

# EU-Moldova

## Association Agreement

### "What does the Agreement offer?"

#### ++++ The Association Agreement in a nutshell:

- The Association Agreement (AA) aims to deepen political and economic relations between Moldova and the EU, and to gradually integrate Moldova into the EU Internal Market - the largest single market in the world. This includes the setting up of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which is a core part of the Agreement.
- The AA is a concrete way to activate the potential of EU-Moldova relations, focusing on support to core reforms, on economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation.
- The AA constitutes a reform agenda for Moldova, based around a comprehensive programme of Moldova's approximation of its legislation to EU norms.
- The AA negotiations were not a stand-alone exercise. EU assistance to Moldova is linked with the reform agenda as it emerges from the result of negotiations.

#### ++++ Basic principles:

The EU-Moldova Association Agreement is part of a new generation of Association Agreements with Eastern Partnership countries and provides a long-term foundation for future EU-Moldova relations without excluding any possible future developments in line with the Treaty on European Union.

From the outset, it was agreed that the EU-Moldova AA should take an ambitious and innovative approach, include a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and go qualitatively beyond the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) wherever possible. It contains binding, rule-based provisions and cooperation developed further than in traditional agreements and it is wide-ranging, covering all areas of

interest.

Special attention has been given to implementation and subsequent enforcement issues, including clear timelines and the establishment of an appropriate administrative and institutional structure, so as to create the necessary predictability for economic operators.

#### ++++ Key elements:

This ambitious and pioneering Agreement represents a concrete way to exploit the dynamics in EU-Moldova relations, focusing on **support to core reforms**, on **economic recovery and growth**, **governance and sector cooperation** in areas such as, for example, energy cooperation, transport, environment, public health, consumer protection, education, training and youth as well as cultural cooperation. The Agreement further reiterates the Parties' commitment to a sustainable solution to the Transnistrian issue as well as to facilitating jointly post-conflict rehabilitation.

Key elements include:

- **Values and Principles: common values**, namely democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the rule of law, a market economy and sustainable development;
- **Enhanced cooperation in foreign and security policy**, with the focus on regional stability, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, conflict prevention and crisis management;
- **DCFTA**, which goes significantly further than classical forms of economic integration, offering not only improved trade and investment opportunities but also assistance in trade-related reforms with the aim to contribute to **economic recovery and growth** and to better integration of the Moldovan economy with the world markets;
- **Justice, Freedom and Security**, covering the rule of law, data protection, migration, the fight against money laundering and terrorism, tackling illicit drugs, and the fight against organised crime and corruption;
- **Enhanced cooperation in some 28 key sector policy areas**, including in the fields of public administration reform; economic dialogue; company law, accounting and corporate governance; employment, social policies and equal opportunities; consumer protection; statistics; management of public finances:

budget policy, internal control, financial inspection and external audit; taxation; financial services; industrial and enterprise policy; mining and raw materials; agriculture and rural development; fisheries and maritime policy; energy cooperation; transport; environment; climate action; information society; tourism; regional development, cross-broader and regional level cooperation; public health; civil protection; cooperation on education, training, multilingualism, youth and sport; cooperation in research, technological development and demonstration; cooperation on culture, audio-visual policy and media; civil society cooperation; cooperation in the protection and promotion of the rights of the child; participation in EU Agencies and programmes based on gradual approximation with the EU acquis and also - where relevant - with international norms and standards.

#### ++++ How will citizens benefit from the Association Agreement?

Examples include a **better protection of consumers**, in particular through a higher quality and safety of locally grown agricultural products; more **business opportunities** for small and medium enterprises through a wider opening of markets and, as a result, **more jobs** and less out-migration; **lower prices** for consumers and for better-quality products; **improved health services**; and lower energy bills thanks to more efficient use of energy resources and the development of renewable energy sources; a better functioning of the judiciary and the strengthened rule of law and increased transparency.

#### ++++ State of Play and content of the Association Agreement

The EU-Moldova Association Agreement counts about 1000 pages and is comprised of:

- 7 Titles which concern General Principles; Political Dialogue and Reform, Cooperation in the Field of Foreign and Security Policy; Justice, Freedom and Security; Economic and other Sector Cooperation; Trade and Trade-related Matters (DCFTA); Financial Assistance and Anti-Fraud and Control Provision as well as Institutional, General and Final Provisions;
- 35 Annexes laying down the relevant EU legislation to be taken over by a specific date and
- 4 Protocols.