

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
ON A JOINT FRAMEWORK FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

Whereas:

- the ratification of the EU - Republic of Moldova Association Agreement in 2014, by the Parliament of Moldova and the European Parliament in July, respectively November, clearly demonstrated the European path for Moldova and the engagement and commitment of both parties to develop a strong inter-parliamentary relationship;
- the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee repeatedly confirmed its support to the EU-Moldova Association Agreement and its core common values and called for full implementation of Moldova's needed reforms to guarantee respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law, and separation of powers;
- the European Parliament's Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group's (DEG) decision to consider Moldova as a priority country for long-term democracy support and capacity building demonstrates the commitment to establish a fruitful partnership with the Parliament of Moldova.

The parties agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to establish a joint framework for parliamentary support, capacity building and dialogue facilitation for the Parliament of Moldova. All such parliamentary support activities will be in line with Moldova's national reform agenda and development programmes, with the priorities of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, and will be coherent and complementary to the overall EU efforts to consolidate democracy and the rule of law in Moldova.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The parties to this MOU have agreed to work towards:

- ensuring efficient implementation of the constitutional roles of law-making, oversight and representation of the Parliament of Moldova;
- increasing the quality of parliamentarism in Moldova, in line with best European practices;
- increasing the transparency, predictability, efficiency and openness of the proceedings of the Parliament of Moldova;
- effective implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.

In pursuing these goals, the parties will focus on:

- improving the quality of legislation and of the legislative process in Moldova;
- strengthening the capacities of parliamentary committees, including through the best European practices of their work planning and organisation, as well as policy analysis support in view of achieving legal harmonisation with EU acquis;
- reviewing the Rules of Procedure and other instruments guiding the internal organisation of the Parliament of Moldova;
- improving the efficiency of interaction between the majority and the opposition, between the political factions as well as between the committees of the Parliament of Moldova;
- enhancing the staff potential and transforming the Secretariat of the Parliament of Moldova into a modern service-oriented body;
- enhancing communication and facilitation of dialogue and cooperation of the Parliament of Moldova with the citizens, civil society, media and other stakeholders.

III. SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

The scope of the parliamentary support programme will be set out - on the basis of the outcome of the fact finding mission by the lead-MEP for the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG lead-Member) and of needs expressed by the Parliament of Moldova and other actors active in the democratic transition in Moldova. A "*Roadmap of democracy support activities*" will be drafted and agreed upon jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliament of Moldova.


The activities in the Roadmap will be implemented under the political guidance and responsibility of the DEG lead-Member.

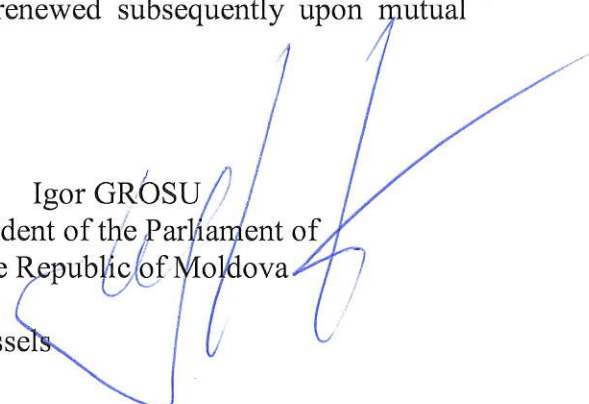
Support activities could include *inter alia*:

- mentoring, study visits and exchanges of best practices between parliamentarians;
- Jean Monnet Dialogues for peace and democracy;
- training, mentoring and capacity building for parliamentary staff, political parties and factions;
- parliamentary conferences, seminars and roundtables in Moldova or in one of the work places of the European Parliament;
- Triangle for Democracy Programme to fight disinformation, hate speech and foreign interference, while preserving freedom of expression;
- EP-facilitated dialogue between the Parliament of Moldova and civil society, aimed at developing topical cooperation and consultation mechanisms;
- necessary technical assistance and other types of parliamentary support that reinforce the overall EU approach to Moldova.

V. DURATION

This MOU will enter into force on the date of signature by both parties, for the duration of the current parliamentary term in Moldova, and may be renewed subsequently upon mutual consent.


David Maria SASSOLI
President of the European Parliament


Igor GROSU
President of the Parliament of
the Republic of Moldova

29 November 2021, Brussels