation in this area.

The Sides agreed:

- enhancing mutual cooperation, understanding and knowledge sharing in the development, organization and operation of cybersecurity policies, systems and standards;
- establishing cooperation to exchange of best practices, information, as appropriate, on potential cyber threats and events that indicate planned cyber-attacks on economic sectors, as well as the public sector, including cooperation between national cyber incident response teams;
- promoting the implementation of international standards for responsible behaviour and confidence in building security measures in cyberspace;
- promoting activities in support of joint cybersecurity projects;
- establishing capacity building programmes through education, training, research and development and general information sharing in the field of Cyber Security.

At the same time, the Polish Side offered support to the Moldovan Side by exchanging knowledge and experience regarding the preparation and implementation of telecommunications investments and counteracting digital divide in the access dimension, including:

- creating and implementing the assumptions of strategic national documents (e.g. broadband network development plans / strategies);
- creating a legal friendly environment in regard to telecommunications investments (key legislation facilitating investments and the development of services related to broadband Internet access);
- implementing good practices and flagship programs and projects in the field of the development of telecommunications infrastructure for the elimination of the so-called white and grey NGA areas and access to high-speed telecommunications networks and broadband Internet services in places of key importance for socio-economic development;

- improving the range and quality of wireless communication and implementing new technological solutions with its use (including the development of 5G networks);
- collecting, processing and sharing information on telecommunications infrastructure and telecommunications networks;
- sharing good practices in the field of information and education activities aimed at disseminating knowledge on the impact of investments and telecommunications infrastructure on health and the environment;
- building relationship and cooperation in the development of high-speed telecommunications networks and services related to broadband Internet access with stakeholders, including telecommunications entrepreneurs,

The implementation of the above-mentioned cooperation will be possible through face to face and/or virtual meetings, study visits, workshops and trainings, and optionally as part of a wider twinning project dedicated to digitisation (EU funded project, the area of telecommunications as one of the possible components of such a project).

10. Cooperation in metrology

The Commission indicated that the National Metrology Institution of the Republic of Moldova (INM) and the Central Office of Measures (GUM) are developing mutual cooperation. On 24th August 2017, a Cooperation Agreement between GUM and the Moldovan National Metrology Institution - Institutul National de Metrologie (INM) was concluded. The agreement was concluded for a period of five years with the possibility of its extension. GUM would like to emphasize that it is willing to extend the discussed Agreement in the current year.

On 12th of July 2019, GUM hosted a delegation of representatives of the Moldovan Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance Authority and representatives of INM. During the meeting they discussed, among others, issues concerning market surveillance, the law on prepackaged goods, the conformity assessment system and accreditation rules.

Moreover, on 29th of April 2022, GUM hosted the INM delegation. During the visit, selected aspects related to the activities of GUM and INM were discussed, and then further intensification of cooperation between both institutions was agreed.

The Commission took note that GUM expresses interest in developing further cooperation in metrology with the Moldovan Side. This cooperation could mainly include mutual consultations, technical visits, joint research projects, exchange of

experience, as well as organization and participation in trainings, workshops and seminars in the field of metrology.

11. Cooperation in the field of accreditation

As part of bilateral cooperation, the Polish Centre for Accreditation proposes to organize a visit of Moldovan experts to Poland, allowing them to observe the activities of the Polish Centre for Accreditation in which MOLDAC will be interested and in which it wants to implement new accreditation requirements resulting from EU regulations. We also propose a visit of PCA experts in Moldova to conduct seminars or trainings in areas regulated by European legislation and indicated by MOLDAC.

12. Cooperation in the field of tourism

The Sides exchanged views and agreed to expand and fortify the cooperation in the field of culture and tourism, especially in such areas as:

- facilitating an exchange of information on legal acts governing tourism activities;
- offering consultancy and cooperation on the organization of cultural events on touristic themes;
- cooperating in the tourism field, as well as agro-tourism, by exchanging experience;
- exchange of information and data related to tourism.

13. Cooperation in the field of statistics.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova has been cooperating fruitfully with Statistics Poland for a long time. Recently NBS benefited from a technical assistance project funded by the EU (EuropeAid / 138242 / DH / SER / MD), implemented with the technical support provided by Statistics Poland in consortium with other partners (Italian Geographical Society, the Italian Institute of Statistics and Statistics Denmark).

The general objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the National Statistics Office of the Republic of Moldova for the effective approximation of Moldovan statistics with EU norms and standards.

Within the framework of the final conference of the above-mentioned project, recently, the delegation led by Mr. Dominik Rozkrut, the President of Statistics Poland visited Moldova in the period 4-6 July 2022 to attend the final Conference related to the

finalisation of the above-mentioned project. During the visit, discussions were made regarding further cooperation between the Statistics Poland and NBS.

Taking into account the advanced experience of Statistics Poland in different statistical domains and the needs of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Moldova for the further harmonization with the EU norms and standards, enabling the efficient and effective production and dissemination of official statistics, following best European practices, representatives of the NBS Moldova and Statistics Poland discussed about the future cooperation in, inter alia, following areas:

- Population and agriculture censuses,
- Quality Management System,
- Development of human resources,
- Use of administrative data sources for statistical purposes,
- Statistics of agriculture,
- Use of new technologies for statistical data production and dissemination.
- Dissemination of statistical information.

14. Cooperation in the field of education, science and innovation

The Commission expressed the interest to strengthen the cooperation in the fields of education, science and innovation by joint participation in international programs such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, CEEPUS etc.

The Sides revealed their willingness to support academic mobility of the citizens within different scholarship and research internship programs offered by Polish Side and supervised by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

The Sides confirmed their commitment to develop cooperation in the field of education at all levels, by implementing common projects related to curricula development, inclusive education, extra-curricular education, as well as by encouraging direct cooperation between education institutions.

The Commission stressed the importance of institutional fortification of research and innovation areas aiming reforming of public research systems and developing the general perspective of efficient use of the public research and innovation infrastructures.

Also the Commission pointed out the need to strengthen the smart specialisation, technology transfer and innovative capacities by attracting joint organizational and financial resources for the competition of the projects on Smart Specialisation priority areas and by developing of the support mechanisms of the science-business collaboration.

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Sides agreed to hold the next session of the Moldovan - Polish Commission on Economic Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova. The dates to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

This Protocol has been signed in Warsaw on 13 of September 2022 in two copies each in Romanian, Polish and English languages. The English version is decisive.

For the Moldovan delegation

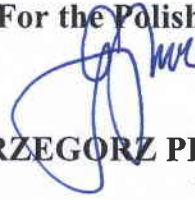
SERGIU GAIBU



**Minister of Economy of the Republic of
Moldova**

For the Polish delegation

GRZEGORZ PIECHOWIAK



**Secretary of State in the Ministry of
Economic Development and
Technology of the Republic of Poland**