



Questionnaire

Part II

**Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova
to the Questionnaire of the European Commission**

CHAPTER 31: FOREIGN, SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

May 2022

The Treaty on European Union (TEU) includes in Title V provisions on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common security and defence policy (CSDP), which new Member States will be bound to apply. CFSP and CSDP are based on and developed through legal acts, including Council decisions and legally binding international agreements, as well as on political documents. The *acquis* consists of Council decisions, political declarations, and, pre-Lisbon legal acts still in force, such as joint actions, common positions and agreements. Member States must be able to conduct political dialogue in the framework of CFSP, to align with EU statements, to take part in EU actions and to apply agreed restrictive measures and promote multilateral solutions to common problems, in particular in the framework of the United Nations. Applicant countries are required to progressively align with EU statements, and to apply restrictive measures when and where required.

I. SUMMARY INFORMATION

1. Is Moldova prepared to accept unreservedly the definition, legal structure and organisational arrangements for the Union's foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP) including its military dimension?

At the moment of accession to the EU, the Republic of Moldova is prepared to accept unreservedly the definition, legal structure and organisational arrangements for the EU's foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP), including its military dimension. The national legislation does not contain impediments in this regard.

While pursuing the goal of joining the European Union, the Republic of Moldova in its European integration process – is seeking to approximate its legislation to the *acquis* in the part that pertains to CFSP/CSDP, to prepare the legal grounds for participation in EU's foreign, security and defence policy. The state institutions, in particular the Ministry of Defence, are dedicating efforts to continuously increase their own capacities and be prepared to become integral parts of the CFSP/CSDP's organisational architecture by the time of accession to the EU.

As regards the participation in the military dimension of CFSP/CSDP, Moldova is also striving to reach the necessary interoperability of its Armed Forces and other relevant institutions with those of EU Member States in order to be able to contribute to EU's operational capacities with its own personnel and equipment to ongoing or future EU missions, in particular peacekeeping operations and those generally aimed at providing humanitarian relief, training in crisis-management, as well any other tasks aimed at conflict prevention or post-conflict stabilisation efforts.

2. Will Moldova at the time of accession be ready and able to participate fully and actively in the foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP) as defined in the TEU?

The Republic of Moldova will be ready and able, by the time of accession, to participate fully and actively in the foreign, security and defense policy (CFSP and CSDP) as defined in the TEU.

The foreign, national defense and security policies of the Republic of Moldova are founded on the same principles and key objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defense Policy as an integral part of the latter. The Republic of Moldova is fully committed to the objectives of preserving peace and strengthening international security, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act and the objectives of the Paris Charter. Thus, the Republic of Moldova's foreign and security policies already fully share the values and principles on which EU was founded, in particular the objectives as specified in Title V of the TEU, including but not limited to:

consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law, promoting an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance, etc.

Moldova supports the continuous development of the EU's common foreign, security and defence policy and has expressed its readiness, in accordance with its aspirations to join the European Union and based on the strategic documents adopted in the sphere of security and defence, to participate in protecting the shared values at the core of the EU.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova¹ (Parliament Decision No. 153 of 15.07.2011 with all subsequent amendments) explicitly states that Moldova's "*national security cannot be conceived outside the larger context of European security*", while the EU is considered a stabilising factor, which is important for national security. The same document clearly expresses the view that the future accession to the European Union shall consolidate the country's security, while Moldova shall both benefit from and become a source of stability and security, including through intense cooperation with the European Union in the realms of conflict prevention and conflict settlement, crisis management, non-proliferation of WMDs.

In a similar vein, Moldova's National Defence Strategy² (adopted by Parliament Decision No. 134/2018), explicitly establishes European integration as one of the main national interests of the country (Chapter I. Strategic Context – national values and interests), while confirming the objective of consolidating political dialogue and practical cooperation with the European Union by intensifying close interaction in CSDP matters, aimed at conflict prevention and crisis management, as well as contributing to regional stability. The official launching of the EU-Moldova High-level Political and Security Dialogue in 2022 is a clear example of progress achieved in this sphere.

At the same time, efforts have been dedicated continuously by the Republic of Moldova, in close cooperation with the European Union and non-EU partner states, to approximate legislation, as well as reform and strengthen Moldova's civilian and military capacities to increase interoperability with EU Member States in the relevant sectors, and thus strengthen the ability to undertake the obligations set out in the provisions of CFSP/CSDP.

¹ Parliament Decision No. 153/2011 of 15.07.2011 on the adoption of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109141&lang=ro

² Parliament Decision No. 134/2018 of 15.07.2011 on the adoption of the National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Moldova and the Action Plan for 2018-2022, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109141&lang=ro

3. Will Moldova, upon accession, take on in their entirety and without reservations the objectives of the TEU, the provisions of its Title V, and of the declaration attached to it, as well as the relevant international agreements concluded on behalf of the EU, and other relevant sources of the foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP) *acquis*?

The Constitution and national legislation of the Republic of Moldova will allow, upon accession, to take on, in their entirety, the objectives of the TEU, the provisions of its Title V, and of the declaration attached to it, as well as the relevant international agreements concluded on behalf of the EU. The Republic of Moldova has already in place the relevant legislation in order to contribute to the objectives of the TEU provisions, and in particular to its Title V. As regards the *acquis* pertaining to the CFSP and CSDP, by the moment of accession, the Constitution and relevant national legislation shall be modified in order to make the EU legislation on security and defence policy directly applicable.

4. Will the public administration, and in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence have the necessary structure and technical equipment to fully take part in the foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP) at the time of accession?

The public administration of the Republic of Moldova, and in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), at the time of accession, will have the necessary structure and technical equipment to fully take part in the foreign, security and defence policy (CFSP and CSDP).

The authorities of the Republic of Moldova have been and continue to take necessary steps and measures to have in place and continuously improve the structure and technical equipment to be able to participate in CFSP/CSDP, with budget allocations increased on a yearly basis to meet these goals.

Practically all the entities of Moldova's public administration are involved in the process of European integration, having to report regularly on their efforts and results in transposing the Association Agreement in the areas that are specifically under their responsibility. This presupposes the presence of personnel inside every institution tasked with monitoring and reporting on the progress of *acquis* implementation in specific areas.

MFAEI, by virtue of the functions it exercises, retains a strong component of coordinating the work related to the implementation of the provisions of the Association Agreement, including the *acquis* in the part that covers CFSP/CSDP. The Ministry has a separate European Integration Directorate (EID), under the purview of a State Secretary. The Directorate, in turn, consists of three divisions, one of which, namely the Division for Political Cooperation with the EU, is directly tasked with responsibilities that pertain to Moldova's cooperation and participation in the CFSP/CSDP. In addition, the Moldovan Mission to the EU in Brussels includes personnel responsible for the dossier of security and defence

cooperation with the EU, including participation in CFSP/CSDP. Following the signature of the Agreement on security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information, the Ministry has undertaken necessary measures to comply with the requirements under this agreement, while expressing readiness to undergo organisational restructuring and obtain additional technical equipment to fully adhere to EU standards and regulations in this sphere.

MoD, in its turn, is actively pursuing closer cooperation with the EU, exploring all avenues and opportunities available through intense interaction with the European Union, in particular through the recently launched dialogue on the European Peace Facility. One of the MoD's stated goals is attaining synergy between EU and bilateral cooperation projects and programs (EU MS and non-EU partner states) aimed at developing concrete defence capabilities, with the specific aim of using its increased interoperability for cooperation within EU security and cooperation platforms, as well as participate in international peace support operations. For this purpose, the MoD is pursuing the goal of modernising Moldova's Armed Forces, including its military training infrastructure. Within its organisational structure, the Ministry of Defence has several directorates, which, among other duties, are responsible for cooperation with the EU, as well as tasked with implementing reforms within the Armed Forces aimed at greater interoperability, including but not limited to: i) Directorate for International Cooperation, tasked with promoting, ensuring and managing cooperation with the EU; ii) Transformation Directorate, responsible for coordinating the process of defence modernisation; iii) Defence Policy and Planning Directorate, which is in charge of developing, promoting, ensuring and managing the defence policy and national defence planning process at national and international level. The relevant divisions of the General Staff of the Armed Forces are involved in the practical aspects of the CSDP-related cooperation.

It is important to mention that lack of human resources generally remains a challenge for public administration, but it is widely recognised as such, and efforts are being continuously made to address this issue through improvement of work conditions and attracting additional personnel.

5. In view of the provision for Member States to support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly (Article 24.3 TEU), please explain what are the treaty obligations of Moldova under international law, and whether they will need to be modified in view of accession. For this purpose, please send a list of the existing treaty obligations, as well as international agreements under negotiation.

The existing treaty obligations of the Republic of Moldova stem from the signed and ratified international agreements in a specific area. They are observed and fulfilled by the relevant ministries, each within its own competence. For more information about Moldova's treaty obligations, please see the attached link to the list of international agreements that the Republic of Moldova is part of: <https://mfa.gov.md/en/content/international-treaties>.

By signing the Association Agreement between, the Republic of Moldova, on the one part, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other part, the Republic of Moldova undertook the commitment to approximate its legislation to the EU *acquis* gradually, and to apply it consistently.

As regards the Republic of Moldova's membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States, it should be noted that, with the Parliament's Decision No. 40/1994 concerning the ratification of the Agreement for the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States³, the Republic of Moldova has inserted a reservation clause to the Agreement for the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed on behalf of the Republic of Moldova on December 21, 1991 at Alma-Ata, which provides that the *"Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, basing itself on the understanding that the Republic of Moldova, as a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, shall be oriented primarily towards economic cooperation and shall abstain from any interaction in the political and military domains as being in contradiction to the principles of sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Moldova"*.

Also, the Republic of Moldova hereby expresses its full readiness, in the context of European Union accession, to amend and modify the existing treaty obligations in accordance with the obligations stemming from the full EU membership.

6. Does Moldova support the EU Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy of June 2016 and the EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence of March 2022?

The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy** in 2016, especially as it represented an important guiding concept not only for the EU, but also its partners. The Strategy's particular focus on the necessity of joint actions and cooperation in the process of building resilience in the EU's neighborhood, including in the countries of the Eastern Partnership, is a priority that is fully shared by the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, the document's intent to deepen tailor-made partnerships further, including through extension of Trans-European Network, the Energy Community, physical and digital connections are fully in line with Moldova's medium and long term economic and sectoral objectives. In addition, the Global Strategy's reference to the commitment undertaken by the European Union to engage further in the resolution of protracted conflicts coincides with Moldova's endorsement of EU's participation in the Transnistrian conflict settlement process.

