

28 August, 2014

Chisinau

**The EU Commissioner for Energy participated in the opening of the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline
constructed with the support of European funds**

Yesterday, Günther H. Oettinger, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Energy participated in the opening ceremony of the Iași-Ungheni gas pipeline together with the Moldovan Prime-Minister Iurie Leanca and Romanian Prime-Minister Victor Ponta.

Commissioner Oettinger pointed out: *“Energy reform is one of the key fields of development for Moldova and we are happy to further support this sector. The assistance provided by the European Union aims at bringing concrete benefits to the population of the country and encouraging further reforms in this sector.”*

The opening of the pipeline is an important step in the development and diversification of the Moldovan energy sector. The European Union provided EUR 7 million for the construction of the pipeline. It will offer opportunities for a more secure and competitive energy market in the country.

The EU supports the reform of the energy sector in Moldova since 2011 with a budget support operation of EUR 42.6 million. The most recent disbursement of EUR 11.6 million has been paid to the Government, following its progress in reforms.

Key achievements of the Moldovan Government in the field of energy included reinforced institutional capacities in the sector, energy modernisations projects, and substantive contribution to the Energy Efficiency Fund, which will support energy saving investments and finance projects that bring concrete benefits to the citizens.

Background:

The EU Energy Budget Support programme is a 4-year programme (2011-2014) with a total budget of EUR 42.6 million. Additional EUR 10 million has been added in 2014 to contribute to the financing of the gas pipeline Ungheni-Chisinau. It will extend the Iași-Ungheni pipeline and offer alternative gas supply to Chisinau district, the largest gas consumer in Moldova.

The support offered by the European Union to the Energy sector in Moldova focuses on the diversification of energy supply, connection to EU Energy market and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy. This will bring concrete benefits to the citizens by decreasing the energy costs for the population in the upcoming years.

For more information

Delegation of the EU to Moldova: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/index_en.htm

Eastern Partnership: www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/easternpartnership

