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**Cordially
Congratulations!
29th Anniversary of the
Independence Day of
the Republic of Moldova
H.E. Mr. Igor Dodon
President of the Republic of Moldova**



H.E Mr. Mian Mehmood
Honorary Consul General of the
Republic of Moldova



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Mian Fazal Elahi

Pakistan and Moldova are enjoying long existing friendly relations and trade cooperation. Moldova has its Honorary Consulate in the city of Lahore, since 29th of August 2013 under the H.E. Mian Mehmood Honorary Consul General. This office is providing services to boost up the bilateral relations and search new venues of cooperation and collaboration. With this spirit, Moldova was celebrated its national day for the first time in Islamabad on August 26, 2015.

Moldova is like a gateway to Europe because it is situated between Romania and Ukraine, quite near the Black Sea, with a population of about three million.

Pakistan has an emerging economy. It exports products Rice, Mangoes, Kinnow, Cotton, Surgical Instruments, Leather Goods, Furniture Footballs, Sea foods and much more are famous in all over the world. Moldovan importers and Pakistani exporters should avail the opportunities and boost the bilateral trade and investment.

Pakistan and Moldova both countries are determined to promote education and empowerment of people at all levels and we believe that together with each other's help both the countries will be able to achieve this goal. There are potential in several other fields like IT, in the national and local road infrastructure, renewable energy etc. Moldova on its side is strong in that field, and in other agricultural and horticultural fields, due to the country's climate and fertile soil.

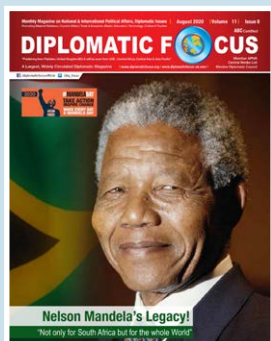
Establishment of strong trade and investment relations between the Moldavian business community and Pakistani business community will ensure greater interaction in all the sectors of economy.

On the auspicious occasion of the 29th National Day of the Republic of Moldova, it is great pleasure to convey cordial greetings and best wishes to the Government and the people of the Republic of Moldova. The "Diplomatic Focus" and its team avail this opportunity to extend our best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of Moldova.

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.

Our previous Issues

August 2020



June/July 2020



May 2020



April 2020



Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com



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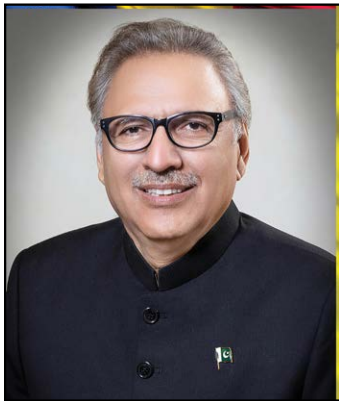
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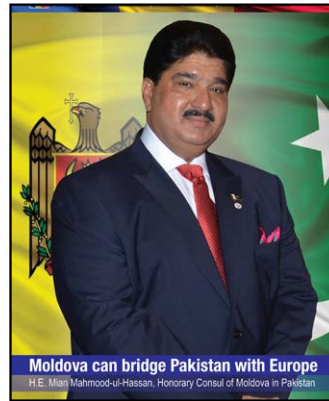
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Let me start by expressing my sincere felicitations and good wishes to the Government and the People of the Republic of Moldova on the auspicious occasion of their National Day. I must also convey my personal greetings to H.E Mian Mehmood Sahib, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Moldova in Pakistan for his tireless efforts in promoting positive relations between...

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Moldova can bridge Pakistan with Europe H.E. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Honorary Consul of Moldova in Pakistan

Today, we avail the opportunity to introduce this wonderful and astonishing personality to our readers. "Diplomatic Focus" is feeling pleasure and honor. First of all, on the behalf of "Diplomatic Focus" and its team, congratulations on completion of 3years as Honorary Counsel of Moldova and also thanks for your time that you take for our readers from your busy schedule...

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Tourism in Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova as a tourist destination has a great potential represented first of all by the geomorphologic aspect of its territory – an unusual diversity of landscape reservations or scenery and unique geological monuments of European and world value. Rural Tourism Moldova's agricultural and picturesque countryside proposes various services for tourists wishing to stay in the middle of the nature...

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Message of **His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi President Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

His Excellency Mr. Igor Dodon
President of the Republic of Moldova
Chisinau

On the auspicious occasion of the National Day, it gives me immense pleasure to convey my warm felicitations to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of Moldova.

Pakistan and Moldova enjoy friendly and cordial relations spanning over two decades. These relations are based on mutual trust and understanding. I am confident that the existing friendly relations between Pakistan and Moldova will further strengthen to the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries in the years ahead.

I avail this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency's good health and happiness.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Dr. Arif Alvi)



H.E. Mohammad Sarwar

Governor of the Punjab,
Pakistan



His Excellency President Igor Dodon of Moldova

Greetings on the National Day of
Republic of Moldova

Your Excellency, Dear President,

On the occasion of the anniversary of the 29th. National Day of Moldova, on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency, the Government and people of the Republic of Moldova.

It is my great pleasure to note that Pakistan and Moldova enjoy long existing friendly relations and trade cooperation. We look forward to enhancing our relations further through increased political dialogue & strengthening of economic cooperation across all sectors for the prosperity of both our nations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, well-being and success and for the continuous progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Republic of Moldova. Happy Independence Day.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Sarwar

Governor of the Punjab, Pakistan



Message of **H.E. Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan** Honorary Consul of Moldova in Pakistan

It is great pleasure for me to express my views at the occasion of National Day (29th Anniversary) of Republic of Moldova and on its national day. I am quite confident and sure that this address will enable to understand the people of Moldova the bilateral diplomatic, economic and social relations between Pakistan and their country.

I applaud for having this opportunity for initiative and wish the success of people of both countries and their endeavors to strengthen further bilateral relations between Pakistan and Republic of Moldova.

Pakistan and Moldova both countries are determined to promote education and empowerment of people at all levels and we believe that together with each other's help both the countries will be able to achieve this goal.

On this occasion we believe that both the countries will work together on issues like Peace, Human rights, Education and on empowerment of its people. We pray that relationships between both the countries prosper and flourishes and we see Moldova as rising nation of the region.

Moldova Pakistan zindabad"





Message of, Ambassador Javed Malik, Chairman, Diplomat Business Club & Former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Let me start by expressing my sincere felicitations and good wishes to the Government and the People of the Republic of Moldova on the auspicious occasion of their National Day. I must also convey my personal greetings to H.E Mian Mehmood Sahib, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Moldova in Pakistan for his tireless efforts in promoting positive relations between Pakistan and Moldova. There is indeed tremendous scope to further expand the business, trade and economic ties between both countries as well as to further upgrade closer linkages between the business communities, and I am confident that the Honorary Consulate General of Moldova in Pakistan is playing a pivotal role in this regard.



The Diplomat Business Club is in discussions with the Consulate in planning a Business & Investment Conference between both countries and will continue to remain engaged with the business communities in both countries to create this opportunity as both countries look towards economic recovery in a post Covid environment.

Long live Pakistan Moldova Relations.





Message of Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries

I am glad to take this opportunity to extend good wishes and greetings to the Government and nationals of the Republic of Moldova on the occasion of their National Day (August 27, 2020).

I on behalf on my fellow office bearers and members of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry would like to convey the heartiest felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Igor Dodon, President and His Excellency Mr. Ion Chicu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova in connection with National Day that is jubilantly celebrated on August 27 every year since 1991.

Pakistan and Moldova have been enjoying warm and cordial relations. We look forward to establishing strong trade and investment relations with

the Moldovan business community ensuring greater interaction in all the sectors of economy.

Let us vow to make the best use of each other's strength and take all possible steps that may secure benefits to the nations of both the countries. I pray for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Republic of Moldova.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh



Message of

Ali Hussain Asghar Senior Vice President The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry

I am really pleased to offer the best wishes and compliments to the political leaders and the citizens of the Republic of Moldova on the occasion of their National Day which commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence from the Soviet Union on 27 August 1991.

I on behalf of my Executive Committee Members and the whole business community of Lahore present the wholehearted salutations to His Excellency Mr. Ion Chicu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova and his cabinet members in respect of National Day of Moldova. While celebrating this important day, the lively nationals of Moldova always demonstrate their emotions and joy by arranging processions and concerts whereas the officials lay flowers at the Stephen the Great Monument which is worth watching.