In a similar vein, Moldova supported the adoption of the **EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence** in March 2022. This document, updated to reflect the

³ Parliament's Decision No. 40/1994 concerning the ratification of the Agreement for the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=86783&lang=ro

challenges which emerged as a result of the war in Ukraine, expresses concerns which are fully shared by the Republic of Moldova, in particular its references to unacceptability of establishment of spheres of influence, strategic intimidations, direct threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity and entrapment in protracted conflicts faced by Moldova and Georgia. Similarly, the Compass' declared need for specific dialogue and greater cooperation with Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova in areas such as countering hybrid threats, disinformation and cybersecurity are welcomed steps towards increasing the level of security in the Eastern Partnership area.

Moldova supports the Compass goals of making EU a stronger and more capable security provider, enhancing the Union's strategic autonomy and improving its ability to act decisively, including through plans to establish a strong EU Rapid Deployment Capacity, reinforcing the EU's civilian and military CSDP, making full use of the European Peace Facility, as well as plans aimed at boosting the intelligence analysis capacities, establishing the Hybrid Toolbox and Response Teams, further developing the Cyber Diplomatic Toolbox, etc.

7. Please provide a list of legislation covering the foreign, security and defence policy and the scope of the same.

The domestic legislation covering the foreign, security and defence policy evolved gradually since 1991 when the Republic of Moldova gained its independence. It comprises a series of fundamental normative acts as well as other policy documents adopted by Parliament. Below is the list of the most important legislation.

- The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, adopted on 29.07.1994⁴, establishes the fundamental architecture in the field of the foreign, security and defence policy of the state. It provides for the core principles concerning national sovereignty and territorial integrity, competences and responsibilities of the state institutions, such as the President, Parliament, Government, which are further elaborated upon in national legislation.
- Decision of the Parliament No. 368/1995⁵ on the approval of the Concept of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova sets the priorities and principles of the foreign policy, and its main directions. The Concept has been later developed and extended through the adoption of several other legislative acts in this domain, listed below.

⁴ The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=128016&lang=ro#

⁵ The Concept of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=60504&lang=ro

- Decision of the Parliament No. 482/1995 on the Military Doctrine⁶: The military doctrine is determined by its foreign and internal policy, by the permanent neutrality status proclaimed constitutionally. The doctrine has an exclusively defensive character and is based on the following priorities: in the political sphere – peaceful settlement of disputes between states and the exclusion of military confrontation through the collective efforts of countries; establishing political, economic and military relations, which exclude the violation of the sovereignty and independence of the state; in the military field – maintaining the state's defense capacity at the level that ensures military security; strengthening confidence-building measures, extending mutually beneficial military cooperation based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.
- Law No. 618/1995 on the state security⁷ defines threats to the state security, main vectors for ensuring state security, the system and the competencies of the responsible institutions, as well as other related aspects.
- Law No. 753/1995 on the security service⁸ of the Republic of Moldova establishes the purpose, the legal framework, the principles, the directions of activity, the powers, the forces and the means of the Intelligence and Security Service of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the modalities of exercising control and supervision of its activity.
- Law No. 595/1999 on the international treaties⁹ of the Republic of Moldova establishes the entire legal mechanism for initiation, negotiation, signing, entry into force, application, suspension, termination of international treaties of the Republic of Moldova, based on the principles and rules of international law, Convention on the Law of Treaties (Vienna, 1969), Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, including in the field of foreign policy and security.
- Law No. 761/2001 on the diplomatic service¹⁰ of the Republic of Moldova establishes the legal framework for the organization and functioning of the institutions of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Moldova as part of the public service. It specifies the objectives and functions of the diplomatic service. In particular, the law stipulates that the diplomatic service has the task of developing and implementing basic concepts, strategies and directions of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova.

⁶ The military Doctrine is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=60538&lang=ro

⁷ The Law on state security is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124125&lang=ro#

⁸ The Law on security service is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121235&lang=ro#

⁹ The Law on the international treaties is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=92552&lang=ro#

¹⁰ The Law on diplomatic service is available in Romanian at :

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125189&g=ro#

- Law No. 1192/2002 on the preparation for mobilization and mobilization¹¹: determines the process of the preparation for mobilization (economic, territorial and military) and mobilization itself; establishes the responsibilities of public authorities, public institutions and economic agents in this sphere.
- Law No. 345/2003 on the national defence¹² establishes the structure of the national defense system, the bases of the organization and assurance of the country's defense, the competences and responsibilities of the public authorities in the field of defence, leadership, organization, destination of the forces of the national defense system and national defense planning.
- Law no. 448/2003 on the status of foreign military forces¹³ in the Republic of Moldova regulates the conditions for entry, temporary stay and exit from the territory of the Republic of Moldova as well as its transit by foreign military forces in accordance with the international agreements to which the Republic of Moldova is a party.
- Law No. 212/2004 on the state of emergency¹⁴, siege and war: with the aim of establishing: a) the basis, mechanisms and conditions for declaring a state of emergency, siege or war, as well as the competences of the authorities declaring it; b) the measures that are applied during the state of emergency, siege or war, as well as the rights, obligations and liability of legal and natural persons during that period.
- Law No. 112/2008 on the approval of the Concept of national security¹⁵ of the Republic of Moldova: the document reflects the general assessment of the national and international security environment in which Moldova operates and defines the purpose of national security, basic guidelines for national security, values and general principles to be protected by the state and Moldovan society. It represents a system of ideas that outlines the priorities of the state in the sphere of national security. The Concept also provided for the elaboration and approval of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (approved by the Decision of the Parliament No. 153/2011).
- Decision of the Parliament No. 153/2011 on the approval of the National Security Strategy¹⁶ of the Republic of Moldova: The Strategy is a medium-term political-legal act that allows adaptation of the national security

¹¹ The Law on the preparation for mobilisation and mobilisation is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107891&lang=ro

¹² The Law on the national defence is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110393&lang=ro#

¹³ The Law on the status of foreign military forces is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107557&lang=ro#

¹⁴ The Law on state of emergency is available in Romanian at

[:https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124336&lang=ro#](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124336&lang=ro#)

¹⁵ The Law on the approval of the Concept of national security is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=24400&lang=ro

¹⁶ The Decision of the Parliament on the approval of the National security strategy is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105346&lang=ro

policy to internal and external developments, identifying specific areas of the national security system that need to be reformed, developing a realistic plan for implementing reforms. It sets the objectives of the national security system, identifies the means and ways to ensure national security. It also serves as a basis for the development of the National Military Strategy, as well as other sectoral strategies in the field of national security.

- Law No. 2015/2011 on the state border¹⁷ of the Republic of Moldova: the law transposes Regulation (EC) No. 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) and creates the necessary framework for the implementation of Council Directive 2004/82/EC of 29 April 2004 on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data.
- Law No. 320/2012 on the activity of the Police and the status of the police officer¹⁸ establishes the legal framework and the principles of activity, organization and functioning, competencies, powers and obligations of the Police, its financing and material and technical support, as well as the status of the police officer.
- Law No. 219/2015 on the participation of the Republic of Moldova to international missions and operations¹⁹ establishes the conditions for participation in international missions and operations carried out outside the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter and the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party. It allows participation in all civilian missions as well as operations covering military and other actions of the armed forces (troops), carried out under the UN mandate, in order to achieve the goal of ensuring international peace and security, respecting human rights, strengthening institutional capacities, as well as providing other types of assistance necessary to ensure peace.
- Law No. 25/2016 on the application of international restrictive measures regulates the introduction²⁰, application and lifting by the Republic of Moldova of international restrictive measures that are established: a) by the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, adopted on the basis of the provisions of art. 41 of the Charter of the United Nations; b) by the acts of the European Union to which the Republic of Moldova has aligned itself; c) by acts and decisions adopted by international

¹⁷ The Law on the state border is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121977&lang=ro

¹⁸ The Law on the activity of Police and status of the police officer is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=120699&lang=ro#

¹⁹ The Law on the participation of RM to international missions and operations is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101133&lang=ro

²⁰ The Law on the application of international restrictive measures is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106039&lang=ro#

organizations or by other States, to which the Republic of Moldova has acceded; d) by the Republic of Moldova on its own initiative.

- Law No. 136/2017 on the Government²¹ (abolished the previous Law no. 64/1990 on the Government): establishes the manner of organization and functioning of the Government, its spheres of activity, competence, structure and legal relations with other public authorities. Among others, the Government is acting in the field of foreign affairs and European integration process, security and defense policy.
- Law No. 219/2018 on the General Inspectorate of Carabinier Troops²²: sets out the legal framework and the principles of activity, organization and functioning, competences and powers, financing and material and technical support of the General Inspectorate of Carabinier troops, as well as the status of the carabinier troops. The provisions of this law apply to the carabinier personnel – persons who perform their military service within the General Inspectorate of Carabinier Troops.
- Decision of the Parliament No. 134/2018 on the approval of the National Strategy on Defense and Action Plan on the implementation of the National Strategy on defense in the period 2018–2022²³: This Strategy, together with the National Security Strategy and other strategic documents in the field, is a policy document on the basis of which the national defense planning is carried out and the ways of performing the functions of state institutions are set out in order to ensure national defense, in accordance with the Law No. 345/2003 on national defense. This Strategy is based on the provisions of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova.
- Decision of the Government No. 961/2018 on the approval of the Military Strategy and Action Plan on its implementation in the period of 2018-2022²⁴: This Strategy is a policy document in the field of national defense, which establishes guidelines for the development of the military structure (Armed Forces) in order to achieve the reference objectives contained in the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy. The Military Strategy is an exclusively defensive document and refers to the charter of the United Nations principles, which stipulate the inherent right for individual or collective self-defense.

