



## Press Release

12 September, 2014

Chisinau

### **The Delegation of the European Union to Moldova organized a press club on the topic of EU support to the Justice Sector Reforms in Moldova**

*Press-club: "The support provided by the European Union to the reform of the justice sector in Moldova"*

The European Union is committed to the support and development of justice reform sector in Moldova with a total budget of EUR 60 million (as budget support) and EUR 10 million (as technical assistance) to achieve this objective.

In this context the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova organized a press-club with the participation of Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola, Head of European Union Delegation to Moldova, and Minister of Justice, Oleg Efrim. The main goal of this meeting was to present and discuss achievements of the justice sector reform and future developments in this context.

The press-club aimed to foster an open discussion with the representatives of the mass-media, offering the journalists the possibility for a clear and concise Q&A session with the key speakers of the club.

This press club was organized prior to a press conference, which will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, announcing officially the disbursement of the second instalment in the framework of "Support for Justice Sector Reforms" Program, financed by the European Union.

Justice reform is critical in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agenda and deepening political and economic association, assisting Moldova in coming closer to the European Union.

## Background information:

The reform of the justice sector aims at providing the citizens of Moldova with concrete benefits and it represents an important benchmark and quality indicator that would influence the advancement of the overall bilateral dialogue.

The Financing Agreement of the Support for Justice Sector Reforms programme was signed by the Moldovan Government and the EU in 2013. Its overall objective is to support Moldova in implementing its Justice Sector Reform Strategy. The total budget of the programme is EUR 60 million.

One of the reforms achieved in the field of justice include the adoption of the package of laws on corruption prevention in the justice sector. Now, the Government of Moldova should focus on their implementation. The measures to tackle corruption within the justice system should be strengthened.

The steps taken by the Government in the implementation of the Law ensuring equality prove its determination to foster Justice Sector Reform and improve Human Rights protection in Moldova, with the support of the European Union. However shortcomings remain in the implementation of the prosecution reform.



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