I would suggest that Pakistan and Moldova should further strengthen their diplomatic relations and it is needless to mention that the Office of Honorary Consulate in Lahore can play important role in this regard. It is the need of the hour to develop government to government and people to people contacts in order to explore new ways of initiating cooperation.

It goes without saying that Lahore Chamber is always there to play its role in contributing to the mutual progress and prosperity of the both the countries.

With kind regards,



Congratulates you on your 29th National Day. Accept my heartfelt wishes for your country's prosperity and growth. May this day bring fortune and success for every citizen of Moldova

Ahsan Khaliq, CEO, Saad Ahsan Immigration Law Firm



Speech By

H.E. Igor DODON, President of the Republic of Moldova, at the 74th Session of UN General Assembly

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
EXCELLENCES,
DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE,

I have the honour to join you and deliver my first speech from the most important tribune of the United Nations.

The accession of the Republic of Moldova to the UN, its active participation in all the institutions of the Organization, as well as the possibility of sharing here the most important ideas, wishes and problems, is among the outstanding achievements of the people of the Republic of Moldova since 1991.

To begin with, I would like to congratulate Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande on his election as President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly and to wish him much success in fulfilling his mandate.

I also express my appreciation to Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés for the wonderful work she has done as President of the previous session.

I will avail of the opportunity to hold my speech in front of you in order to assure you

of the full support by the Republic of Moldova for all the initiatives and projects launched by the UN lately – actions designed to solve the most complicated problems that humanity faces within this tumultuous beginning of the century.

At the same time, I also take advantage of this opportunity to highlight the most pressing challenges that Republic of Moldova is facing with at this stage, but also our vision regarding possible ways to solve them.

DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE,

As is widely known that we are living in times when the magnitude and number of lasting crises is constantly increasing. Military conflicts and humanitarian crises, climate change and environmental degradation, exaggerated consumption of natural resources and economic imbalances, forced and encouraged migration are real threats in the process of building a prosperous and peaceful world, as it is set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Against this background, the role of the United Nations, as guarantor of international peace and security, but also as a global platform for

identifying common solutions to existing and emerging challenges, is paramount. In this way, we express support to the UN Secretary General for the agenda of ambitious reforms in progress. We also reaffirm our support to preventive diplomacy, promoted by Mr. António Guterres, aiming at preventing crises and conflicts.

Just a decade away from 2030, we find, with regret, that poverty, hunger, inequality, and social exclusion continue to affect lives and globally feed new conflicts. The Republic of Moldova joins the joint appeal launched at the recent High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on the international community to accelerate efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals.

Through the 2030 Agenda, we are committed to promote sustainable development based on respect for human rights.

As in the past, the Republic of Moldova is determined to continue its contribution to fulfilling the important mandates of the Human Rights Council.

In this context, referring briefly to one of the aspects of social issues, I would like to mention

that ensuring gender equality and empowering women are crucial elements for accelerating sustainable development by boosting economic growth, the well-being of families, communities, as well as of the state as a whole. Lately, the Republic of Moldova has made remarkable progress in enhancing the role of women in the decision-making process. Women head the Parliament and Government of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the Autonomy of Gagauzia, and they also represent 65% of the members of Government and 25% of the members of national Parliament. Nor do we forget about the crucial role of women in any modern society – that of mother and preserver of family hearth. Namely in order to focus the state's attention to the necessity of protecting and stimulating the creation and preservation of families, we have decreed the year 2019 as the Family Year in the Republic of Moldova.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Climate change is a direct threat to humankind, and the effects of this phenomenon are perceived worldwide, affecting ecosystems, national economies, and healthcare systems. In addition, of course, these phenomena affect my country, too.

The Republic of Moldova expresses its solidarity with Mr. Guterres' call to intensify efforts to halt the phenomenon of climate change.

We are firmly convinced that the complex problems facing the peoples of the world can only be solved through joint international

efforts. The realities of the period we are going through denote that even internal issues cannot be settled exclusively with solitary efforts of a nation.

Quite often, such problems can only be solved with the help of international partners, and this is especially the case of small countries.

The example of the Republic of Moldova is representative in this regard and is relevant, to large extent, for many states of the world.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Over 28 years since the Declaration of our Independence, my country's profile has some dramatic characteristics. During this period, the number of new-borns has decreased by three times, the population remaining in the country decreased by 30%, and some economic indicators have not even returned to the level of 1990.

About one million citizens, i.e. more than half of the economically active population, work abroad. The massive depopulation of the country has become a major problem and a real threat for the state sustainability. The enormous investments of our society in human capital and in education of the labour force have practically no economic feedback, the country loses the competition for the labour force, and our people create benefit and pay taxes elsewhere.

The origin of these bleak developments is, of course, a complex one, from poor governance

and endemic corruption in recent years, to failures in economic or inter-ethnic policies.

However, from this tribune of the United Nations, I will highlight one of the major factors, in my opinion. It is about the positioning, the place of the Republic of Moldova and of other regional states in the puzzle of policies and strategic interests of the main world powers. I dislike using military terms and certainly, it is not the most relevant comparison, but a similarity to the term *terra nullius* from the perspective of geopolitical confrontations in the region can be easily noticed.

I should remark that although since the military conflict on Nistru River in 1992 no shell exploded in our territory, the confrontation between major geopolitical players for a better positioning in the region has never ceased. Over all these years, there has been no consensus between the great powers regarding the Republic of Moldova.

Our country is a multi-ethnic state and, by virtue of historical developments of the last centuries, the geopolitical preferences of our population are divided almost equally between East and West, between the Russian Federation and the West.

This essential feature, but also a constant one for a long time ahead, has reduced to zero the effects of uninspired and even adventurous strategies of attracting Moldova in alliances against others. Once our politicians and national elites got involved in such actions, the country





had to pay a high price for it. First, there was blood and disintegration following the armed conflict in Transnistrian region of the country, then it was economic and social degradation already over several decades.

Unfortunately, throughout the 28 years of independence of the Republic of Moldova, the diametrically opposed geopolitical preferences were the basis of the split of Moldovan society, a fact speculated with much ability by different political forces exclusively in the interests extraneous to our people.

This is why, as President of the Republic of Moldova, I make use of every opportunity to request the de facto recognition and observance of my country's neutrality status, which is also enshrined in our country's Constitution.

We do not want to be treated as neutral territory anymore; this is something different from a neutral state.

Any attempt to question this status is an unfriendly act against the people of the Republic of Moldova, since such approaches deepen the internal dissensions of the country even more dramatically.

Moreover, they jeopardize any chance of advancing in the settlement of Transnistrian problem and, implicitly, in enhancing the security throughout the region. Our objective and absolute priority for solving the Transnistrian problem is achievable only if the military neutrality status of the Republic of Moldova is preserved.

From this tribune, several times the calls were made for withdrawal of foreign military troops and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

I want to welcome the latest initiatives of the Russian Federation, expressed during the recent visit to Moldova by Russian Defence Minister Shoygu and during the official visit of Moldovan Foreign Minister Popescu to Moscow, to resume the disposal process of foreign ammunition stored in Transnistrian region of my country.

This important step, for the first time since 2003, can become crucial for reaching a geopolitical consensus for the political settlement of Transnistrian dispute and for the enhancement of regional security.

Unlike other frozen conflicts, the Transnistrian case does not have interethnic, religious or other implications, which are particularly difficult to be settled. Moreover, nowadays there is no hatred between ordinary inhabitants on both banks of Nistru river, who interact daily in a peaceful and friendly way. At the base of the conflict were the myopic policies promoted by the leaders of that time, aggravated by the effects generated by dismantling the former USSR in early 1990s. The national elites of that time were not capable enough to face the challenges, and the situation deteriorated into armed conflict.

Currently, we witness a strong predisposition among common population to identify a mutually acceptable solution to this frozen conflict. The recent progress in the effort to converge the Nistru banks, materialized through various humanitarian, economic and social projects, further strengthened this desire.

All these aspects, taken together, represent, in our opinion, a good chance for great diplomats to make a decisive contribution to the settlement of this frozen conflict and to create

a positive precedent for solving other tens of such cases throughout the world.