²¹ The Law on the Government is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125861&lang=ro#

²² The Law on the General Inspectorate of Carabinier Troops is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109747&lang=ro

²³ The Decision of the Parliament No. 134/2018 on the approval of the National Strategy on Defense and Action Plan on the implementation of the National Strategy on defense in the period 2018–2022 is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110013&lang=ro

²⁴ Decision of the Government No. 961/2018 on the approval of the Military Strategy and Action Plan on its implementation in the period of 2018-2022 is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109141&lang=ro

8. How does Moldova intend to fully align with the CFSP measures until accession?

Over the past years, Moldova has aligned with the majority of the CFSP declarations and common positions on security-related issues. Based on its commitment to gradually align its foreign policy with the EU's foreign policy, Moldova has improved the national mechanism of alignment, established by the Law on international restrictive measures (Law No. 25/2016)²⁵ to ensure a prompt and effective application of the country's commitments in this regard.

As Moldova moves closer to the membership of the EU, the country will continuously increase the rate of alignments with the restrictive measures of the EU, attaining full alignment by the time of accession.

9. Which bodies and institutions are responsible for implementing and ensuring coordination of foreign policy?

Article 66 (d) of the Constitution²⁶ provides that, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova approves the main directions of internal and external policy of the state, while item (g) states that the Parliament ratifies, denounces and annuls international treaties concluded by the Republic of Moldova.

Article 96 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova provides that the Government ensures, *inter alia*, the realisation of foreign policy and is guided in this pursuit by a Government Action Plan, previously approved by the Parliament.

MFAEI, according to the Government Decision No. 697/2017 of 30.08.2017 on approving the Regulation for the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration²⁷, is the central special body of public administration in charge of implementing the State's policy in the area of foreign policy in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Moldova, the decisions of the Parliament, Decrees of the President, decisions of the Government, and other normative documents, international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Moldova is party.

MFAEI is tasked, *inter alia*, with implementing the functions (stipulated by the aforementioned Regulation) in the following areas: foreign policy and promoting the interests of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, bilateral cooperation with states, multilateral cooperation with international organisations and regional

²⁵ The Law No. 25/2016 is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106039&lang=ro

²⁶ The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111918&lang=ro

²⁷ Government Decision No. 697/2017 (of 30.08.2017 on approving the Regulation for the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=115496&lang=ro

initiatives, European integration process, international law and international treaties, consular issues, economic diplomacy, etc.

In terms of ensuring coordination of foreign policy, under item 8 of Government Decision No. 697/2017, the MFAEI has, *inter alia*, the following rights: i) to request and to receive from other ministries, central administrative authorities and other public authorities, as well as from local public administrative authorities, information which is necessary for exercising its functions and duties; ii) to create consultative councils, specialised commissions, working groups with the inclusion and participation of representatives of other ministries, central public administrative authorities, local public administration, academia, civil society, business community and experts in various fields, with the aim of developing draft legal acts, drafts of public policy documents, as well as with the objective of compiling expert reports and assessments and providing consultations, etc.

A separate role in the sphere of foreign policy is envisaged for the President of the Republic of Moldova under Article 86 of the Constitution and which includes the following powers: conducting official negotiations on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, concluding international treaties and submitting them to the Parliament for ratification, accrediting and recalling Moldovan diplomatic representatives following Government's proposal. Under the same article, the President also has the powers to receive letters of credence and recall of foreign heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Moldova.

II. CFSP — POLITICAL DIALOGUE

10. In view of the objective of strengthening the security of the Union and its Member States in all ways (Art. 24.3 TEU), please explain the state of relations between Moldova and neighbouring nonEU member states. For this purpose, please provide summary information on the co-operation with neighbouring countries, including both co-operation in regional organisations and bilateral cooperation.

Ukraine

Bilateral relations

Ukraine is the only non-EU immediate neighbour of the Republic of Moldova. The strengthening of the partnership with Ukraine is one of the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Moldova. The two states are enjoying good-neighbourly relations and intense cooperation in many fields, including political, economic and humanitarian areas. Ukraine is participating as a mediator in the Transnistrian conflict resolution process (5+2 format).

Last high-level bilateral visits:

- visit of the President of the Republic of Moldova Maia Sandu to Kyiv (January 12, 2021);
- participation of the Moldovan President Maia Sandu in the Summit of the Crimea Platform (August 23, 2021, Kyiv);
- visit of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Chisinau on August 27, 2021 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Moldova;
- visit of the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal to the Republic of Moldova (August 27-28, 2021);
- visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Nicu Popescu to Kyiv - October 21-22, 2021.

A number of bilateral issues that are still pending a final solution are related to the finalization of border demarcation, functioning of the Dniester Hydropower Complex (DHC) in all its aspects, mutual property settlement and others.

Since the first day of the Russian aggression against Ukraine the Republic of Moldova strongly condemns military actions, appeals for ceasefire and solving the conflict through dialogue, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people and reaffirms strong support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

As a neutral country, the Republic of Moldova focuses primarily its efforts on providing support to refugees and humanitarian aid and on supporting the international community in condemning the aggression.

The Republic of Moldova has voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolutions and has aligned itself with a number of political statements adopted within international organizations on condemning the military aggression of the Russian Federation.

Since the beginning of the military conflict, more than 450.000 foreign citizens fleeing the war have entered Moldova from Ukraine and currently more than 100.000 persons (mainly women, children and elderly people) still remain in our country – around 91.000 being Ukrainian citizens, including more than 47.000 children (data as of 30th April 2022). The Moldovan authorities provide transport, accommodation in temporary placement centres, food and packages of basic necessities to the refugees. As a receiving country, the Republic of Moldova hosts the largest number of refugees per capita. The Republic of Moldova is ready to help further Ukrainian refugees.

Moldovan authorities have provided humanitarian aid worth 1.2 mln Euro to Ukraine, which was transferred in April 2022 to Vinnitsa and Odessa regions (the humanitarian aid included medicine, foodstuff, basic necessities, etc.). The next humanitarian package is being prepared.

Given the blockade of Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea, the Republic of Moldova is providing assistance in transit of goods to and from Ukraine.

Bilateral agreements²⁸

There are 165 bilateral agreements and protocols signed between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, including the Treaty of Good Neighbourhood, Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 1992, entered into legal force in 1997) and the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force starting from 1992).

Economic cooperation

The Republic of Moldova is interested in the further development of cooperation with Ukraine in the economic field, including by organizing the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on economic cooperation (the last meeting was held in 2017, in Odessa). The bilateral trade volume between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in 2021 was at the level of 760 mln USD, Moldovan exports 93 mln USD, import 667 mln USD.

Multilateral cooperation

²⁸ List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Ukraine is available in Romanian at (pag. 237-259): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine cooperate within the international organizations like UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc. Also, cooperation between both states takes place at the regional level as members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM, Danube Commission. At the same time, there is cooperation within the Eastern Partnership platform and Associated Trio.

11. What political dialogue takes place between Moldova and the following:

a) Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo²⁹, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia);

General remark: the trade relations between the Republic of Moldova and Western Balkans are governed by the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Albania

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova has friendly bilateral relations with the Republic of Albania. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on December 23, 1992. There is mutual interest in enhancing cooperation in all areas of common interest, especially in the economic sphere. The political dialogue takes place mostly at middle working levels and in the margins of international conferences.

Bilateral agreements³⁰

There are 14 documents in force, including agreements, memorandums of understanding, declarations in the economic sphere, tourism, investment protection and justice.

Economic cooperation

The volume of foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova and Republic of Albania, in 2021 registered the amount of 1,7 mln USD. Exports amounted to 0,9 mln USD and imports 0,8 mln USD.

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova cooperates with the Republic of Albania within the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc., also regional organisations such as Black-Sea

²⁹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

³⁰ The list of bilateral agreements of Moldova and Albania is available in Romanian (pag.6-7): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Central-European Initiative (CEI), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF).

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bilateral relations

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina were established in 1993 (November 18) and there is a potential to further strengthen the dialogue. During the last political consultations, both countries expressed the interest to step up cooperation in various areas, including ongoing reform processes and European integration efforts.

The Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a bilateral Agreement on visa liberalization regime, in force since March 2016.

Bilateral agreements³¹

The Republic of Moldova has signed 7 bilateral agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Economic cooperation

The total volume of trade and economic cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally low, with more opportunities being offered by the membership of both countries in the Central European Free Trade Agreement. The CEFTA platform contributes to the economic development of the European integration process and preparation for EU membership of both countries.

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperate within international organisations like the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc. Also, the cooperation between both states takes place at the regional level as members of the Central European Initiative, South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECF), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), La Francophonie.

North Macedonia

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova has friendly bilateral relations with North Macedonia. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on January 27, 1995. There is mutual interest in enhancing cooperation in all areas of common interest, especially in the economic sphere. The political dialogue takes place at middle working levels and in the margins of international conferences. In 2018,

³¹ The list of bilateral agreements of the Moldova and BiH is available in Romanian at (pag.36-37): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov visited the Republic of Moldova. The visit of the North Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs is planned for May 2022. The dialogue will intensify in the context of the North Macedonia Chairmanship in the OSCE (2023).

Bilateral agreements³²

There are 11 documents in force, including agreements, memorandums of understanding, declarations in economic and investment protection fields.

Economic cooperation

The volume of foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova and North Macedonia, in 2021 registered the amount of 9,74 mln USD, exports 3,6 mln USD and imports 6,14 mln USD.

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova cooperates with the Republic of North Macedonia within the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc., also regional organisations like Black-Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Central-European Initiative (CEI), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP).

Montenegro

Bilateral relations

Over the years, the political dialogue between the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro has been continuously intensifying and has come to an advanced level of cooperation. In 2017, the Republic of Moldova hosted the visit of the Montenegrin Foreign Minister Srđan Darmanović (April 4, 2017).

However, the dynamics of high-level political contacts are still modest. During these years there was only one visit at the level of head of state and no official visits at the level of prime ministers.

Economic cooperation

There is an interest in capitalizing the potential for economic cooperation between both states, and therefore increasing the volume of trade.

Bilateral legal framework³³

The bilateral legal framework includes 8 agreements, in the following areas: mutual promotion and protection of investments; avoiding double taxation; mutual

³² The list of bilateral agreements of the Moldova and BiH is available in Romanian at (pag.131-132): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

³³ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Montenegro is available in Romanian at (pag.136-137): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

assistance in customs matters; readmission of persons. There are two draft agreements on cooperation in the field of tourism and combating organized crime. Also, there is an Agreement on Education, Science and Innovation that is ready to be signed.

