



PRESS RELEASE

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Today, 7 July 2011, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and the National Institute of Justice organised a conference ***Justice Sector Reform Coordination and Strategy***. Main objective of the conference was to present the results of an EU-funded justice sector assessment in the Republic of Moldova, carried out by a team of independent experts, as well as to share experience of the justice sector reform process in Lithuania, Romania and Georgia and to provide lessons learned for the justice sector reform process under way in Moldova.

At the opening remarks of the conference, Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, the Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, stressed that 'a truly democratic Moldova aspiring to European integration should have an independent and efficient justice system, which will also boost the Moldovan economy, however, that all this could only be achieved through serious commitments of the politicians and judiciary'. Ambassador stressed that 'the European Union will support Moldova in this complicated task, but this support will directly depend on the progress achieved by Moldova'.

Minister of Justice, Mr Oleg Efrim, acknowledged the importance of an independent assessment of the current state of affairs in the justice sector and informed that this assessment will be carefully studied by the working groups set up under the Ministry of Justice to further develop the Justice Sector Reform Strategy.

Mr Dovydas Vitkauskas, Team Leader of the justice sector assessment mission, presented findings of the Team whereby various problem areas were determined in Moldova, including a lack of internal and external sector dialogue, inefficiency of courts and criminal investigation bodies, and a lack of institutional, legal and practical tools to effectively combat corruption and impunity. Directions for reform were suggested, and areas for support by the EU and other donors were recommended. In their speeches, Professor Vytautas Nekrošius, Dean of the Law Faculty of the Vilnius University, Mr Cristi Danilet, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania, and Ms Tamar Tomashvili, Head of Department at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, described the process of justice sector reform coordination and strategy development, respectively, in Lithuania, Romania and Georgia. Various discussions took place in the aftermath of the interventions.

For more information, please contact:

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