Availing of this opportunity, I want to express my gratitude to all the participants in the Permanent Conference for Political Issues in the negotiation process for Transnistrian settlement, known as "5+2 negotiation format". I reaffirm our confidence that this format of negotiations is the most recommended arrangement to find the solution acceptable to all in this problem of major importance for Moldova. Exactly in this format, the special status of Transnistrian region is to be debated and agreed within a sovereign and territorially integrated Moldova, within the internationally recognized borders, with full guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We also rely on the format in identifying possibilities for the support eventually rendered by our foreign partners in the post-settlement phase of Transnistrian problem.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Since June 8, 2019, the Republic of Moldova is governed by a parliamentary coalition consisting of political parties that represent the vast majority of the country's population. It is a unique case for the Republic of Moldova, when two political forces with diametrically opposed doctrines and geopolitical preferences joined forces to govern and solve the country's pressing problems. However, what is important and unprecedented for our region is that this internal consensus is strengthened also by the common position of the main development partners of the Republic of Moldova and of the great world powers, including the Russian Federation, United States, and European Union.

It is an exclusive case in the international politics, when geopolitical forces have united their efforts against a criminal regime, which had captured a whole state.

This very rare situation and conjuncture of agreement both on domestic and external stage feeds our hopes for a real progress on the path of the very necessary internal reforms, such as the justice reform and the fight against corruption, as well as on the way of solving the Transnistrian problem.

One of the consolidating elements of the current governing coalition in the Republic of Moldova is the awareness of the importance and the willingness to promote a balanced foreign policy with all strategic partners of the country.

The exponents of both political parties in the parliamentary majority have already established a constructive dialogue with the Eastern and Western partners, and this essentially increases our chances for obtaining the external support

we need. There is a common approach regarding the need to respect all the political and economic agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova, including the Association Agreement with EU and the cooperation within the CIS.

A distinguished place on our agenda is given to the relations with the two neighbouring countries and friends of the Republic of Moldova – Romania and Ukraine.

Faced with similar problems, we see in deepening our humanitarian, economic, political and social relations an enormous development potential for the benefit of citizens.

The main challenge, both before the new governing coalition and before the big geopolitical forces that have supported the democratic changes in Chisinau, is whether we will really show the sufficient political maturity to go further than just removing the state from the captivity of oligarchs.

I am firmly convinced that this unprecedented internal and external consensus could and should be used by all of us to make real changes in the quality of citizens' life, to find a solution to Transnistrian problem, to give a new chance to the Republic of Moldova.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Republic of Moldova is a multi-ethnic country inhabited by representatives of about 125 ethnic groups.

A third of the population consider themselves Russian-speaking. The Russian language, one of the six official languages of the United Nations, has the status of a language of interethnic communication in Moldova.

As President of the Republic of Moldova, I consider that the main task of the recently formed parliamentary majority, supported by eighty percent of the country's population, as well as by our Western and Eastern strategic partners, is to create a single legal democratic neutral multi-ethnic state where a decent life and confidence in the future is guaranteed to every inhabitant.

We will be friends and will interact with all our partners. The "either-or" policy, which in recent years has been pursued by a number of major powers with respect to the Republic of Moldova, has clearly shown its fallacy and inadequacy.

I am supporter of the concept of a united Europe from Lisbon to Vladivostok, while Moldova as a European state will play a particular role in this process.

I want to emphasize once again that as the head of state I am an active supporter of a balanced



foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova and I am ready to comprehensively promote mutually beneficial cooperation with all UN member states with which we have established diplomatic relations.

For Moldovan people, as well as for the peoples of other countries –members of the United Nations, peace is the main value. We strive to ensure peaceful coexistence with our neighbours and development partners.

Our intention is to strengthen the stability and security of the Republic of Moldova, to maintain the constitutional status of permanent neutrality of our state and to strive for its recognition at international level, following the model of countries such as Austria.

In this context, the example of military neutrality of certain states like Austria can be relevant as a pattern for the Republic of Moldova, too.

The neutrality however does not mean isolation; Moldova thus will go on strengthening its multilateral cooperation with Russia, United States, European Union, its neighbours and other states.

I believe the key to our success is the promotion of the concept of international recognition of the military neutrality of the Republic of Moldova along with the completion of removal and disposal of ammunition left in the territory of the Republic of Moldova since the Soviet era, with full and final completion of the withdrawal of foreign troops from the state, which I have the honour to represent at this high tribune.

Upon reaching the final political settlement of

the Transnistrian conflict there will be no need of a peacekeeping mission in our territory.

*MISTER PRESIDENT,
DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE,*

At the end of my speech, I want to emphasize once again the importance of maintaining the consensus of main geopolitical actors regarding the Republic of Moldova.

Only under such circumstances do the chances of solving the severe problems facing my country shall increase, including the Transnistrian problem.

I am very confident that such an effort and support from the Russian Federation and the West could radically change the profile of my country, which I was talking about with so much concern at the beginning of this intervention.

I reaffirm the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to UN approaches to the main problems the humankind faces now. The Republic of Moldova remains firmly committed to observing the principles of the UN Charter and the vision of sustainable development, anchored in the 2030 Agenda.

Our determination bases on the full awareness about the imperative nature of the solidarity among nations in the face of modern challenges.

We are few hundred peoples and countries, but we have one home, one planet, which we must take care of together, regardless of our place under the sun.

Thank you for your attention!



Moldova can bridge Pakistan with Europe

H.E. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Honorary Consul of Moldova in Pakistan

Today, we avail the opportunity to introduce this wonderful and astonishing personality to our readers. "Diplomatic Focus" is feeling pleasure and honor.

First of all, on the behalf of "Diplomatic Focus" and its team, congratulations on completion of 3 years as Honorary Counsel of Moldova and also thanks for your time that you take for our readers from your busy schedule.

Q- Excellency! As we mentioned you in your introduction that you are the first honorary counsel of Moldova in Pakistan, What were your feelings when you hear this news?

A. Yes, it was a great news for me when Prime Minister of Moldova invite me over in Moldova and express his desire that they wanted to establish relations with our region especially Pakistan. Prime Minister termed Pakistan as important country. He added that we had receptions in Pakistan twice or thrice on frequently basis in every year and it will be honor for Moldova to have represent it by you. So, it was a nice meeting with him and great honor for me and for my country.

Q- It is a difficult task to represent a country which is totally new for your native country's people. How you are fulfilling this difficult task?

A. Yes, indeed it was difficult task but if you committed, then it will easy to complete and achieve the most difficult task. It is motive of my whole life to be hundred percent committed and clear and by the grace of All mighty Allah, I achieved all the tasks and in future, by the help of great creature, InshaAllah I will deliver my best. It will be worth if I mention the name of my Ideal personality, that is the Quaid-e-Azam the founder of Pakistan. He is my inspiration. He was the man of true commitment.

Q- Excellency! Republic of Moldova is relatively new for our readers. It will be really interesting if you share some glimpse of Moldovan culture, history, people etc.

A. It is situated in South Eastern Europe, north of the Balkan Peninsula. The total area is 33,843 square km. The distance between the North and the South extremities is 350 km, and from East to West is 150 km. Moldova

My Ideal
personality is the
Quaid-e-Azam
the founder of
Pakistan. He is
my inspiration

shares borders with Romania and Ukraine. The culture of Moldova is a combination of Romanian culture and Soviet culture. The traditional Latin origins of Romanian culture reach back to the 2nd century. The cultural heritage of Moldova is abundant with traditions and customs. Moldovan nation is very devoted, hardworking and they love with their culture.

Q- Excellency! How do you see bilateral trade relations between the two countries?

H.E. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan

H.E. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan is the prominent figure of the business community in Pakistan and outside the country. He belongs to one of the leading business and religious families of Pakistan. Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan has only one dream "Pakistan comes first" on world level in every sector of whether it is business, trade or international relations. He has worked around the world to forge partnerships for Pakistan abroad in-order to further the interests of our country at both business & diplomatic forums.