Republic of Serbia

Bilateral relations

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and Republic of Serbia were established in 1995 (15 March) and the bilateral cooperation is being actively developed. Political dialogue is relatively active and based on constructive meetings at the bilateral level, as well as in the regional formats. There are no outstanding issues.

Bilateral agreements³⁴

The Republic of Moldova has 13 bilateral agreements with the Republic of Serbia.

Economic cooperation

The bilateral trade between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Serbia has reached 53.7 mln USD in 2021, an increase of 22.7% in comparison with 2020 (registering 43.74 mln USD), with exports amounting to 24.06 mln USD (+ 152.2% in comparison with 2020, corresponding to 9.54 mln USD) and imports 29.64 mln USD (+ 13.3% in comparison with 2020, corresponding to 34.2 mln USD), being regulated in the framework of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova cooperates with the Republic of Serbia within the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc., also regional organisations like Danube Commission, Danube Cooperation Process, Black-Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Central-European Initiative (CEI), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP).

Kosovo region

Following the unilateral proclamation of Kosovo's independence (February 17, 2008), the Republic of Moldova issued 2 statements (of the Government (February 19, 2008), and of the Parliament (February 22, 2008)) regarding the non-recognition of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state, upholding the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia.

³⁴ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Serbia is available in Romanian at (pag.195-197): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

The Republic of Moldova has the following position on the participation of Kosovo in regional organizations and initiatives in South East Europe - *“the acceptance of Kosovo as the member or participant within the organizations and regional initiatives of the South-Eastern Europe do not signify and cannot be interpreted as a change of the position on non-recognition of Kosovo or status of Kosovo, according to the international law”*. Moldova is committed to developing regional cooperation in Southeast Europe and determined to contribute to strengthening stability in the region, including the process of reconciling and improving the interaction between all the communities in the region. Thus, the Republic of Moldova accepts the participation of Kosovo representatives in meetings organized within regional organizations and initiatives, especially at the meetings addressing economic, social, cultural or humanitarian issues related to the development of the Southeast European region.

b) Turkey;

Bilateral relations

The political dialogue between the Republic of Moldova and Turkey has registered an upward dynamic trend, with the promotion of advanced level of bilateral relations in various fields. Both sides are willing to strengthen the bilateral dialogue in the spirit of the strategic cooperation established between the two states, including in the framework of the Moldovan-Turkish High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (*Political Declaration establishing a mechanism of high-level strategic cooperation* between the two nations was signed in 2018 during Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Moldova). The bilateral agenda of visits gained significant momentum lately, considering the visits at the highest level that took place in both capitals. In cooperation with the Republic of Moldova, Turkish authorities are implementing numerous projects on development and education in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (ATUG) in the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan-Turkish political dialogue is strengthened by Turkish investments in the Moldovan economy.

The Agency for Cooperation and Coordination (TIKA) provides financial and technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova for the last 25 years, the total amount rising to 40 mln USD for the implementation of more than 400 projects in priority areas, such as healthcare, education and environmental protection.

Turkish and Moldovan citizens can visit each other’s countries on the basis of ID cards. The Protocol regarding passport-free travel was signed in October 2018, in force since February 19, 2019.

Bilateral agreements³⁵

³⁵ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Turkey is available in Romanian at (pag.219-228): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

The Republic of Moldova has 71 bilateral agreements in force with the Republic of Turkey.

Economic cooperation

The Free Trade Agreement (in force since 2016) has led to a significant increase of the trade volume (almost 9% of the total foreign trade of Moldova) and Turkey ranks among main trading partners of Moldova. Thus, the bilateral trade between Moldova and Turkey has reached 897.03 mln USD in 2021, an increase of 60.2% in comparison with 2020 (registering 559.9 mln USD), with exports amounting to 313.96 mln USD (+ 82% in comparison with 2020, corresponding to 171.69 mln USD) and imports 543.67 mln USD (+ 40% in comparison with 2020, corresponding to 388.2 mln USD).

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and Turkey cooperate within international organisations like the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, etc. Also, cooperation between both states takes place at the regional level as members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

c) The countries covered by the European Neighbourhood policy (ENP);

Eastern Partnership

Georgia

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova has friendly bilateral relations and good cooperation with Georgia. The two countries have a dynamic interaction in the field of European integration, promoting similar approaches on international platforms. The Republic of Moldova and Georgia mutually support each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Bilateral agreements³⁶

The Republic of Moldova and Georgia have signed 31 bilateral agreements, including the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 1997, entered into legal force in 2002) and the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force starting from 1992).

Economic Cooperation

³⁶ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and Georgia is available in romanian at (pag. 77-80): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

The Republic of Moldova has an interest in strengthening the interaction with Georgia in the economic field, including through the further activity of the bilateral Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (the last meeting of the Commission was held in 2017 in Tbilisi).

The bilateral trade volume in 2021 was at the level of 23,5 mln USD (Moldovan export 19,5 mln USD, import 4 mln USD).

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and Georgia cooperate within the international organizations like UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, BSEC. At the same time, there is an interaction within the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM. Also, both countries have intensive cooperation within the Eastern Partnership platform and within the Associated Trio.

Republic of Armenia

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova maintains pragmatic political relations with the Republic of Armenia. During the past several years the interaction between two countries has been active also due to the circumstances related to countering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The latest high-level event was the meeting between President Maia Sandu and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in December 2021 in Brussels.

Bilateral agreements³⁷

There are 14 bilateral agreements and protocols signed between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Armenia, including the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force starting from 1992).

Economic cooperation

The bilateral trade volume in 2021 was at the level of about 2,1 mln USD, Moldovan export 1,1 mln USD, import 1,06 mln USD.

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Armenia cooperate within the international organizations like UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, BSEC. At the same time, there is an interaction within the Commonwealth of Independent States. Also, both countries are members of the Eastern Partnership platform.

Republic of Azerbaijan

³⁷ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Armenia is available in Romanian at (pag.9-10): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova maintains traditionally friendly bilateral relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan. There is an interest in further developing the political dialogue, including at the highest level. The Moldovan President Maia Sandu met with her Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in December 2021 in Brussels, in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Summit.

Last high-level visits: visit of the Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Moldova Nicu Popescu to Baku (9-10 February 2022); visit to Azerbaijan of the Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament Igor Grosu (21-23 February 2022).

The Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Azerbaijan mutually support each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Bilateral agreements³⁸

Currently there are 47 bilateral agreements signed between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 1997, entered into legal force in 2003) and the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force starting from 1992).

Economic cooperation

The Republic of Moldova has a special interest in deepening trade and investment cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan, including through organizing meetings of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation (the last meeting took place in 2012, in Chisinau).

The bilateral trade volume in 2021 was at the level of 5,8 mln USD (Moldovan export 4,3 mln USD, import 1,5 mln USD).

Cooperation in the energy field, including import of natural gas from Azerbaijan, is subject of bilateral discussion

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Azerbaijan cooperate within international organizations like the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, BSEC. At the same time, there is interaction within the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Also, both countries are members of the Eastern Partnership platform.

Republic of Belarus

Bilateral relations

The Republic of Moldova is maintaining balanced relations with the Republic of Belarus. The bilateral interaction is focused on the development of economic

³⁸ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Azerbaijan is available in Romanian at (pag.13-19): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

cooperation, the Belarusian market remaining attractive for Moldovan producers and exporters. The last bilateral high-level visits took place in 2018.

Bilateral agreements³⁹

The Republic of Moldova signed 102 bilateral agreements and protocols with the Republic of Belarus, including the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 1992, entered into legal force in 1994) and the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force since 1992).

Economic cooperation

The Republic of Moldova pays a special importance to the economic cooperation with the Republic of Belarus. An Intergovernmental Commission was established on economic cooperation, the last meeting of which was held in 2018. The bilateral trade volume in 2021 was at the level of 213 mln USD, Moldovan exports 68 mln USD, imports 145 mln USD.

ENP

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Bilateral relations

The bilateral relations between Moldova and Algeria are underdeveloped. There have been no exchanges of visits. The bilateral dialogue has been promoted within the United Nations and other international formats.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁰

There is only one Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Economic cooperation

The bilateral economic relations are at a low level.

Arab Republic of Egypt

Bilateral relations

The bilateral relations between Moldova and Egypt, although not sufficiently developed, have a potential of cooperation especially in the economic and trade sectors with the forthcoming visit to Egypt of the Deputy Prime Minister and

³⁹ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Belarus is available in Romanian at (pag.20-32): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴⁰ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Egypt is available in Romanian at (pag.7): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European integration. There have been no exchanges of high-level visits between the two countries and there are no outstanding problematic issues in the relations.

Bilateral agreements⁴¹

There is only one Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Arab Republic of Egypt. There are bilateral draft agreements under examination on Free Trade and Consular issues.

Economic cooperation

The bilateral economic relations are at a low level. Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 4,413 million USD and the imports amounted to 9,502 million USD.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and Egypt have limited cooperation within the UN system.

State of Israel

Bilateral relations

The relations between Moldova and Israel are well-developed, characterized by mutual support both at bilateral and multilateral levels. The Presidents of Moldova visited Israel in 2004 and 2018. There were exchanges of visits at the level of Foreign Ministers in 2013, 2014 and 2017. There are visits planned at the level of President and Foreign Minister in 2022. The visa free regime for up to 3 months between Moldova and Israel is in force from 2014.

Bilateral agreements⁴²

28 agreements are in force between Moldova and Israel. Another 4 draft agreements are under negotiation in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, social security, mutual recognition of driving licenses.

Economic cooperation

Moldovan exports in 2021 were valued at 12,7 mln USD and imports at 12 mln USD.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

⁴¹ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Egypt is available in Romanian at (pag.66): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴² The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Israel is available in Romanian at (pag.96-100): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Moldova and Israel cooperate actively within the UN system promoting joint positions against separatism, antisemitism, xenophobia, and terrorism. Moldova supports Israel on the Holocaust remembering activities.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Bilateral relations

Bilateral relations between Moldova and Jordan are underdeveloped. The visit to Jordan of the Moldovan Minister of Agriculture and Regional Development took place in 2016.

Bilateral agreements⁴³

One bilateral agreement is in force between Moldova and Jordan in the agricultural sector. Another 5 draft agreements in the field of education, avoiding double taxation, protection and promotion of investments, health and visa issues are under negotiation.

Economic cooperation

Economic cooperation is at a relatively low level.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and Jordan cooperate within the UN system.

