



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 27 May 2008
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**EU-Republic of Moldova Cooperation Council
Tenth meeting
Brussels, 27 May 2008
EU Press release**

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova held its tenth meeting on Tuesday, 27 May 2008. The meeting was chaired by Dr Dimitrij Rupel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, who also led the EU delegation. The Moldovan delegation was led by Mr Vladimir Voronin, President of the Republic of Moldova. The EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova, Dr Kalman Mizsei, also took part in the meeting. The European Commission was represented by Mr Hugues Mingarelli, Deputy Director General of External Relations Directorate General.

The Cooperation Council welcomed the progress made and the significant concrete achievements reached in the EU-Republic of Moldova relations since the last Cooperation Council of June 2007, including the entry into force of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements as of 1 January 2008, and the Autonomous Trade Preferences granted to the Republic of Moldova as of 1 March 2008. The EU welcomed good progress made by the Republic of Moldova in most areas of the ENP Action Plan, as reflected in the April Progress Report by the Commission.

P R E S S

On this basis, the EU confirmed its readiness to start reflections on a new Agreement with the Republic of Moldova, going beyond the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. At the same time, the EU underlined the need for further reform efforts, in particular as regards the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, media freedom, the fight against corruption, and the business and investment climate. The EU urged the Republic of Moldova to ensure that the 2009 parliamentary elections would be prepared and conducted in a fully democratic manner.

The meeting was followed by a working lunch, during which the Transnistrian issue was discussed. The EU highlighted its strong engagement in the efforts to resume the 5+2 settlement talks in order to reach a viable solution to the Transnistria conflict. The EU also reiterated its support to the confidence building measures initiated by President Voronin, referring to effective engagement of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova and the Commission in the process. The EU encouraged the Republic of Moldova to be patient and generous in the implementation of the confidence building measures, while not compromising on the key principles of a future settlement or slowing down the reform process.

