



## Press Release

15 September, 2014

Chisinau

### **The European Union provides a further substantial contribution to the reform of the justice sector in Moldova**

*The disbursement of the second instalment within the framework of the Sector Policy Support Programme – "Support for Justice Sector Reforms" in the amount of EUR 13,2 million was officially announced today during a press-conference with the participation of Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola, Head of EU Delegation to Moldova and Oleg Efrim, Minister of Justice.*

Justice reform is critical in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agenda and deepening political and economic association, thus assisting Moldova in coming closer to the European Union. It 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 European Union is committed to further supporting the this field, with the most recent disbursement of funds made possible due to the Moldovan Government achieving a set of key reforms. „*The transfer of this instalment of 13.2 million euro is based on the report regarding the implementation of the Policies Matrix of the 2013 program of the evaluation mission. We have succeeded to achieve most of the planned pre-conditions, 88%, and so we have convinced the EU of the seriousness of our intentions*”, declared Oleg Efrim, Minister of Justice.

In this context, Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola has reaffirmed the commitment of the EU for continuing the support of reforms in our country: *"The European Union offers the Republic of Moldova an unprecedented support for the justice sector reform. The implemented reforms need time to become fruitful and be truly felt by the citizens of Moldova. We encourage the Republic of Moldova to intensify its fight against corruption in the justice sector and to implement the Prosecution reform: these fields represent a priority, according to the Association Agenda EU-Moldova"*.

## Background information:

The Financing Agreement on the budget support to the reform of the justice sector in Moldova with the total amount of 60 million EUR was signed between the Moldovan Government and EU in 2013, its overall objective being to support the Moldovan Government to implement its Justice Sector Reform Strategy.

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. In this context it is worth underlying that the Government of Moldova should focus now on their implementation. The measures to tackle corruption within the justice system should be strengthened.

The steps taken in order to implement the Law on ensuring equality, especially the approval of a Road Map, prove the Moldovan Government is determined to foster the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform and to improve Human Rights protection in Moldova. However shortcomings remain in the implementation of the prosecution reform.

The first installment for the budgetary support, of 15 million euro, was transferred by the EU to the Republic of Moldova in November 2013; the year of the Program “Support for the justice sector reforms” was launched. The main objective of the support program is to assist the justice reform in our country, which is essential in the implementation process of the Association Agreement Moldova - EU and for the deepening of the political and economic association, as well as for supporting the European path of the Republic of Moldova.



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### Contacts:

Victoria Onofreiciuc  
PM Communication and  
Publications

Tel: + 373 22 505 210  
Fax: + 373 22 545 421

Delegation of  
the European Union to Moldova

Kogalniceanu 12, MD 2001  
Chisinau, Moldova

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