



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova on the signing
of the Association Agreement with the European Union
Permanent Council, July 3, 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to share as well our assessment on the signing on June 27, 2014 of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, which envisaged the establishment of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. Yesterday, on July 2, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova ratified the Agreement and the provisional application will start in October this year.

The Association Agreement is an ambitious document that will bring Moldova's European integration process to an unprecedented new level by advancing economic integration and political association between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. It sets a genuine agenda for reforms, based on the ample program of harmonizing the national legislation with EU norms and standards. It also represents a major instrument to support the process of transformations and modernization of the country.

The Government of Moldova is committed to act decisively on implementing core domestic reforms envisaged in the Agreement to ensure a better, safer and more prosperous future for all citizens across the country, regardless of their political beliefs, language or ethnicity, including in the Republic of Moldova's Gagauz autonomy and the Transnistrian region. The Association Agreement will provide equal opportunities for all to benefit.

Moldova invited representatives of Tiraspol to participate in the negotiations of the DCFTA. We took into account the region's interests and, also, agreed with the European Union to extend the current preferential trade regime for the Transnistrian region until the end of 2015. This offers us more than one year to identify a suitable solution for the provisions of the Association Agreement to be applied in the region. We hope that Tiraspol will put the interests of people and business community first rather than holding them away from the opportunities offered by the Association Agreement and the DCFTA. We firmly believe that the implementation of the DCFTA all over the country will create the conditions for restoring the single economic space, thus advancing the Transnistrian settlement process forward.

Finally, it should be stressed that for the Republic of Moldova signing of the Association Agreement does not represent the final goal, but rather an important stage on our path towards fulfilling the strategic objective of becoming a full-fledged member of the European Union.

Before concluding, we would like to congratulate our Georgian and Ukrainian colleagues for signing as well the Association Agreements with the European Union.

Thank you.