When Moldova opened a Consulate in the city of Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 29 August 2013, H.E. Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan appointed the first Honorary Consul General of Moldova in Pakistan since September 2013 due to his tremendous and marvellous business abilities. He is a successful businessman with a visionary style and has a deep knowledge of Economic and Political Affairs. H.E. Mr. Mian Mahmood graduated from Hailey College of Commerce in Lahore and the London School of Economics remains his Alma Mater where he studied organizational Behaviour. He remained the Chairman and CEO of Pakistan Guarantee Export Corporation Ltd Lahore from 2000-2016, which dealt in Strategic Consulting, Routing International Trade, Providing Securities to importers/exporters, Helping govt. achieve annual exports target. He also fulfilled his duties as Chairman of Mian Group of Companies Pvt Ltd Since May 1986 to January 2000 in Islamabad. Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan held a board seat at numerous Government Departments. He is a versatile man of abilities and has quality of leadership. He is also the founder member World Economic Forum, which is committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization on for Public-Private Cooperation.

H.E. Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan received the 1st Prime Minister's LCCI Achievement Award for Services to the Export Sector in 2005 from Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Pakistan recorded its highest exports during the same year. He also remained the President of Pak-Saudi joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries from 2016-17. Furthermore, Mr. Mian Mahmood-ul-Hassan has been member of many business councils. He represented Pakistan as member of the high level delegations to over 65 countries.





A. Trade relations with Moldova are relatively new and established some years ago. Our first trade export assignment was of surgical equipments. Pakistani delegation visited to Moldova. As I early pointed out that there is a large scope in surgical equipments and textile. So in future, both countries will enjoy the bilateral trade and relations. Furthermore, I think that Moldova can bridge Pakistan with Europe.

Q- Excellency! As we are discussing the bilateral relations of the two countries, what is the range of the scope of bilateral trade?

A. Our governments are very friendly in terms of bilateral relations and trade with other countries. Trade is the major and centric point in all policies of government and it is handling on priority basis. So, I think that there is no such hurdles or barriers which discourage the relations. The environment of relations in two countries is very suitable and supportive and we should elevate the business community.

Q- As we know that Moldova is relatively new country for Pakistani people, Businessmen, investors and people, my question is that what are scope and opportunities for Pakistanis in Moldova?

A. Moldova's economy relies heavily on its agriculture sector, featuring fruits, vegetables but there is also large scope in the area of

agriculture processing, pharmaceuticals, textile, sports wears, dental equipments etc. Pakistani exporters should avail the opportunity to export these commodities to

Moldova. London exit from European Union is a great opportunity for our businessmen and investors to use Moldova like a bridge to Europe.

London exit from European Union is a great opportunity for our businessmen and investors to use Moldova like a bridge to Europe

Number of Pakistanis students are studying in Moldova and this number is increasing with the passage of time, especially in the field of Pharmacy. Moldova is offering the best education system at all levels.

Q- Excellency! As a seasonal businessman and has deep eye on economy, what you suggest for Pakistani investors and businessmen?

A. Pakistani investors and businessmen has





great opportunities to display their products in Moldova and also should be a permanent display centre over there to establish a strong representation of Pakistan.

Q- Excellency! What are the hurdles or barriers that you observed or facing in the promotion of bilateral ties between two countries? And as you mention, that your office is keen and are working to promote the bilateral trade and relations between the two countries, what you are suggest to government of Pakistan in this regard?

A. Since, Pakistani government is trying hard





to find new markets for its goods and trade and I think that Moldova is also one of them and our government should move business and high officials' delegations frequently. Furthermore, as I mentioned and suggest that we should have a proper and on permanent basis a display centres to introduce our "Made in Pakistan" products in Moldova. It is an untapped market and we should maintain our aggressive presence.

Q- Excellency! You are celebrating officially the National day of Moldova in Islamabad for the last many years. We congratulate the Moldovan people, government, officials on the behalf of Pakistani people on the 29th anniversary of the independence of Moldova. It will be worth for our readers and honor to

"Diplomatic Focus" to give message on this auspicious day.

A. Thank you very much. I appreciate the work and struggle of "Diplomatic Focus", which always try to bridge the nations and communities and we want to patronize these efforts to create the opportunities of information sharing facilities with each other. I applaud for having this opportunity for initiative and wish the success of people of both countries and their endeavors to strengthen further bilateral relations between Pakistan and Republic of Moldova.

Moldova-Pakistan Friendship Zindabad!

Excellency! Thank you very much for such a nice and informative talk.





Republic of Moldova

Moldova is a country with a rich but poorly known tourist potential, located in Eastern Europe. Bordered by Romania to the west and Ukraine to the north, south and east, this corner of the earth deserves the qualification of “corner of heaven”.

Moldova's climate is temperate. Due to the 4 seasons, the surroundings always look different - spring in buds and flower aromas, summer in the gentle beat of the sun's rays and the charm of the fruit, autumn in the multicolored leaves and of course in the flavor of the grapes and winter in the purity of the snows. Every time the look is enchanting.

During the rivers Dniester, Prut, Răut there are some breathtaking landscapes, which are breathtaking, especially since the rivers are navigable, being a great pleasure to travel on water by raft or boat.

The pride of Moldova is the natural landscapes, in some places virgin and enigmatic; are the historical places and the fortifications that carry the breath of history and that of the victorious battles; are the wines and cellars that compete with the French; are the churches and monasteries in the construction of which the soul was deposited as a result becoming places of exile and healing of the soul; the pride of Moldova are the native people who create the spirit of hospitality in our small country.

Throughout history, the territory of Moldavia (between 1812-1918 with the name of Bessarabia, a province of the Russian Tsarist Empire) was a bridge from the eastern border of Europe to the western and Balkans. After the Russo-Turkish war of 1812, the Christian population of Turkish origin from Romanian Dobrogea and Zaporozhye (Ukraine) was proposed to settle in Bessarabia, so with

the passage of centuries today in southern Moldova, in the Bugeac steppe we discover Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri with center in the city of Comrat). Since 1994, Gagauzia has been an autonomous territorial unit.

After the Second World War, Moldova is incorporated into the Soviet Union (1944-1991), and from the interwar period in the territory of Moldova is also part of Transnistria (Dniester Moldovan Republic, the administrative center being Tiraspol). After the 1992 armed conflict, the Transnistrian authorities self-proclaimed independence, and the Moldovan authorities lost control of this eastern part.

After gaining independence, the Republic of Moldova kept the beautiful holidays and traditions, delighting through the delicious and most importantly ecological national cuisine, as well as through the Moldovan customs and culture.



Republic of Moldova & World

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) is the specialized central body of public administration authorized to promote and implement the foreign policy of the State.

The internal Regulations of the Ministry that were approved through the Governmental Decision no. 1156 of 4 November 2005 regulate its activity.

The Central Apparatus of the Ministry, its consular bureaus, diplomatic missions, representative offices and missions to international organisations as well as the staff thereof all together constitute the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Moldova.

The Law on Diplomatic Service governs the basic objectives and operations of the Diplomatic Service.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration is carrying out a broad activity aiming at ensuring favourable conditions to fully implement the following national interests of the Republic of Moldova externally: to integrate into the European Union, to strengthen the cooperation with international and regional organisations, to promote its economic interests, to ensure a favourable external environment and the international support necessary to implement the economic, social and political reforms in Moldova, to settle the conflict in Transnistria, to protect the interests of Moldovan citizens abroad and to build up the positive image of the Republic of Moldova on the international arena.

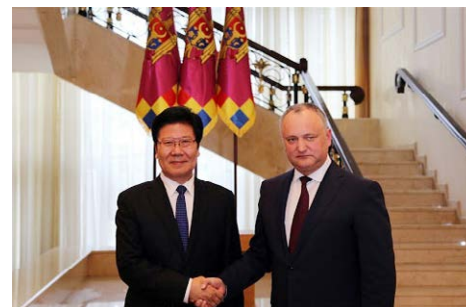
Amongst the most valuable achievements of the Moldovan diplomacy in the area of



European Integration are the deepening of the bilateral dialogue with the EU within the European Neighbourhood Policy; the signing of the European Union – Republic of Moldova Action Plan in Brussels on 22 February 2005; the establishment of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Community (in May 2005); the creation of the Office of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Moldova (in October 2005); the appointment of a Special EU Representative to the Republic of Moldova and the enlargement of the (“five plus two side”) format for carrying out of negotiations for the settlement of the conflict in Transnistria with the inclusion of the EU and the USA; the obtaining of facilities for the GSP+ system for the export of Moldovan products to the EU market; the continuation of the dialogue with the European Commission for obtaining the EU Autonomous Trade Preferences according to a similar offering model for Western Balkans states etc.

