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## **Association Agreement**

**between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part**

## PREAMBLE

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM,  
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA,  
THE CZECH REPUBLIC,  
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK,  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,  
THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA,  
IRELAND,  
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,  
THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN,  
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,  
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA,  
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,  
THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS,  
THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA,  
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA,  
THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG,  
HUNGARY,  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA,  
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS,  
THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA,  
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND,  
THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,  
ROMANIA,  
THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA,  
THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC,  
THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND,  
THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN,  
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,  
Contracting Parties to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Member States’,  
THE EUROPEAN UNION, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Union’ or ‘the EU’ and

THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY, hereinafter referred to as ‘the EURATOM’

on the one part, and

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

on the other part,

Hereafter jointly referred to as ‘the Parties’

- CONSIDERING the common values and strong links of the Parties, established in the past through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and being developed within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership, and recognizing the common desire of the Parties further to develop, strengthen and extend their relations;
- ACKNOWLEDGING the European aspirations and the European choice of the Republic of Moldova;
- RECOGNISING that the common values on which the European Union is built – namely democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law – lie also at the heart of political association and economic integration as envisaged in this Agreement;
- TAKING into account that this Agreement will not prejudice and leaves open the way for future progressive developments in EU-Republic of Moldova relations;
- ACKNOWLEDGING that the Republic of Moldova as a European country, shares a common history and common values with the Member States of the European Union, and is committed to implementing and promoting those values; which for the Republic of Moldova inspire its European choice;
- RECOGNISING the importance of the joint EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan of February 2005 in strengthening EU-Republic of Moldova relations and in helping to move the reform and approximation process in the Republic of Moldova forward, thus contributing to gradual economic integration and deepening of political association;
- COMMITTED to strengthening respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, democratic principles, the rule of law, and good governance;
- RECALLING in particular their will to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, including by cooperating to that end within the framework of the Council of Europe;
- WILLING to contribute to the political and socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova, through wide-ranging cooperation in a broad spectrum of areas of common interest, including in the field of good governance, justice, freedom and security, trade integration and enhanced economic cooperation, employment and social policy, financial management, public administration and civil service reform, civil society participation, institution building and the reduction of poverty and sustainable development;

- COMMITTED to all the principles and provisions of the UN Charter, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna Conferences of 1991 and 1992 respectively, and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 1990, as well as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950;
- RECALLING their will to promote international peace and security as well as engaging in effective multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular by cooperating to that end within the framework of the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);
- RECOGNISING the importance of the active participation of the Republic of Moldova in regional cooperation formats;
- DESIROUS to further develop regular political dialogue on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, including regional aspects, taking into account the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union, including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP);
- TAKING ACCOUNT of the European Union's willingness to support the international effort to strengthen the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and to contribute to the reintegration of the country;
- RECOGNISING the importance of the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to a viable settlement to the Transnistrian conflict, and the EU's commitment to supporting post-conflict rehabilitation;
- COMMITTED to preventing and combating all forms of organised crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, and to stepping up cooperation in the fight against terrorism;
- COMMITTED to deepening their dialogue and cooperation on mobility, migration, asylum and border management in the spirit of the EU external migration policy framework aiming at cooperation on legal migration, including circular migration and tackling illegal migration, as well as ensuring the efficient implementation of the readmission agreement;
- RECOGNISING the gradual steps being taken towards a visa-free regime for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova in due course, provided that the conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place;
- CONFIRMING that the provisions of this Agreement that fall within the scope of Part III, Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) bind the United Kingdom and Ireland as separate Contracting Parties, and not as part of the European Union, unless the European Union together with the United Kingdom and/or Ireland have jointly notified the Republic of Moldova that the United Kingdom or Ireland is bound as part of the European Union in accordance with Protocol No. 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. If the United Kingdom and/or Ireland ceases to be bound as part of the European Union in

accordance with Article 4a of Protocol No. 21 the European Union together with the United Kingdom and/or Ireland shall immediately inform the Republic of Moldova of any change in their position, in which case they shall remain bound by the provisions of the Agreement in their own right. The same applies to Denmark, in accordance with the Protocol No. 22 on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaties;

- COMMITTED to the principles of free market economy and confirming the readiness of the European Union to contribute to the economic reforms in the Republic of Moldova;
- COMMITTED to respecting environmental needs, including trans-boundary cooperation on, and implementation of, multilateral international agreements; and to respecting the principles of sustainable development;
- DESIROUS to achieving gradual economic integration in the EU Internal Market as stipulated in this Agreement, inter alia through a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as an integral part of this Agreement;
- WILLING to create a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, which will provide for far-reaching regulatory approximation and market access liberalisation, in compliance with the rights and obligations arising out of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership of the Parties; and to the transparent application of those rights and obligations;
- BELIEVING that this Agreement will create a new climate for economic relations between the Parties and above all for the development of trade and investment, and will stimulate competition, which are factors crucial to economic restructuring and modernisation;
- COMMITTED to enhancing the security of energy supply, facilitating the development of appropriate infrastructure, increasing market integration and regulatory approximation towards key elements of the EU *acquis*, and promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources;
- ACKNOWLEDGING the need for enhanced energy cooperation, and the commitment of the Parties to implement the Energy Community Treaty;
- WILLING to improve the level of public health safety and protection of human health as a precondition for sustainable development and economic growth;
- COMMITTED to enhancing people-to-people contacts, including through cooperation and exchanges in the fields of research and development, education and culture;
- COMMITTED to promoting cross-border and inter-regional cooperation, in the spirit of good neighbourly relations;
- RECOGNISING the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to progressively approximating its legislation in the relevant sectors with that of the European Union, and to implementing it effectively;
- RECOGNISING the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to developing its administrative and institutional infrastructure to the extent necessary to enforce this Agreement;

- TAKING account of the willingness of the European Union to provide support for the implementation of reforms, and to use all available instruments of cooperation and technical, financial and economic assistance in this endeavour;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

### *Article 1*

#### **Objectives**

1. An Association is hereby established between the Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova of the other part.
2. The aims of this Association are:
  - (a) to promote political association and economic integration between the Parties based on common values and close links, including by increasing the Republic of Moldova's participation in EU policies, programmes and agencies;
  - (b) to strengthen the framework for enhanced political dialogue on all areas of mutual interest, providing for the development of close political relations between the Parties;
  - (c) to contribute to the strengthening of democracy and to political, economic and institutional stability in the Republic of Moldova;
  - (d) to promote, preserve and strengthen peace and stability in the regional and international dimensions, including through joining efforts to eliminate sources of tension, enhancing border security, promoting cross-border cooperation and good neighbourly relations;
  - (e) to support and enhance cooperation in the area of justice, freedom and security with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as in the area of mobility and people-to-people contacts;
  - (f) to support the efforts of the Republic of Moldova to develop its economic potential via international cooperation, also through the approximation of its legislation to that of the European Union;
  - (g) to establish conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards the Republic of Moldova's gradual integration in the EU Internal Market as stipulated in this Agreement, including by setting up a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, which will provide for far-reaching regulatory approximation and market access liberalisation, in compliance with the rights and obligations arising out of the WTO membership; and to the transparent application of those rights and obligations; and
  - (h) to establish conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.