Republic of Lebanon

Bilateral relations

The bilateral relations between Moldova and Lebanon are underdeveloped. There were no exchanges of bilateral visits.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁴

One bilateral agreement is in force between Moldova and Lebanon in the field of fighting economic crimes and corruption. There are also – 5 drafts agreements under negotiation in the field of mutual promotion and protection of investments, free trade, agriculture, visa issues, avoiding double taxation.

Economic cooperation

Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 24,831 million USD and imports amounted to 211 thousand USD.

⁴³ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Jordan is available in Romanian at (pag.97): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴⁴ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Lebanon is available in Romanian at (pag.127): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and Lebanon cooperate within the UN system.

State of Libya

Bilateral relations

Bilateral relations between Moldova and Libya are not developed. There were no exchanges of visits.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁵

Up to the present moment, just the agreement on establishing diplomatic relations has been signed with Libya.

Economic cooperation

Economic cooperation is at a low level. Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 2,1 mln USD and imports amounted to 580 thousand USD.

Kingdom of Morocco

Bilateral relations

The bilateral relations between Moldova and Morocco are underdeveloped. There were no exchanges of visits. The bilateral dialogue has been promoted within the United Nations organization.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁶

Up to the present moment, just the agreement on establishing diplomatic relations has been signed with Morocco. Moreover, there are negotiations on 5 draft agreements in the field of avoiding double taxation, protection and promotion of investments, civil aviation, and visa regime.

Economic cooperation

Bilateral economic relations are at a low level. Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 117 thousand USD, imports amounted to 6,3 mln USD.

Syrian Arab Republic

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

⁴⁵ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Libya is available in Romanian at (pag.128): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴⁶ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Morocco is available in Romanian at (pag.138): https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Bilateral relations between Moldova and Syria are not developed. There were no exchanges of visits. Moldova and Syria have no experience of cooperation within the United Nations.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁷

Up to the present moment, two bilateral agreements have been signed with Syria

Economic cooperation

Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 5,200 million USD and imports amounted to 982 thousand USD.

Republic of Tunisia

Bilateral relations

The bilateral relations between Moldova and Tunisia are not developed. There were no exchanges of visits. A meeting between Foreign Ministers took place in 2018 in the UN framework.

Bilateral agreements⁴⁸

Up to the present moment, one bilateral agreement has been signed with Tunisia. There are ongoing negotiations on 3 draft agreements in the fields of tourism, economy and mutual promotion and protection of investments.

Economic cooperation

The bilateral economic relations are at a low level. Moldovan exports in 2021 amounted to 2,590 million USD, imports amounted to 3,672 million USD.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and Tunisia cooperate within the UN system.

Palestine

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Palestine⁴⁹ were established in 1994. There were no exchanges of visits.

⁴⁷ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Syria is available in Romanian at (pag.203):

https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴⁸ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Tunisia is available in Romanian at (pag.226):

https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁴⁹ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with Palestine is available in Romanian at (pag.145):

https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Russian Federation

Bilateral Relations

The relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation are both broad and complex and have been affected in the last several months as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Among the recent political contacts can be mentioned: visit to Chisinau of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office (August 2021); visits to the Russian Federation of the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova (October 2021) and of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development in the context of resolving the problem of Russian natural gas deliveries to the Republic of Moldova (October 2021); visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration to Moscow (November 2021), political consultations at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister (February 2022).

The Russian Federation is the mediator in the process of the Transnistrian conflict settlement process (5+2 format). The illegal presence of the Russian military forces and ammunition stockpiles in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova is one of the main political issues affecting the bilateral dialogue. Moldova constantly calls for resumption of the unconditional withdrawal of the Russian forces and removal/disposal of the ammunition stockpiles in line with its 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit commitments⁵⁰. Moldova is also calling for the transformation of the current peacekeeping mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under an international mandate.

Since the first day of the Russian aggression against Ukraine the Republic of Moldova strongly condemns military actions, appeals for ceasefire and solving the conflict through dialogue, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people and reaffirms strong support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Republic of Moldova has voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolutions and has aligned itself with a number of political statements adopted within international organizations on condemning the military aggression of the Russian Federation.

Bilateral Agreements⁵¹

The Moldovan-Russian legal framework includes 160 bilateral documents, including the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (signed in 2001, in force since 2002), and the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (signed and in force since 1992).

⁵⁰ Istanbul Summit Declaration para 19 <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/6/5/39569.pdf>

⁵¹ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and Russia is available in romanian at (pag.180-200) https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Economic Cooperation

The Russian Federation is an important economic partner of the Republic of Moldova, but the share of trade has been declining due to unilateral restrictions imposed at various stages by the Russian authorities on import of Moldovan goods. The Russian Federation remains an important market for the Moldovan agricultural products, while natural gas constitutes a significant part of imports from the Russian Federation.

The bilateral trade volume between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation in 2021 was more than 1,3 billion USD, Moldovan exports 276 mln USD, imports more than 1 billion USD.

An unresolved problem in the bilateral trade is related to the unilateral application by the Russian Federation of import duties for 19 categories of Moldovan goods.

A significant number of Moldovan citizens are either living or working in Russia. A draft agreement in the social field was negotiated and prepared for signing.

Multilateral cooperation

The Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation cooperate within international organizations like the UN, OSCE, BSEC. At the same time, there is an interaction within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

d) USA and Canada;

United States of America

The Republic of Moldova has well-developed and comprehensive relations with the United States of America. Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the United States of America were established on February 18, 1992. Over the past three decades (February 18, 2022 – 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations), the two countries have developed a dynamic bilateral cooperation focused on diverse areas of mutual interest. Moldova-U.S. The Strategic Dialogue, launched in March 2014 and the Joint Working Groups – is the main platform of the Moldovan - American partnership aimed at advancing the bilateral dialogue and cooperation on strengthening the rule of law and good governance, justice sector reform, economic development and energy resilience, security and defense, people-to-people connections and cultural ties. The latest Strategic Dialogue principals' meeting was held in April 2022, in Washington D.C. The U.S. are participating as an observer in negotiations on the Transnistrian conflict settlement process (5+2 format)

Moldova enjoys a special and long-lasting partnership with the State of North Carolina, built over more than 23 years and focused on cooperation in diverse areas of extensive medical initiatives, academic and cultural exchanges, scientific and

higher education projects, economic ties, humanitarian aid, defense and civil protection, as well as training experiences and leadership development under the bilateral partnership. The main platform of dialogue and cooperation – is the Moldova-U.S. Bilateral Committee.

High-level visits (since 2011)

To Moldova:

- March 2011 – Vice President of the United States
- March 2015 – U.S. Deputy Secretary of State
- November 2021 and April 2022 – USAID Administrator
- March 2022 – U.S. Secretary of State.

To the United States:

- March 2012 – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of FAEI
- September 2013 – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of FAEI
- March 2014 – Prime Minister (Moldova-U.S. Strategic Dialogue launch)
- February 2018 – Minister of FAEI
- June 2018 – Prime Minister
- June 2019 – Minister of FAEI
- September 2019 – Prime Minister
- April 2022 – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of FAEI.

U.S. financial and development assistance

Since 1992, the U.S. has provided over \$1.7 billion USD in foreign assistance funding to Moldova. U.S. government assistance aims to support Moldova's development efforts, fostering democratic processes, building a strong, inclusive, and resilient society, strengthening economic growth and modernization, improving the business environment, increasing prosperity, and improving the living standards for Moldovan citizens.

Bilateral agreements⁵²

There are 96 documents in force, including agreements, memoranda of understanding, joint declarations.

Economic cooperation

Moldova benefits from the unilateral trade preference regime offered by the U.S. through the GSP Program. Since 1995, Moldova has been benefiting from customs facilities agreed under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for 3569 products. Since July 1, 2017, the list of eligible products under GSP has been

⁵² The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and US is available in Romanian at (pag.203-216) https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

expanded. According to the volume of bilateral trade, the USA is placed 16th among the main trade partners of Moldova.

Moldova-U.S. Joint Commercial Commission (JCC) is the main platform for dialogue and cooperation aimed at strengthening the bilateral trade and investment relationship. The 5th JCC meeting was held (online) on December 9, 2021. The regularity of these meetings proves the strength of the bilateral relationship and underlines the commitment from both sides to increase bilateral trade and improve Moldova's investment climate.

Currently there are 362 enterprises with American capital in the Republic of Moldova. According to the total foreign investments volume, the U.S. is placed 7th among the main foreign investors in Moldovan economy.

Cooperation in other areas

The U.S. supports Moldova's efforts in building and strengthening national capacities to address new challenges (cyber security capacity building, defense, countering hybrid threats, modernization of armed forces, enhancing economic resilience, strengthening energy security).

Multilateral fora

Moldova and the U.S. have a close cooperation in the framework of the UN, other international organizations such as OSCE, IAEA, OPCW etc. Moldova is a member of the Global coalition to defeat ISIS led by the US, and supports the US and EU policies on several issues like Iran, North Korea, Syria, etc.

Canada

Bilateral relations

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and Canada were established on February 20, 1992 and are being constantly developed. Over the years (February 20, 2022 – 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations), the dialogue and cooperation between the two countries have been steadily developing, supported also by the opening in 2013 of the Moldovan Embassy in Ottawa.

High-level visits (since 2013)

To Moldova:

- March 2014 – Foreign Minister of Canada
- October 2014 – Canadian parliamentary Delegation
- December 2016 – Moldovan-Canadian political consultations (MFAs)
- April and September 2018 – GAC delegation (Global Affairs Canada).
- March 2022 – Minister of International Development.

To Canada:

- March 2013 – Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of FAEI
- March 2014 – Speaker of the Parliament
- November 2014 – Deputy Foreign Minister
- June 2018 – Minister of FAEI
- November 2018 – Minister of Defense.

Development assistance

Canada participates in projects aimed at strengthening civil society and human rights in Moldova through Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), supporting small projects proposed and implemented by local NGOs and other community-based organizations that address identified needs of local communities.

Bilateral agreements⁵³

There are 6 documents in force, including agreements, a convention, memorandum of understanding, joint declarations.

Bilateral trade

Moldova-Canada volume of trade remains modest. In recent years the bilateral trade flows between the two countries have increased, maintaining a positive trend. The Moldova-Canada Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) was signed in June 2018 – an important step in Moldova-Canada relationship. The FIPA included a joint declaration recognizing the importance of progressive and inclusive trade and investment.