At the initiative of the MFAEI, a series of important actions have been implemented aiming at extending the dialogue with the EU in

the energetic sector, including at integrating the Republic of Moldova into the unified energetic market of the South Eastern Europe. Following these actions the Republic of Moldova was granted the status of the observer of the Europe Energy Community Treaty. At the same time the MFAEI addressed the European Commission expressing the interest of our country to launch the dialogue about the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation in the energetic sector between Moldova and EU, which would outline the specific measures to be undertaken to ensure an active involvement into the actions specified in the Europe Energy Community Treaty and to obtain the full-right membership.





The cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the UN and its specialized agencies is also an important area of MAEIE activity. Thanks to political initiatives launched by the MAEIE and coordinated by line ministries a series of positive decisions have been taken by FAO and the International Labour Organisation, respectively, on the establishment of their offices in Chisinau and the appointment of their national coordinators. Both actions aimed at maintaining or increasing the amount of the assistance offered to our country in agricultural and labour areas, respectively.

Internally, support was provided to conduct the mid-term assessment of the 2002-2006 UNICEF-Moldovan Government Cooperation Programme and to initiate a new Programme Cycle to provide assistance to the Republic of Moldova by the specialized UN agencies during 2007-2011 and to develop in this regard the Common Country Assessment Paper (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Paper, respectively.

The Republic of Moldova was elected into the FAO Committee for Agriculture and respectively into the UNESCO Legal Committee. Moldova was also appointed for one-year term the Deputy Chairman of the UN Committee for Social Development. Actions to promote the candidates of our country into the UN elective bodies and its Secretariats were further taken.

An important dimension in the activity of the Ministry and its diplomatic missions is the extension of the presence of our country within the international organizations, as well as the initiatives, processes and regional cooperation structures as CE, CEI, OSCE, SPSEE and OBSEC.

Another success of the Moldovan Diplomacy in the area of regional cooperation is the fact that the Republic of Moldova was granted the full-right membership in the Cooperation Process

in the South Eastern Europe (in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 3 May 2006).

Another significant event in the expanding the presence of the Republic of Moldova on the international arena was the exercising of the GUAM Chairman mandate, taken over by rotation, during April 2005 – May 2006. During this time the Republic of Moldova managed to push forward the development of the organisation according to a new quality level.

Thanks to diligent activities of all the GUAM members, it became a Regional International Organisation. The Secretariat of the organisation was set up.

All member-states endorsed the GUAM constitutive documents.

While exercising its mandate, the Republic of Moldova organised the first Meeting of the Secretaries of National Councils for Security and of Secret Services, it also proposed to carry out in Chisinau the Meeting of Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs and to sign the Common Agreement of GUAM member states on Witness Protection Programme.

A special attention was paid to new areas of cooperation. Therefore, the second Summit of the GUAM Youth was organised in Chisinau. Within its frameworks the „Forum of Youth from GUAM States” International Organisation was established with the head office in Chisinau.

Also throughout the mandate a first Meeting of GUAM Parliamentary Assembly was organised and carried out.

A substantial chapter of the MFAEI activity was the promotion of multi-lateral relationships within the Community of Independent States as the CIS market continues to be one of the main factors of the economic development of the Republic of Moldova.

An important dimension in the activity of the Ministry and its diplomatic missions is the extension of the presence of country within the international organizations, as well as the initiatives, processes and regional cooperation structures as CE, CEI, OSCE, SPSEE and OBSEC.



The regional security issue in general and the specific issues related to the settlement of the consequences of the conflict in Transnistria have a considerable share in the MAEIE activity.

In this regard diplomatic dialogue continues for the identification of a peaceful solution to the Transnistrian issue and for the withdrawal of the Russian troops and munitions from the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The Moldovan Diplomacy managed to obtain the inclusion of the basic objective of the negotiations on the settlement of the Transnistrian issue – to develop the status of the region on the basis of respect of sovereignty and territory integrity of the Republic of Moldova – into the pertinent international papers, in particular the ones adopted within OSCE.

Also other specific steps made by MFAEI within the context of ensuring the international monitoring of the situation in the security zone were the changing of the format for carrying out negotiations and the initiative to make secure the Moldovan-Ukrainian boarder on the Transnistrian sector.

Positive developments were registered in the relationship between the Republic of Moldova and the North Atlantic Alliance. A new quality level of this relationship was defined in the Republic of Moldova – NATO Individual Plan of Action for Partnership (IPAP), which implementation will help to strengthen the political dialogue and to deepen the cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the ally- and partner-states and will ensure the modernisation and the reforming of the national security and defence sector.

In compliance with the provisions of the Governance Programme, the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and European Integration, through its diplomatic missions, within the frameworks of bilateral and multi-lateral visits is persistently promoting the economic interests of the Republic of Moldova, identifying new ways for promoting the external trade, for decreasing the deficit in the balance of trade and for attracting investments into the national economy.

The Ministry provided the necessary assistance to carry out negotiations and sign bilateral agreements on economic and trade cooperation; to avoid double taxation and mutual protection of investments. Activities for raising the awareness of foreign partners continued for the provision of the financial and technical support necessary for carrying out the reforms in the national economy.

Bilateral relationships have a pragmatic and rising trend.

Taking into account the fact that Integration into the European Union is the absolute priority of the external policy of the Republic of Moldova, it is obvious that the bilateral relationships with EU member-states (Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Great Britain, Poland, Baltic States, Czech Republic, Slovenia etc.) have a special position in its diplomatic activity.

Also the trend in the international and regional situation has defined a strengthening of bilateral relationship with the USA.

Creation of a new quality model of bilateral Moldovan-Russian relationship, based on the principles of equality and respect for sovereign rights of the Republic of Moldova became a crucial point of its foreign policy.

A special attention is paid to deepening and diversifying the relationships with neighbour states – Romania and Ukraine; the



relationships with Turkey, China and Japan were strengthened.

The bilateral diplomatic activity resulted in the establishment of new diplomatic and economic and trade relationships as well as in the extension of the existing ones through signing certain cooperation agreements in the political, economic, financial and humanitarian areas.

During 2001–2006, 438 treaties were concluded of which: 26 with Russian Federation; 26 with Romania; 42 with Ukraine; 4 with Germany and 13 with Italy etc.

With regard to protecting the interests of our citizens abroad, the MFAEI activity is focusing on providing consular assistance, completing the legal framework in the consular area and on the alignment of consular normative acts to the international legislation.

Within the context of aligning the Moldovan legal framework to the EU one, MFAEI has supported the examination and the provision of advisory opinions for the drafts of the agreements with EU member-states (Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia) on mutual travel of citizens.

The initial phase of the internal procedures for concluding certain agreements on mutual travel has been finalized. The signing of these agreements is dependent on the decision to be made at the level of EU leadership.

The first round of negotiations with the European Commission experts on the possibilities to facilitate the visa issuance procedure for Moldovan citizens took place in Brussels on 7 June 2006. At that meeting the last developments of the EU-Moldova Action Plan implementation were presented in the area of combating the human trafficking and the organized crime, the illegal migration, the security of national travel papers and other

aspects related to visa issue.

During the discussion, the Moldovan delegation reiterated its request for the support from the European Commission and its member-states to be granted by the EU the mandate to continue the negotiations on agreements to facilitate visa issuance procedures and the Republic of Moldova – European Union readmission during 2006. Also the delegation informed the European officials in detail on the difficulties faced by Moldovan citizens in the issuance of Schengen visas.

The initiated dialogue continued during the working visit of the President of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union (during 21–22 June 2006). Within the framework of the discussions the EU representatives reiterated the availability of the European Union to support the Republic of Moldova in the visa-related issues, especially through the creation in Moldova, as a pilot project, of the Common Schengen Visa Issuance Centre, in charge of all the countries that are parties to the Agreement.

As to the cultural dimension of the foreign policy to be mentioned the active involvement of the representatives of the Diplomatic Service in different important events aimed at promoting the image of the country, its cultural and artistic values and at establishing the cooperation contacts in the cultural area. Cultural contacts were facilitated worldwide. The MFAEI and its diplomatic missions provided the necessary assistance for the participation of our country representatives in international exhibitions, fairs, symposiums and for the informing about the scientific achievements and tourist patrimony.

