

**Press Release** 

8 October 2015, Chisinau

## Support to Small Business in the context of DCFTA

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Economy have kicked-off a debate about the critical role of small business within the framework of the EU-Georgia/Republic of Moldova/Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between. The discussion brought together local businesses, business support organisations, local banks, government officials, EU stakeholders and the EBRD and the EIB.

The discussions built upon findings and recommendations of the recently completed study "EU Support to the Private Sector in the context of Association Agreements/DCFTAs" - and addressed the key opportunities and challenges for small business in Moldova. During the event, both EBRD and EIB provided more information about the DCFTA Facility for SMEs.

The DCFTA facility will help SMEs to seize new trade opportunities with the EU and improve access to finance, enabling SMEs to make necessary investments to increase their competitiveness; allow to integrate into global value chains; and to comply with new sanitary, phytosanitary, technical and quality standards, as well as with environmental protection measures, thereby benefiting local customers and boosting exports to the EU and beyond.

Present at the event, Christophe Stephane Bride, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, emphasized the critical role of SMEs for the economy.

EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova Pirkka Tapiola has encouraged the representatives of the business community to increase export to the EU market, bringing a concrete example of a success story in this area.



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