Multilateral fora

Moldova and Canada have good cooperation within the UN, the OSCE, Council of Europe, La Francophonie.

e) China, Japan, India, and the broader Indo-Pacific region;

People's Republic of China

Bilateral relations

The relations with China are well-developed and stable.

The political dialogue and the exchange of visits at a high level include the visits to the PRC of the President of Moldova in April 2006, of the President of the

⁵³ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and Canada is available in Romanian at (pag.45)
https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Parliament in September 2019 and of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in September 2018. Moldova was visited by the Deputy Prime Minister of the PRC in June 2012. The People's Republic of China respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Moldova.

Bilateral agreements⁵⁴

61 bilateral agreements are in force between Moldova and China.

Economic cooperation

China is Moldova's biggest Asian economic partner. In 2021, Moldovan exports amounted to 12,4 mln USD and the imports amounted to 836,5 mln USD.

Cooperation in other areas

Cooperation between Moldova and China is diverse and is not limited to the economic and political spheres, and is realized in many areas, including culture, education, science. China is also an important donor for Moldova in the agricultural sector, Covid-19 mitigation and migration resilience.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and China have good cooperation at the multilateral level, including within the UN system.

Japan

Bilateral relations

The relations with Japan are well-developed and continue to grow.

The political dialogue and the exchange of visits at a high level intensified in the last 10 years, including the visits to Japan of the President of Moldova in October 2019, of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry in August 2015 and of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in July 2018. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of the House of Representatives of the National Diet of Japan visited Moldova in September 2017.

Japan respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

Bilateral agreements⁵⁵

40 bilateral agreements are in force between Moldova and Japan.

Economic cooperation

⁵⁴ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and China is available in Romanian at (pag.50-57) https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁵⁵ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and Japan is available in Romanian at (pag.106-110) https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

Japan is the second biggest Asian economic partner for Moldova; however the intensity of economic cooperation is low compared to the European states. In 2021, Moldovan exports amounted to 3,205 mln USD and the imports amounted to 67,439 mln USD.

Cooperation in other areas

Cooperation between Moldova and Japan is diversified and includes such sectors as culture, education, science, healthcare. Japan is the most important Asian donor for Moldova, providing assistance in the sphere of defense and border security, health sector, COVID-19 equipment, help for refugees.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and Japan have good cooperation in international bodies and organizations, especially in the UN system.

Republic of India

Bilateral relations

Moldova's relations with India are on an ascending track. The cooperation is expected to be strengthened following the 2022 round of inter-ministerial consultations between Moldova and India in New Delhi.

The political dialogue and the exchange of visits at a high-level were infrequent, including the visit to India of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in August 2018 and the visit to Moldova by the Minister of Statistics and Program Implementation of the Indian Government in November 2016.

Bilateral agreements⁵⁶

4 bilateral agreements are in force between Moldova and India.

Economic cooperation

Economic cooperation with India is modest. In 2021, Moldovan exports amounted to 200 thousand USD and the imports amounted to 46,5 mln USD.

Cooperation in multilateral bodies

Moldova and India have good cooperation within international organizations and bodies, especially the UN system.

Broader Indo-Pacific region

The Republic of Moldova has established diplomatic relations with most of the countries from the broader Indo-Pacific region⁵⁷. Among the partners from the region are countries

⁵⁶ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova and India is available in Romanian at (pag.92-94) https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

⁵⁷ The List of bilateral agreements of Moldova with the countries from Indo-Pacific region are available in Romanian at: https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf

such as: Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam. The bilateral relations are underdeveloped, most of the cooperation is maintained within the international organizations, especially the UN system.

f) The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, African Union and Gulf Cooperation Council members.

The Republic of Moldova - NATO political dialogue

The Republic of Moldova joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) in 1994 and participates in the workings of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). The framework and guiding document of the bilateral partnership is the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) Republic of Moldova – NATO for 2022-2023⁵⁸. Moldova implements IPAP since 2006, while the document is being updated periodically. The Republic of Moldova – NATO cooperation is based on the respect for Moldova's constitutional neutrality.

Moldova conducts the political dialogue with NATO in various formats: organizing 30 allies + Moldova meetings at different levels and on various topics, EAPC format, 30 allies + N partners, bilateral meetings with NATO representatives and allies, exchange of visits at different levels.

The Moldova – NATO political dialogue is focused, in particular, on:

- Promoting the rules-based international order, consultation on security developments in the region;
- Developing a values-based partnership by implementing the Euro-Atlantic values that NATO protects, like democracy, state of law, market economy, combating corruption, respect for human rights, etc.;
- Maintaining NATO allies support for Moldova's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, withdrawal of Russian forces;
- Developing cooperation in the area of reforming and modernizing Moldova's security and defence sector in accordance with the requirements of the current security environment, adjusting national strategies and policies;
- Providing NATO's expertise, experience and assistance for Moldova's security and defence capacity building, for strengthening capacities and effectiveness of institutions, training of experts. Implementing the Euro-Atlantic standards in the area of security and defence;
- Developing cooperation within the agreed programmes: Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Initiative (DCB), Partnership for

⁵⁸ Individual Partnership Action Plan Republic of Moldova - NATO, available in English at: https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/individual_partnership_action_plan_ipap_republic_of_moldova_-_nato_for_2022-2023.pdf

Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP), Building Integrity Programme (BI), Professional Development Programme (PDP), Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS), Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP), Interoperability Platform (IP), implementing UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, etc.;

- Developing cooperation in the areas of interest like addressing new security challenges, modernization of armed forces, cyber defence, countering hybrid threats, enhancing resilience, civil emergency planning, promoting strategic communication, public diplomacy;
- Moldova's contribution to strengthening regional and European security and stability. For instance, since March 2014 Moldova contributes to the KFOR mission in Kosovo with a contingent of 41 servicemen.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

No international treaty or cooperation arrangement concluded

African Union

No international treaty or cooperation arrangement concluded

Gulf Cooperation Council

No international treaty or cooperation arrangement concluded

III. CFSP AND CSDP — POLITICAL STRATEGY

A. Restrictive measures

12. In view of the Union's capacity to implement restrictive measures, including economic sanctions, under a CFSP Decision and an EU Regulation (see Article 29 TEU and Article 215 TFEU), please provide an overview of Moldova's constitutional and legal arrangements for the implementation of restrictive measures, including economic sanctions, the relevant administrative structures and monitoring mechanisms, and a list of unilateral and multilateral (in particular UN Security Council) restrictive measures applied by Moldova.

The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova lays down one of the core principles in art. 8 (1) by specifying expressly that: „The Republic of Moldova commits to observe the Charter of the United Nations and the treaties to which it is a party, to base its relationships with other states on the unanimously recognized principles and norms of international law”.

As regards the international restrictive measures/sanctions, the above-mentioned constitutional principle is further reflected in the Law No. 25/2016 on the application of international restrictive measures⁵⁹ which regulates the introduction, application and lifting by the Republic of Moldova of international restrictive measures established, in particular, by the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, adopted on the basis of the provisions of art. 41 of the Charter of the United Nations; and by the decisions of the European Union which the Republic of Moldova has aligned itself with.

Art. 5 (1) of the aforementioned Law stipulates that the sanctions adopted by resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the decisions of the sanction's committees established by these resolutions, are directly applicable, constituting rights and obligations for public authorities and institutions, legal and natural persons or any other subject of domestic law of the Republic of Moldova.

Furthermore, in accordance with Art. 14 (1) of the Law No. 25/2016 on the application of international restrictive measures, “resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council establishing, amending, extending, suspending or lifting international sanctions on the basis of Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations shall be made public by order of MFAEI, which shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova within 10 days from the adoption of the respective resolutions”.

⁵⁹ Law No. 25/2016 on the application of international restrictive measures, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=92829&lang=ro

In addition, MFAEI promptly informs the relevant national authorities about the decisions of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committees regarding the amendments on the sanctions' lists.

MFAEI keeps centralized records of all mandatory international restrictive measures in force. Information on the United Nations Security Council sanctions regimes is published on the official website of the MFAEI in a separate section: https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/sanctiunile_in_vigoare_ale_csonu_18.04.2022_0.pdf.

At the same time, art. 7 of Law No. 25/2016 establishes a mechanism for the adoption of decisions on the alignment of the Republic of Moldova with restrictive measures applied by the European Union. Every alignment with the EU restrictive measures is adopted following interagency coordination and formalized by a decision issued by the MFAEI and published in the Official Journal.

13. To what extent has Moldova fully implemented the restrictive measures listed on the EU sanctions website <https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main>

The decisions and regulations of the EU institutions, including the restrictive measures and sanctions in the context of CFSP are not directly applicable in the Republic of Moldova. Nevertheless, considering the provisions of the Association Agreement and that European integration is the key priority of Moldova's domestic and external policy, the competent national authorities in the process of drafting or implementing laws or regulation in this area, take into account the EU restrictive measures in force.

At the same time, sanctions adopted through the Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in accordance with art. 41 of the UN Charter and the decisions of Sanctions Committees established by those Resolutions are directly applicable and constitute rights and obligations for public authorities and institutions, legal entities and individuals or any other subject of the law of the Republic of Moldova.

As regards restrictive measures which refer to arms embargo to third countries, the approval is denied for export of arms to the countries on which the EU imposed the arms embargo within the framework of its restrictive measures. This is realized within the framework of the Law no. 105/2015 on ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty⁶⁰.

At the national level, the Law No. 25/2016 on international restrictive measures regulates the implementation by Republic of Moldova of international sanctions which are imposed by: Resolutions of the UN Security Council; European Union's decisions or decisions adopted by international organizations or by other states, to

⁶⁰ Law no. 105/2015 on ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=82614&lang=ro

which Republic of Moldova aligned itself; and those that are imposed by Republic of Moldova on its own initiative.

The adoption of the decision on Republic of Moldova's alignment to the restrictive measures (e.g referring to freezing of funds or economic resources; restrictions on the import, export, transit, services, transport or communications; travel bans or arms embargo) established by decisions of the European Union is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration after consulting the Prime Minister, as well as the competent public authorities and institutions (Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security and Intelligence Service, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Moldova and others).