A special attention was paid to deepening the cooperation relationships with UNESCO, International Francophone Organization and the Latin Union.





Education in Republic of Moldova



For the Republic of Moldova, education is a national priority or the basic factor in the transmission and creation of new cultural and general human values, in the development of human capital, in the formation of national consciousness and identity and has a key role in creating the premises for sustainable human development. Building a knowledge-based society. The quality of education largely determines the quality of life and creates opportunities for the full realization of the capabilities of each citizen.

The Sectoral Strategy for the Development of Education for the years 2013–2020 is the main policy document in the field of education. In order to coordinate the integration of the sectoral strategic planning process in the field of education, the provisions of the Strategy were correlated with relevant policy documents, with the reforms started in the education system, with other reforms that represent an operational continuity of actions projected in the National Development Strategy. Moldova - 2020"

The state policy in the field of research-development, innovation and technological transfer is carried out by the scientific community in the person of the Academy of Sciences, in accordance with the Code on Science and Innovation and the Partnership Agreement between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the Government of Moldova, which the Government conveys to it the competence to carry out state policy in the

field of science and innovation.

According to the Code on Science and Innovation, the ASM is the Public Institution of National Interest in Science and Innovation, is the Plenipotentiary Coordinator of Scientific Activity and Innovation, the country's highest scientific body and the scientific consultant of the public authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

The supreme governing body of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova is the Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, consisting of full members, corresponding members of the ASM and 78 habilitated doctors, elected by the scientific community of the Republic of Moldova. The executive body of the Assembly is the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development, consisting of 17 members, 5 ex officio members: the president of the Academy of Sciences, the first vice-president, 2 vice-presidents, the general scientific secretary of the Academy of Sciences; 12 representatives of the scientific community elected by the Assembly. The Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development (hereinafter referred to as the Supreme Council) elaborates development forecasts in the field of science and innovation, identifies strategic directions in the field of science and innovation, examines and approves strategies,

The main objective, proposed by A.Ș.M., is to solve three priority problems: obtaining high-performance scientific results worldwide,

providing scientific and expertise of the most important decisions of the country's leadership, creating cutting-edge technologies which would ensure the increase of the living standard of the population.

Recognizing the priority of developing basic research, which is a valuable source of new knowledge, the leadership of the Academy of Sciences simultaneously directs the activity of science and innovation organizations to convert scientific research results into new devices and technologies for implementation in the national economy. Currently these works are concentrated in 14 state programs and 34 technology transfer projects in the field of developing new alternative energy sources, biomedicine, pharmaceuticals, nanotechnologies and obtaining new materials, maintaining soil fertility and food security, creating new varieties of crops agriculture and plant protection, etc. Research in all these fields is partly carried out jointly with researchers in the USA,

One of the priority directions of activity of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova is to overcome the isolation of Moldovan scientists from global science. The participation of the Republic of Moldova in the process of creating the unique European scientific space has contributed to the stabilization of the country's scientific potential, as well as to the dynamization of the mutually beneficial exchange with the EU scientific community.

SPORTS



Although it is a small country, the sportsmen from the Republic of Moldova show performances almost in every type of sport. The most practiced types of sport in the Republic of Moldova are:

Wrestling – is considered the national sport of the Moldovans. This type of sport is practiced almost by each locality, including by children who try in this way to check their powers when throwing the opponent. The wrestling is a type of fight hand to hand between two or more unarmed individuals who intend to grapple each other. It is kindred with Greco-Roman Wrestling. It is prohibited to hit the fallen opponent and the fight is stopped until the opponent is recovered. In 1968, the Moldovan filmmaker, Anatol Codru, made the film „Wrestling”, where are illustrated the traditions of this sport.

Football – is the king sport and it is the most popular including in our country. We have national championship between the clubs, championships of the inferior divisions and championships of juniors. Football is practiced both by boys and girls. Both, the club teams and national teams have played during the time very good games which impressed the football of Europe. Speaking about the performances of the club teams we can say that the best results achieved Zimbru Chisinau, Sheriff Tiraspol and Dacia Chisinau which were qualified in the groups of UEFA Cup and respectively Europa League.

Rugby - is a popular type of sport in Moldova, especially that in the last years the national team achieves more good results. And the European

Federation of rugby accepts more often to organize the European championships in the Republic of Moldova. The last ten years brought the highest distinctions. Thus, the Moldovan team is in the list of the best Rugby world teams – 7 (a union of rugby teams from 7 players) and at the European Championship of 2007, Moldova won the bronze medal.

Box - is a type of sport especially appreciated for the performances the sportsmen achieved. In fact the most medals the Republic of Moldova won at the Olympic Games are medals acquired for this type of sport. The Box Federation from Moldova reminds that through the pioneers of the Moldovan box are Iurie Muzlaev, Mihail Agulinicov, Rostislav Sustov, Isidor Goldstein,

Vitalie Dziuba, Eugen Belii, Pavel Luscevschii, Boris Petuhov, Dumitru Dadiani and many other sportsmen and coaches. The success of the Moldovan box after the Republic of Moldova got the Independence was due to the school of box from Grimancauti, Briceni, whose leader was a long period of time the famous coach from the Republic of Moldova, USSR master of sports, colonel Petru Caduc and his consort Svetlana Caduc. In 2000, at the Olympic Games from Sidney (Australia) Vitalie Grusac won the bronze medal and in 2008, at the Olympic Games from Beijing (China) the same performance was achieved by Veaceslav Gojan. Veaceslav Gojan in 2011, for the first time in the history of the Moldovan box was awarded with the title of the Champion of Europe.





TOURISM IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Republic of Moldova as a tourist destination has a great potential represented first of all by the geomorphologic aspect of its territory – an unusual diversity of landscape reservations or scenery and unique geological monuments of European and world value.

Rural Tourism

Moldova's agricultural and picturesque countryside proposes various services for tourists wishing to stay in the middle of the nature.

Wine Tourism

Vineyards also constitute attractions of the countryside. Over centuries Moldova has gained rich traditions of growing grapes and

wine production. There are 142 wineries in the Republic of Moldova, of which 23 have experience and facilities to receive visitors. Here tourists can experience and learn about the complex production processes, see bottling and, of course, sample the final product. The Republic of Moldova's wine enjoys a good reputation internationally for its quality.

As a wine country, the Republic of Moldova offers visitors opportunities to choose their favourite itineraries: underground cellars and towns, wine storage facilities, wine processing factories, production processes of sparkling wine, divin, heres, balsam, etc. Combined with the vineyards that surround them into the tourist route "The Wine Road in the

Republic of Moldova", the wineries represent a substantial reason to visit the country. They are also means of promoting the Moldova's best tourism product.

Cultural Tourism

The Republic of Moldova has a rich cultural heritage which may be of great interest to tourists. 140 cultural heritage sites may be included in the tourist circuit. The earliest visible remains of the built heritage are Geto-Dacian sites and Roman fortifications. The remains of medieval fortresses, archaeological complexes such as Orheul Vechi, cave monasteries, nobles' mansions and peasant houses offer a diversity of visitor attractions. Chisinau, the capital city, features a good number of cultural heritage monuments,



fine examples of domestic architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries, which might be considered as tourist attractions as well.

The Republic of Moldova has 87 museums with rich collections of art. Additionally, museums are mostly housed in buildings of a special architectural importance. All of these have their specialist audiences, but at least 20 are of interest to the general public.

Part of the national tourist product is the variety of cultures represented in different parts of the country. The Republic of Moldova is an amalgam of many nationalities and cultures with many traditions, languages, folklore, cooking, etc. There are over 880 folk music groups in the Republic of Moldova, most of them reflecting the distinct traditions of their districts and ethnic origins. It is worth mentioning the national craftsmanship both because of cultural value and also because it supplies souvenirs for tourists.

Health and Beauty Tourism

The existing balneoclimateric health resorts in the Republic of Moldova could become a substantial balneotherapeutic and tourist product internationally, provided that a proper infrastructure would be created.

The best premises in this regard have the "Bucuria-sind" health resort from Vadul lui Voda, "Codru" health resort from Hirjauca village, Calarasi district, and especially "Nufarul Alb" health resort from Cahul.

