



Newsletter for journalists, 28 January 2011

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Announcements

2-4 FEBRUARY, CHIȘINĂU

THE MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT AND THE EBRD WILL SIGN THE MEMORANDUM [More information>>>](#)

2-16 FEBRUARY, CHIȘINĂU

A MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) WILL VISIT CHIȘINĂU [More information>>>](#)

1 FEBRUARY, BRUSSELS

A CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY [More information>>>](#)



News (21- 29 January 2011)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AT THE GREEN WEEK IN BERLIN

From 21 to 30 January 2011, the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission has been presenting with a stand at the International Green Week in Berlin. This year, particular focus will be given to quality products, organic farming, and agricultural and rural development policy in general.

Visitors to the Commission's stand will be provided with information on its current agricultural and rural development policy and proposals for reform, examples of co-financed rural development projects will be presented by their beneficiaries. These will explain their products, how they obtained EU funding and results achieved. [More information>>>](#)

GMES IMPROVES ICEBERG FORECASTING AND AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Two important European Commission-funded projects were launched in January 2011 for the implementation of Europe's Global Monitoring system for Environment and Security, GMES, following the recent signature of two contracts worth €2 million each.

The Icemar project paves the way, for example, for a shortened safe shipping line between Europe and China by bringing better iceberg forecasts to ships in the Arctic Ocean and the Baltic seas. The obsAIRve project will provide real time air quality information and alerts on levels of pollutant emissions, primarily Sulphur Oxides (SO_x), Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x), Ozone (O₃), Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Particulate Matter (PM), delivered directly to the user online, via smart phone platforms and SMS messages. Icemar and obsAIRve services will be available to citizens by the end of 2012.

European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "GMES helps us make informed choices in areas concerning our environment, health, safety and security. The signature of these contracts is another important step in moving GMES from a research initiative to an information service to the benefit of citizens, businesses and public institutions."

The benefits of GMES services are becoming increasingly tangible. [More information>>>](#)



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2010

From 26-31 January 2011, the Annual Meeting 2011 convenes under the theme Shared Norms for the New Reality. The meeting takes place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

This theme reflects the foremost concern of many leaders today - namely, living in a world that is becoming increasingly complex and interconnected and, at the same time, experiencing an erosion of common values and principles that undermines public trust in leadership as well as future economic growth and political stability.

With the global economy recovering, the international community should focus more on long-term structural changes and the values they share to deepen collaboration among stakeholders. "We are at a turning point," said Paul Bulcke, Chief Executive Officer of Nestlé, Switzerland, and Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2011, at a press conference.

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting, which opens today, is "Shared Norms for the New Reality" of the post-crisis world.

Chanda Kochhar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Bank, India commented: «We have to get used to managing businesses and country policies taking into account the higher volatility.» [More information>>>](#)

POLITICS

COMMISSIONER PRESENTS MOLDOVA VISA LIBERALISATION ACTION PLAN

On 24th January 2011, the European Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström presented in Moldova the Action Plan on visa liberalisation to Prime Minister Vlad Filat. The Action Plan sets out all technical conditions to be met by Moldova before the possible establishment of a visa-free travel regime.

"This is a step further towards the long-term goal of a future visa free regime that would facilitate people-to-people contacts and strengthen business, social and cultural ties between the European Union and Moldova," said Commissioner Malmström.

The Action Plan focuses on key areas such as security of travel documents, border and migration management, public order and security, including the fight against organised crime and trafficking in human beings.

Commissioner Malmström also met with the Acting President of the Republic of Moldova and Chairman of the Parliament, Marian Lupu, and the Moldovan Minister of the Interior, Alexei Roibu to discuss EU cooperation in the field of mobility, migration and security. [More information>>>](#)



MOLDOVANS FROM ABROAD TO RECEIVE NON-BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS ONE MORE YEAR

The Moldovan citizens residing abroad will be issued non-biometric passports till late 2011. The cabinet today approved a legislative amendment, which sees the extension of the period for getting non-biometric passports by the Moldovan citizens from abroad.