According to the provisions of the national legislation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration keeps a central record of all mandatory international restrictive measures in force, as well as those to which Moldova aligned itself or that it applied on its own initiative. Information concerning the above-mentioned restrictive measures is published on the official website of the MFAEI – [masuri restrictive internationale ale ue la care rm s-a aliniat 08.04.2022.pdf \(gov.md\)](https://www.mfa.md/ro/actualitati/2022/04/masuri-restrictive-internationale-ale-ue-la-care-rm-s-a-aliniat-08.04.2022.pdf).

The Republic of Moldova is fully aligned with EU/UN restrictive measures in view of the:

Country/Category	Specification	Adopted by
Afghanistan	Restrictive measures imposed with respect to the Taliban	UN
Myanmar/Burma	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma	EU
Burundi	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Burundi	EU
Democratic People's Republic of Korea – North Korea	Restrictive measures in relation to the non-proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD)	EU, UN
Central African Republic	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic	UN
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	EU, UN
Guinea	Restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea	EU
Guinea-Bissau	Restrictive measures against those threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau	EU, UN
Iran	Restrictive measures in relation to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)	EU
Iraq	Restrictive measures on Iraq	UN
Libya	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya	EU, UN
Lebanon	Restrictive measures in relation to the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) on Lebanon	UN

Mali	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali	EU, UN
Nicaragua	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Republic of Nicaragua	EU
Somalia	Restrictive measures against Somalia	UN
South Sudan	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in South Sudan	EU, UN
Sudan	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Sudan	UN
Syria	Restrictive measures against Syria	EU
Terrorism	Restrictive measures with respect to ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida (ISIL/Daesh & Al-Qaida)	EU, UN
Terrorism	Specific measures to combat terrorism	EU
Tunisia	Misappropriation of state funds of Tunisia (MSF)	EU
Ukraine	Misappropriation of state funds	EU
Venezuela	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela	EU
Yemen	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen	UN
Zimbabwe	Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Zimbabwe	EU

Currently, Moldova's rate of alignment with the sanctions regimes included in the list available on the EU sanctions map website is approximately - 55%.

Moldova's alignment with the EU restrictive measures takes into account a range of factors, including those related to existing risks and vulnerabilities, especially in the economic and security area. As the Republic of Moldova will be moving closer to EU membership and the country's economic and security resilience will be strengthened, Moldova will increase the alignment rate by the time of accession.

14. Regarding the implementation of sanctions (i.e. assets freeze, travel bans, economic and financial restrictions and arms embargo), which specific ministries/bodies and law enforcement agencies (Ministry of Defence, Customs Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, security and intelligence services) or departments would be in charge of the monitoring, controlling and implementation, and what is their operational structure (staffing, budget, reporting)?

Under the provisions of art. 14 par. (2) of the Law no. 25/2016 on the international restrictive measures, the decision of the MFAEI on the alignment with EU restrictive measures, along with the state language text of the documents establishing those measures, comes into force after being published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova.

Moreover, according to art.13 of the above-mentioned Law, the application and supervision of implementation of international restrictive measures are the responsibility of the competent public authorities and institutions - Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security and Intelligence Service, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Moldova – in accordance with

the legislation and with the mechanisms established by each public authority within its scope of responsibility.

The supervision mechanism on the implementation of international sanctions is established and approved by every competent public authority or institution. Thus, within each national institution a contact point is designated from one of the relevant departments (usually from an international cooperation department). The contact point is coordinating the process internally with relevant subdivisions when drafting the alignment position of the entity and later monitoring the process of implementation of the restrictive measures to which the Republic of Moldova has aligned itself. At the moment, national institutions have not assigned special budgets for these purposes/the experts (division) in charge of monitoring, controlling and implementation of the EU restrictive measures to which Moldova has aligned itself.

15. Provide data on trade in used or new weapons with countries against which the EU maintains arms embargos.

The Moldovan Parliament adopted the Law No. 1163/2000 on export, re-export, import and transit control of strategic goods⁶¹. It stipulates the main principles, procedures, and competences of the Parliament and Government in strategic trade control.

To implement the mentioned Law, the Government adopted the Decision No. 606/2002 of 15 May 2002 on the National System of export, re-export import and transit control of strategic goods in the Republic of Moldova⁶², which approved:

- The Regulation of the Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods;
- The Regulation on the control regime of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods;
- The National Control List of strategic goods.

The Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, observes the EU arms embargoes and does not authorize any transactions that could violate or circumvent embargoes. Respectively, Moldova did not trade in used or new weapons with countries against which the EU imposed arms embargoes.

⁶¹ Law no. 1163/2000 on export, re-export, import and transit control of strategic goods, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108380&lang=ro

⁶² Government adopted the Decision No. 606/2002 of 15 May 2002 on the National System of export, re-export import and transit control of strategic goods in the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114025&lang=ro#

B. Non-proliferation and WMD/SALW strategy

16. In view of EU's commitments in the areas of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), please explain Moldova's participation, or intended participation, in the different international regimes/instruments concerning non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as Moldovas participation, or intended participation in international regimes/instruments concerning non-proliferation and illicit trafficking in conventional arms, exports of conventional arms, as well as the authorities in charge of implementing these international regimes.

The Republic of Moldova has ratified a series of international instruments in the field of countering the use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Some of them are:

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968)
- The Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1956)
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (1986)
- The Convention on Nuclear Safety (1994)
- The Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (1963)
- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons on their Destruction (1993)
- The Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons (1972)
- The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1998)
- The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (1998)
- The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (1986)
- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (1997)
- The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1979)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996)
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013).

Moreover, in order to ensure effective and efficient procedures and mechanisms for enforcement and implementation of targeted financial sanctions (TFS) related to terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Moldova approved the **Regulation on implementation procedure of financial sanctions related to**

terrorist activities and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
(Government Decision No. 792/2020 of 28.10.2020⁶³).

The document establishes the modalities for implementation of financial sanctions in relation to individuals, groups and entities involved in terrorist activities and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (designated individuals, groups and entities), especially, regarding designation and delisting procedures. Moreover, the Regulation determines powers and functions of the authorities competent in this field. With regard to matters not provided for in this Regulation, the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011), 2253 (2015), 1373 (2001), 1718 (2006), 2231 (2015) and subsequent resolutions, as well as other related acts in the field of financial sanctions related to terrorist activity and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, will be applied directly.

According to the provisions of the Regulation, the authorities responsible for implementation of the financial sanctions related to terrorist activity and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are - the Intelligence and Security Service; the Service for the Prevention and Combating Money Laundering and the MFAEI.

In this regard, the Intelligence and Security Service is the main institution which develops, approves, and publishes in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova and on its official website the consolidated list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist activities and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Coordination of the implementation process at the national level is under the responsibility of the Service for the Prevention and Combating Money Laundering. The MFAEI coordinates the participation of the country within the specialized committees, international organizations in this sphere, and ensures cooperation on a bilateral level with other countries on the implementation of the above-mentioned sanctions.

Moldova's participation in international regimes/instruments concerning non-proliferation and illicit trafficking in conventional arms, exports of conventional arms:

The Republic of Moldova signed with the USA on 19 July 2011:

- A Joint Action Plan on combating smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials;
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy of the United States of America and the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova on cooperation to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material. A similar document was signed with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova.

⁶³ The Governmental Decision No. 792/2020 is available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123864&lang=ro

The Republic of Moldova also participates in the Incident and Trafficking Database of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is part of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), Geiger database (INTERPOL) and Nuclear forensics International Technical Working Group (ITWG) - Moldova has one accredited laboratory within the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

The Republic of Moldova is also actively engaged in non-proliferation activities at the regional level. Moldova is a part to the Protocol signed between GUAM countries in the field of non-proliferation. Some other instruments of cooperation for assistance in nuclear material analyses were signed as well with National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control from Romania and Institute of Transuranium Elements from Karlsruhe (Germany).

The Republic of Moldova also engages in the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation Initiative (Phase 1, Development of national WMD Counter Proliferation Strategies; and Phase 2, Implementation Strategy) and the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative.

On 16 November 2006, Moldova approved the Law No. 335/2006 on the Treaty on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests and the Law No. 20/2008 for the ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The Republic of Moldova aligned itself with several initiatives and statements and supported decisions on WMD non-proliferation promoted by EU and US within UN, IAEA, OPCW and other organizations.

With reference to international regimes/instruments concerning non-proliferation and illicit trafficking in conventional arms, Moldova signed and ratified:

- The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (ratified on 28 May 2015);
- The Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (ratified it on 27.04.2000);
- The Convention on the Prohibition of Cluster Munitions (CCM) (December 2008);
- The Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects (CCW) (ratified on 28 March 2001);
- The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (in force for the Republic of Moldova since 30 March 2006. In accordance with provisions of the Government Decision No. 210 of 07 March 2018,

the National Commission, chaired by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is responsible for implementations of the Protocol);

- The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty).

With reference to the OSCE arms control mechanism, Moldova is applying the provisions of the:

- Vienna Document 2011 (Annual Exchange of Military Information, Defence Planning, Risk Reduction, Contacts, Notifications, Observation, Inspections and Verification);
- Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security - the responsible national institution is Ministry of Defence through the National Verification Centre;
- OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (reference number FSC.GAL/38/11) – responsible institutions are Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defence;
- Joint Consultative Group established in accordance with Article XVI of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) – responsible national institutions are Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Ministry of Defence.

Moldova implements the Agreement between the National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities of Moldova and US Department of Defence on assistance for border security and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (2016). There is ongoing cooperation between the Moldovan authorities and Germany's Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and the US Export Control and related Border Security (EXBS) initiative on import/export of dual-use goods.

17. Please clarify the amount of trade in conventional weapons Moldova is involved in either directly or as a transit point. What would be the mechanisms to enact the internal controls necessary to allow instruments such as the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the MTCR regimes to function and which would be the relevant law enforcement agencies for each of these export control regimes?

The Republic of Moldova is not a member but abides unilaterally by the Guidelines of the following export control regimes: Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement. The Republic of Moldova implements the measures on ballistic missile proliferation primarily through its export control system, in accordance with national Law on export controls, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods.