Tourist attractions from the Republic of Moldova

Natural monuments: Prut Toltres, Natural unity "The Hundred Knolls", "Emil Racovita" Cave, Taul Park

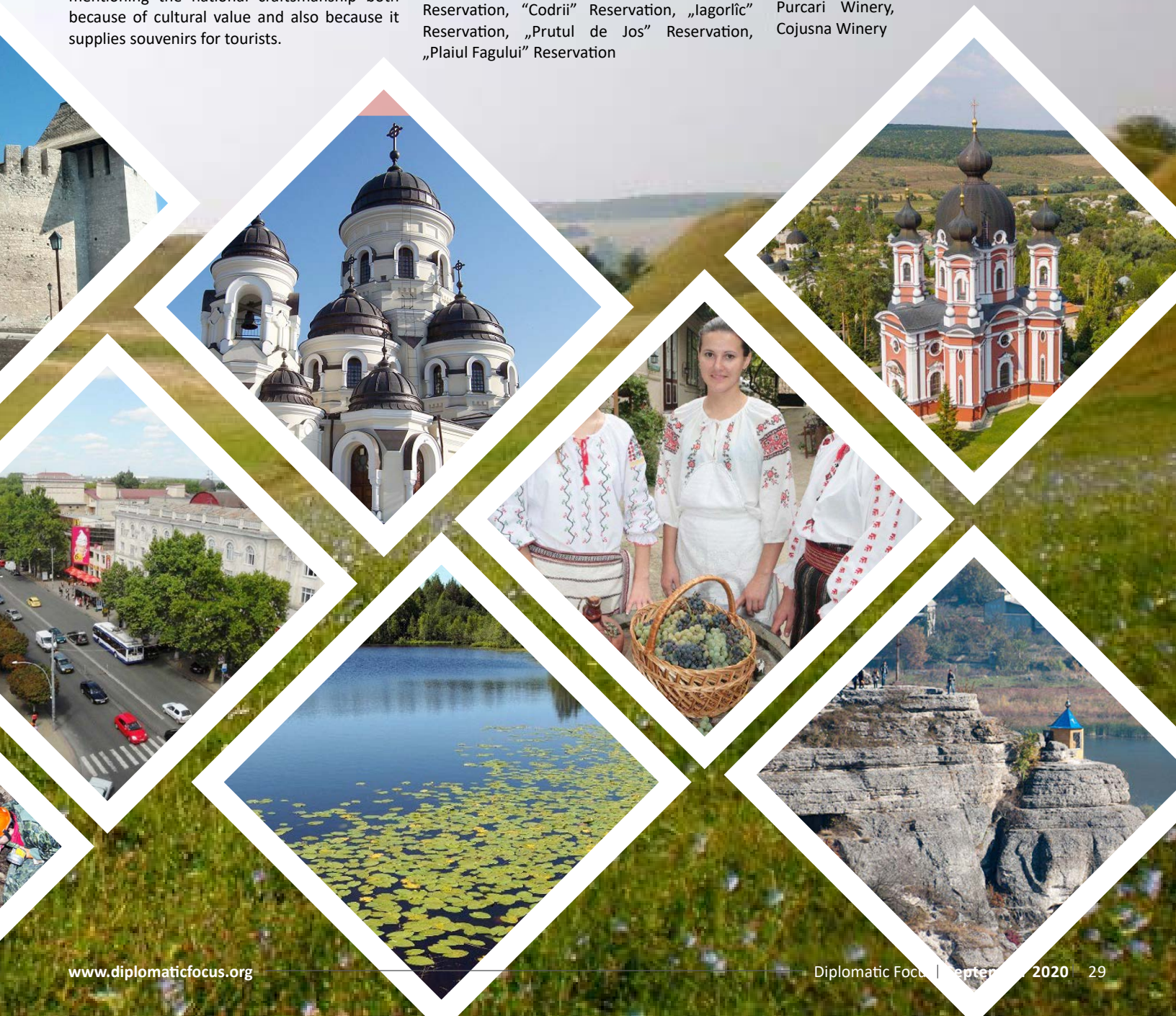
Reservations: "Padurea din Domneasca" Reservation, "Codrii" Reservation, „Iagorlic” Reservation, „Prutul de Jos” Reservation, „Plaiul Fagului” Reservation

Museums: "Alexei Mateevici" House & Museum, "Alexandr Pushkin" House & Museum, "Constantin Stamati" House & Museum, Igor Vieru House and Museum, Museum Complex "Old Orhei", National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, National Archaeology and History Museum of Moldova, the Museum of Popular Art, National Gagauz history and ethnographic museum "Dumitru Cara-Ciobanu"

Country estates: "Zamfir Ralli-Arbore" Mansion, the Hunting Castle of Manuc Bei

Monasteries and Churches: Capriana Monastery, Hincu Monastery, Rudi Monastery, Saharna Monastery, Tipova Monastery, Curchi Monastery, Frumoasa Monastery, Cosauti Monastery, Japca Monastery, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church

Wineries: Cricova Winery, Milestii Mici Winery, Purcari Winery, Cojunsna Winery





Moldova Culture



The culture of the Republic of Moldova represents a large gamut of cultural activities: literature, theatre, music, fine arts, architecture, cinematography, broadcasting and television, photographic art, design, circus, folk art, archives and libraries, books editing, scientific research, cultural tourism and so on.

Interpretative Art

Three concert performing institutions carry out the academic concert activity: "Serghei Lunchevici" National Philharmonic Society (2 concert halls, symphony orchestra, choral chapel, folk songs group); Organ Hall (chamber orchestra and chamber choir); National Palace („Moldova-concert" Concert and Impresario Organization: artistic formations of music and folk dance, light music).

Theatre

The Republic of Moldova has a total of 22 theatrical performance institutions: 18 drama theatres, an opera and ballet theatre, an ethno-

folkloric theatre and 2 puppet shows. 17 are situated in the country capital and 5 – in other areas. The most important theaters successfully participate in festivals abroad, organize international festivals inside the country, tours to France, Italy, USA, Russia, Japan, China, Romania, other countries.

Fine Arts

The term „fine arts" naturalized in the Republic of Moldova includes three genres: painting (monumental and easel painting), graphics (easel, books, posters, advertisement and others) and sculpture („en ronde-bosse" plastic, bas-relief, high relief, perspective relief etc.). Over the last years in Moldova there appeared „video-art", „kinetic sculpture", „computer graphics", „body-art", „performance" and others.

The folk art is being represented by a reach variety of genres, types and species. The most of them are referred to the sphere of „decorative arts": ceramics, popular carpet,

traditional clothes, stonework and woodwork, leather, rod, metal working, popular toys etc.

Exhibition halls: „Constantin Brancusi" Exhibition Center, Moldova National Museum



of Arts, private exhibition galleries.

Folklore

The Moldovan folklore has a strong basis of Dacian-Latin origin and embraces a system of popular confessions and customs, which are specifically defined by means of music and dance, oral poetry and prose, mythology, rites, popular theatre etc. This cultural inheritance in all its manifestations represents a large area of national art of special value, which not only preceded its cultural forms but also continued to develop in the modern era conferring to the professional culture its ethnical originality.

Cultural Inheritance

The Republic of Moldova has an important cultural inheritance of incontestable value: archeological sites, dwelling houses, country estates, fortresses, cloisters / monasteries and churches, monumental art works, monuments and technical equipment, building ensembles – squares, streets, quarters, villages and urban centers or traditional architecture ethnographic areas. The mobile cultural inheritance is owned by 87 country museums, of them 5 museums and 7 branches are directly subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; 66 of them – to local public authorities. Their funds include about 700.000 units which are a part of national and world culture and history.

The archeological inheritance of the Republic of Moldova is reach in ancient works of art. There were discovered sculptural models of as far back as the late Paleolithic age. The ceramics of „Cucuteni-Tripolie” culture from the Eneolithic Age is attested in several areas of the Republic of Moldova and it has incontestable artistic valences representing a whole mythology in pictures.

Culture of ethnic minorities

In the Republic of Moldova there are many

ethno-cultural associations. 18 minorities – the Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Gagauzians, Jews, Byelorussians, Poles, Germans, Gypsies, Greeks, Lithuanians, Armenians, Azerbaijanians, Tatars, Chuvashs, Italians, Koreans, Uzbeks – have associations which operate under the form of communities, societies, unions, centers, cultural foundations etc.

