

**2nd meeting of the Republic of Moldova – European Union
Association Sub-Committee (SC) on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD)
Joint statement to the Civil Society Dialogue Forum**

- Representatives of the EU and Moldova met yesterday (17 October 2016) for the second meeting of the Republic of Moldova – European Union Association Sub-Committee (SC) on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) under the DCFTA part of the Association Agreement.
- The Parties are pleased to have the opportunity today to meet the Civil Society Forum for an update on the works of the TSD Sub-Committee of the DCFTA.
- Yesterday the Parties first reiterated the importance they attach to this chapter and to the objective of developing trade in such a way as to contribute to the objective of sustainable development.
- Moldova presented some of the most important steps it has taken since the last Sub-Committee meeting in the field of **sustainable development**. Moldova has set up the National Council for Sustainable Development, joined international programs and platforms on the green economy, set up an inter-ministerial working group, and organised workshops and seminars. Trade policy must also fit in that agenda.
- Regarding **the discussions with civil society**, Moldova met its domestic advisory group (DAG) to discuss elements of a work plan. Due to financial constraints, today's meeting has had to be held through video conference. The EU has met its DAG once to prepare today's meeting. The EU underlined the need to broaden the membership of its DAG.
- The Sub-Committee then reviewed the state of play in the implementation of **labour provisions of the TSD Chapter**, including the ratification and implementation of provisions set out by international labour conventions (ILO) and other multilateral treaties. The EU highlighted its recent work on some ILO conventions and standards: the new Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention no. 29; the recent Domestic Workers Convention (C189); the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006); the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187) and the Recommendation on the transition from the informal to the formal economy. The EU said it has growing concerns regarding the situation of the State Labour Inspectorate in Moldova, which is problematic in view of the ILO's standards on labour inspection and also under EU law. Moldova updated the Sub-Committee on the state of play of the transposition of a number of EU directives in the field of labour, on recent changes to the labour code and the involvement of civil society. The Parties agreed to consider organising an event on labour inspection best practices, possibly together with Ukraine and Georgia.
- The Sub-Committee reviewed the state of play in the implementation of the **environmental provisions** of the TSD Chapter, including the ratification and implementation of several multilateral environmental agreements. Moldova presented its

progress in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and in general the area of forestry, hunting, fisheries and ecosystem services. Moldova has submitted the ratification to the CBD Nagoya Protocol and signed the Paris Agreement. There is intensive collaboration between the NGOs and the government. The EU has asked questions on the planned temporary ban on Moldovan timber exports from 2020. The Parties agreed to exchange information on this matter.

- Regarding **climate change**, both Parties have signed the Paris Agreement. The EU encouraged Moldova to ratify it as soon as possible and to work constructively during the upcoming climate negotiations in Marrakesh. It enquired about the state of play of the approximation to the EU ODS and F-gas Regulations. The EU reminded Moldova of the existing assistance through ClimaEast project and highlighted the planned national event to take place in Moldova.
- The Parties discussed **the draft work plan** elaborated by Moldova. They agreed to complete it with topics on labour; to focus on 4-5 labour and 4-5 environment issues directly related to trade and where EU can also play a role; to have a timeline for the actions of the next 3 years to 2020; and to consult the DAGs on the future draft. The work plan should be finalised at the latest at the next TSD Sub-Committee meeting.
- As **next steps**, the Sub-Committee agreed to hold a video conference end-November to discuss an updated work plan. The next Sub-Committee meeting and a back-to-back Joint Civil Society Dialogue Forum and a workshop should be held in autumn 2017 in Chisinau.
- The Parties look forward to hearing the views and the opinions of the Joint Civil Society Dialogue Forum on the implementation of the TSD chapter in general and the content of the work plan in particular.

17 October 2016