On 26th January 2011, at the meeting, Information Technology and Communications Minister Pavel Filip said that the draft law is meant to back the citizens from abroad who cannot come to Moldova to process biometric passports. In this way, a one-year-long transition period will allow them processing non-biometric passports.

At the same time, Prime Minister Vladimir Filat asked Filip to present a report on the formation of prices for biometric passports. "The shift to these passports is a condition, but the people should not be forced to pay additional taxes," the prime minister said.

Starting from 1 January 2011, Moldova will issue only biometric passports in line with the commitments the country assumed in the process of liberalization of the visa regime with the EU.

To enter into force, the amendments must be adopted by the parliament. [More information>>>](#)

ECONOMICS

THE MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPECULATIVE GROWTH OF PRICES

"The Moldovan government will take necessary measures to prevent the speculative growth of prices that has been taking place lately." It was said by Prime Minister Vladimir Filat on 19th January 2011.

He said the problem of prices would be discussed at the government's sitting with competent ministries and controlling institutions participation. Prime Minister asked them to present the full information about the price dynamics, reasons of the rise in food prices, the situation development prospects and to submit drafts of the respective government decisions.

However Prime Minister underlined, that the government will counteract the speculative rise in prices in the difficult period. Vladimir Filat emphasized that speculators raised prices for production taking into consideration the long period of the political instability. According to him, the new government has to settle the situation and to take efficient measures given the fact that sale of socially significant goods is regulated by the price mark up fixed by the government. [More information>>>](#)



THE GROWTH OF THE NET PROFIT OF MOLDOVA'S BANKING SYSTEM IN 2010

The net profit of Moldova's banking system in 2010 totalled 219.1 million leis (\$18.1 million) against 172.5 million leis losses a year earlier.

The banks' first level capital in 2010 increased by 5.2% - to 6.758 million leis, according to the National Bank of Moldova. The dynamics of this indicator last year after the 2.8% contraction in 2009 confirms that Moldova's banking system has overcome the crisis. The share of foreign investments in banks' capital as of the end of December 2010 constituted 77%, down 0.6 percentage points from the beginning of the year as a result of the increase in the authorized capital at the expense of resident shareholders' investments. The average capital adequacy given the risk in the system amounted to 30.1% (the minimal level being 12%), down 2 percentage points from the beginning of the year. The indicator reflects the increased potential of bank crediting.

Banks' liabilities as of the end of December 2010 totalled 35.013 million leis, up 6.1% from the beginning of the year. Deposits grew 8.7% - to 28.718.5 million lei, including individuals' deposits - by 10.4% - to 18.174.3 million leis, reflecting the growing trust in the banking system of Moldova as financial crisis has been overcome. [More information>>>](#)

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

JEAN MONNET PROGRAMME LAUNCHES CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON INTEGRATION

On 25th January 2011 a call for educational project proposals seeking Jean Monnet Programme funding has been launched by the European Commission. The deadline for the current call is 15 February 2011, for projects to start, at the earliest, in September 2011.

This particular call concerns projects that aim to stimulate excellence in teaching, research and debate in European integration studies in higher education institutions within and outside the EU. This particular activity of the programme, which falls under the new Lifelong Learning Programme, brings together the two instruments formerly known as the Jean Monnet Action and the Support for Study and Research Centres.

The Jean Monnet Programme offers support for associations of professors and researchers specialising in European integration and for information and research activities relating to European integration. The programme is also looking to fund multilateral research groups from different countries.

The Jean Monnet Programme is now present in 68 countries throughout the world and more than 760 universities offer Jean Monnet courses as part of their curricula. The Programme brings together a network



of 1,600 professors, reaching audiences of 250,000 students every year. (ENPI Info Centre) [More information>>>](#)