By virtue of the principle of equality and universality of cultural legislation, the ethnic minorities have the possibility to develop their traditional culture and national art. In Chisinau there is the Russian Dramatic Theatre „A.P.Cehov”; in Ceadir-Lunga (ATU Gagauzia) – the Gagauzian Dramatic Theatre „Mihail Ceker”; in Taraclia – the Theater of the Bulgarians from Bessarabia „Olimpii Panov”.





Key facts



Name:
Republic of Moldova

Doing Business
2019 Rank **47**



Capital:
Chisinau ca. 814,000

Employment
rate, 2018 **41.98%**



Population:
3.55 million
January 1st, 2019

Inflation rate,
2018 **0.9%**



Area:
33,847 km²

GDP per capita
at PPP, 2018 **€6,333**



Language:
Romanian (official)

Other spoken languages:



GDP current
prices, 2018
billion **€9.577**



Currency MDL:
1 EUR = 19.5 MDL
February, 2019

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



2018/2019

7%

Unique tax on turnover
in IT virtual Parks



350
flights/week

Chişinău International
Airport (KIV)



2,000
EUR/job created

Job Creation
incentive



1,300
EUR/month

Average monthly wage
in IT Park

500⁺
ha

Free buildable area in FEZ
all over the country



2.6
EUR/hour

Full load
labor cost



142
EUR/month

Minimum salary
in 2019



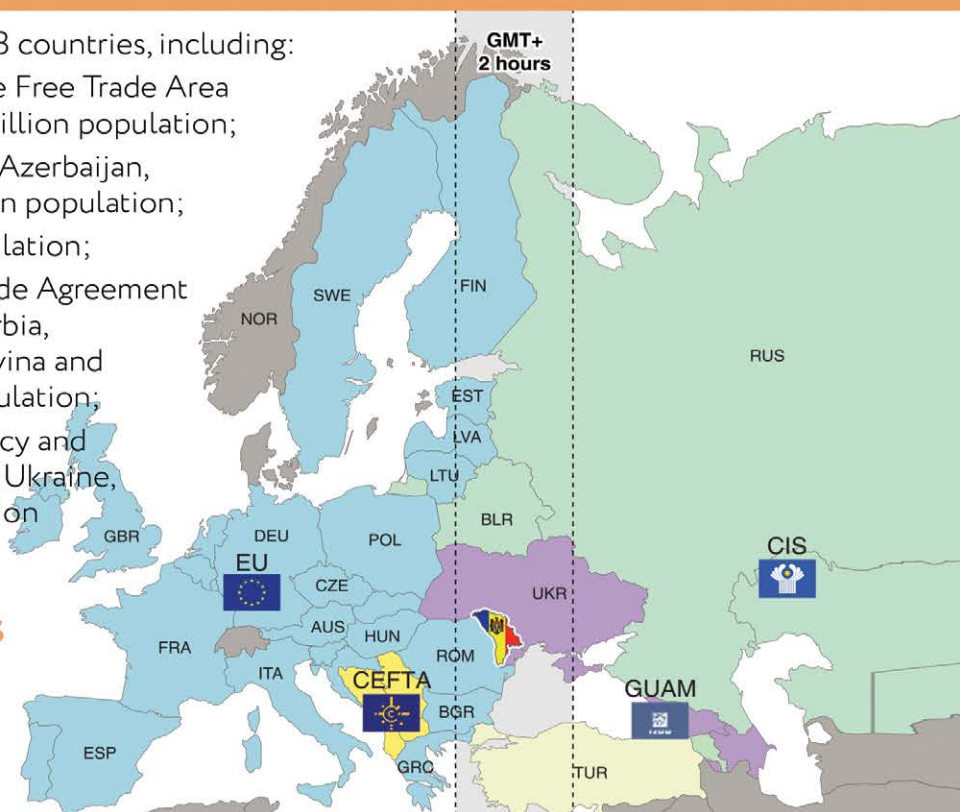
357
EUR/month

Average wage
(gross)

Free Trade Agreements signed with 43 countries, including:

- **DCFTA** (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the European Union) - 500 million population;
- **FTA with CIS countries** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) - 250 million population;
- **FTA with Turkey** - 80 million population;
- **CEFTA** Central European Free Trade Agreement (Moldova, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNMIK (Kosovo) - 30 million population;
- **GUAM** Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) - 60 million population

880 million customers
duty-free market

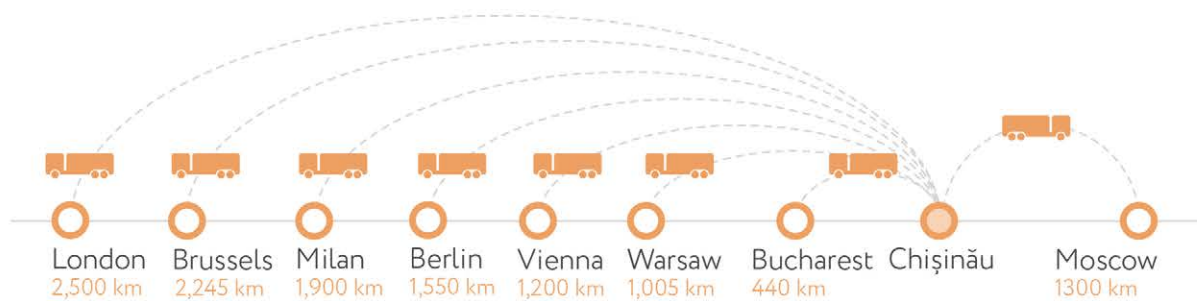


Why Moldova?

Whether you are looking to gain access to the CSI or European markets, optimize your operational costs, find skilled labor at competitive wages, relocate and still remain close to your distribution or assembly centers, Moldova is the country that meets your needs.

With some significant investors already producing and outsourcing to the country, there is a large range of opportunities for companies which are seeking new production opportunities and investments. Dräxlmaier AG, Lear Corporation, Confezione Andrea, Südzucker AG, Lactalis-Alba, Gebauer&Griller, Steinel Electronic, Lafarge, Pentalog, Fujikura Automotive, SE Bordnetze, Coroplast, and others already established their own plants in Moldova, or source from Moldova by making use of the local sub-contractors.

Bordered by Romania on one side and by Ukraine on the other, Moldova is close to both EU and CIS markets. Moldova is connected via Airports, wide and narrow gauge railways, roads and the Danube River to the whole of Europe and the Black Sea.



- The Giurgiulești International Free Port is situated at km 133.8 from the Black Sea, on the maritime section of the river Danube;
- Link to the Pan-European transport Corridor VII – the Danube from Passau (Germany) to the Black Sea (2300 km long);
- 1138 km Railway network in Moldova (single track), with both wide and narrow track gauge;
- Direct connections to Ukraine and Romania (most important crossings at Ungheni (MD) – Iași (RO), Cantemir (MD) – Fălciu (RO) and Giurgiulești (MD) – Galați (RO)).

Top reasons to invest in Moldova



Moldova's trade is largely liberalized to both the European Union and Commonwealth of Independent States. Most important destinations in these markets can be reached within 2 truck days.



Moldova's Free Economic Zones offer further incentives, including a corporate tax of 3–6% and total exemption from VAT and custom duties. They represent excellent manufacturing platforms offering also state guarantees and administrative support.



Moldova is constantly improving its business climate, being well positioned in the Doing Business ranking (44 / 190 in 2018).

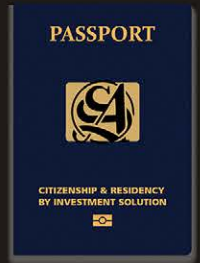


The workforce is skilled and multilingual. Labor costs are the lowest in the region, creating a competitive business environment.

GET YOUR DREAM PASSPORT BY INVESTMENT

BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN

FREEDOM TO MOVE | PROTECT YOUR FAMILY



GET
**EUROPEAN & CARIBBEAN
RESIDENCY & CITIZENSHIP
BY INVESTMENT**

**VISA FREE TRAVEL
OVER 159 COUNTRIES**

DOMINICA ANTIGUA



ST. KITTS GRENADA



MOLDOVA PORTUGAL



GREECE CYPRUS