Moldovan Strategic Goods Trade Control System:

National legal framework:

- The Moldovan Parliament adopted the Law 1163/2000 on export, re-export, import and transit control of strategic goods⁶⁴. It stipulates the main principles, procedures, and competences of the Parliament and Government in strategic trade control.
- To implement the mentioned Law, the Government adopted the Decision No. 606 of 15th May 2002 on the National System of export, re-export import and transit control of strategic goods in the Republic of Moldova, which approved:
 - The Regulation of the Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods;
 - The Regulation on the control regime of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods;
 - The National Control List of strategic goods.

Institutional framework:

Members of the Interagency Commission:

- Ministry of Economy (coordinating authority)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Defense
- Security and Intelligence Service
- Customs Service
- Public Services Agency (licensing authority, ensures secretariat functions for the Interagency Commission)

The main functions of the Interagency Commission are as follows:

- considers the proposals to sign or join bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements;
- monitors the implementation of the commitments within the bilateral and multilateral agreements on nonproliferation;
- adopts the authorizations on the trade with strategic goods;
- adopts the decisions on suspending or canceling the authorization.

In accordance with the Law No. 111/2006 on safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities⁶⁵ (repealed by the Law no. 132/2012⁶⁶), the National Agency

⁶⁴ Law no. 1163/2000 on export, re-export, import and transit control of strategic goods, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108380&lang=ro

⁶⁵ Law no. 111/2006 on safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=26592&lang=ro

⁶⁶ Law no. 132/2012 on the safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106549&lang=ro

for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities was established as a single nuclear regulatory body.

18. Does Moldova comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016)?

The Republic of Moldova does not produce, possess or develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Moldova is implementing the provisions of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 and 2325. It participates actively to the international arrangements and cooperation within the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The information is presented above.

The Republic of Moldova takes actions at the national level towards the improvement of the legislative framework, standards, and regulations on the control regime, building necessary institutional capabilities, advancing efficient border management, building up training capabilities for its experts.

the Law no. 132/2012 on the safe deployment nuclear and radiological activities⁶⁷ implements the relevant International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) recommendations.

For immediate response to incidents that might involve nuclear or radiological materials, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Law No. 132/2012 and under the auspices of the NARNRA, a Mobile expert support team (MEST) was established, to ensure a better response, in close cooperation with the Customs Service and Civil Emergency and Protection Service, to nuclear and radiological incidents.

Another step towards enhancement of the national CBRN capabilities, was signing of the Memorandums of Cooperation between the NARNRA and other bodies of the GoM such as: Civil Emergency and Protection Service, Customs Service, National Centre for Public Health, Technical University and the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

In 2011, a representative of the Ministry of Defence was nominated as the National Focal Point for the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC). Additionally, in July 2011, the National Committee headed by the Deputy Minister of Defence was created with the purpose of coordinating more efficiently the activities related to the BTWC implementation at the national level by involving other stakeholders.

Moldova also cooperates closely with the European Union in this field, in particular with the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative. The Law

⁶⁷ Law no. 132/2012 on the safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106549&lang=ro

132/2012 as amended in 2018, also transposed Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation⁶⁸.

To this end, in the framework of the CBRN CoE Initiative, Moldova is implementing the following projects: P88 „Strengthening of CBRN Medical Preparedness and Response Capabilities in SEE countries”; P67 „Strengthening CBRN Waste Management Capabilities in South East and Eastern European Countries”; P53 „Strengthening the National Legal Framework and Provision of Specialized Training on Bio Safety and Bio-Security in Central Asian and South-East and Eastern European Countries”.

Moldovan experts were nominated and are contributing to the development of the two new regional projects to be implemented in the region: „Enhance of CBRN Critical Infrastructure Protection and Security in SEE region”, „Strengthening of Front Line Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures in SEE Region”.

Moldova has contributed to the development of the CBRN Regional Action Plan which, at the moment, is consulted with the CBRN CoE Initiative member states and is to be adopted in 2022. The Regional Action Plan aims, inter alia, at strengthening regional cooperation and ties between the countries, helping to identify existing CBRN risks in the region, enhancing regional capabilities of CBRN risk mitigation, focusing on regional needs and priorities as well as serving as regional strategic guidance.

The Law No. 132/2012 on safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities lays the necessary foundation for non-proliferation regime of nuclear weapons⁶⁹.

Republic of Moldova is working towards approval, by the end of 2022, of a National CBRN Program and a subsequent Action Plan for its implementation.

Moldova is submitting national reports on the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 and provides updated information every year through the MFAEI.

The Republic of Moldova faces challenges in full implementation of the provisions of the Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016), due to the fact that the Moldovan authorities do not have full and official information about the situation in the Transnistrian region which is not under control of the constitutional authorities, as well as about the weapons in the possession of Russian forces present in this region.

⁶⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013L0059>

⁶⁹ Law No. 132/2012 on safe deployment of nuclear and radiological activities, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106549&lang=ro

19. Does Moldova comply with the Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1560 of 16 September 2019 amending Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment?

The Republic of Moldova complies with common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment envisaged in the Arms Trade Treaty. It ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 28 May 2015 (the document is in force for Moldova since 27 December 2015). Moldova has the following legal framework and procedures in place:

- The Law No.1163/2000 on the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, regulates the principles and procedure of control over the export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods and establishes the general provisions on such activity, as well as participation in international efforts on export control.
- The Government Decision No. 606/2002 of 15 May 2002 on the National Control System for Export, Re-Export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods in the Republic of Moldova⁷⁰ approves:
 - Regulation of the Interagency Commission for Control over the Export, Re-Export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods;
 - Regulation on the control regime of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods;
 - Nomenclature of strategic goods subject to control.

The aforementioned Government Decision establishes the following responsibilities for the national defence bodies:

- The MoD issues the approval for the arms, ammunition and other military equipment export or import authorization, at a company's request. Authorizations for the export, re-export, import or transit of strategic goods, as well as other related documents, are issued on the basis of decisions of the Interagency Commission.
- The Chief of the General Staff of the National Army is the Deputy Head of the Interagency Commission.

20. Does Moldova comply with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and what is Moldova's position with regard to the Council Decision of 3 March 2014 authorising Member States to ratify, in the interests of the European Union, the Arms Trade Treaty (2014/165/EU)? Please provide information on Moldova's defence industry and any obstacles to compliance with the ATT.

The Republic of Moldova acceded in 2015 to the Arms Trade Treaty, ratified by the Law No. 105/2015, which provides for the regulation of international trade in

⁷⁰ Government Decision No. 606/2002 of 15 May 2002 on the National Control System for Export, Re-Export, Import and Transit of Strategic Goods in the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=114025&lang=ro

conventional arms and aims to prevent and eradicate illicit trade as well as the diversion of conventional arms by establishing international standards to govern arms transfers.

Based on the commitments made by the Republic of Moldova, the Member States of the ATT, including Moldova, pay the annual contribution according to Article 17 of this Treaty on the basis of the financial rules adopted jointly with the Member States. In accordance with art. 13, paragraph 3 of the treaty concerned the information on exports and imports authorized or carried out of conventional weapons specified in art. 2, paragraph 1, is reported annually to the ATT Secretariat.

The work of the Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, is based on implementing ATT commitments.

There is no defence industry on the territory of the Republic of Moldova controlled by the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

21. What is Moldova's position and what measures are being taken with regard to the Oslo Action Plan for the implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction?

The Republic of Moldova signed the Convention on 03.12.1997 and ratified it on 27.04.2000. Moldova has honored its commitments as a member state of the Convention by destroying all stockpiles of anti-personnel mines over the period of 23 September – 26 November 2002. Moldova neither uses, stockpiles, produces nor transfers anti-personnel mines. Annually, the Republic of Moldova presents a transparency report pursuant to the provisions of the Ottawa Convention.

22. Has Moldova undertaken implementation measures necessary to comply with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)? Are there legislation and administrative measures in place prohibiting activities proscribed under the CWC? Please provide details. Has a functioning National Authority serving as a focal point for CWC-related matters been established? What measures have been undertaken to regulate and monitor trade in scheduled chemicals?

The Law No. 358/2004 on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction regulates the application of the provisions of the Convention, signed in Paris on 13 January 1993, ratified by Parliament Decision No. 537/1995, which entered into force in Moldova on April 29, 1997. The national focal point for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the Ministry of Economy.

Moldova adopted the Government Decision No. 505/2020 for the approval of the Regulation on the export and import of dangerous chemicals⁷¹. This Regulation transposes Regulation (EU) No. 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals. The monitoring and implementation of this decision is the responsibility of the National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities.

The Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, regulates and monitors the trade in scheduled chemicals.

23. Does Moldova comply with the obligations under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)?

Moldova joined the BTWC on 5 November 2004 (Law No. 360/2004)⁷², which entered into force on 28 January 2005. It undertakes the confidence-building measures (CBM) envisaged by the BTWC.

24. Does Moldova comply with its obligations with regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

Moldova has ratified the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 14 April 1994 and has concluded a comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Moldova has a good cooperation with the IAEA which focuses on peaceful use of nuclear science and technology for critical needs, such as improvement of the radiation security infrastructure, security of radiological sources and efficient response in case of emergency situations, transfer, and implementation of nuclear technologies in medicine and environmental science. At the same time, Moldova undertakes all necessary measures to prevent possible transfers through its territory of any components, materials and technology related to weapons of mass destruction.

Moldova supports the efforts and initiatives on NPT universalization and more efficient implementation. For instance, it subscribed to the documents promoted by Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament: “Stepping Stones for Advancing Nuclear Disarmament” and “A Nuclear Risk Reduction Package”.

⁷¹ Government Decision No. 505/2020 for the approval of the Regulation on the export and import of dangerous chemicals, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122468&lang=ro

⁷² Law no.360/2004 on the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Processing, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on Their Destruction, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107438&lang=ro

On 24 September 1997, Moldova signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, that was ratified on 16 November 2006 and entered into force on 15 February 2007. It supports the international efforts on CTBT universalization and more efficient implementation.

25. Does Moldova comply with its undertakings under the Hague Code of Conduct?

The Republic of Moldova subscribed, on 25 November 2002, to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC). It annually submits relevant declarations. The Republic of Moldova does not have the industrial capability to produce or develop any space launch vehicles, nor possess any land (test) launch sites for the launch of space vehicles. The Republic of Moldova implements the measures on ballistic missile proliferation primarily through its export control system, in accordance with national Law No. 1163/2000 of 26 July 2000 on export controls, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods.

26. Does Moldova have a national control strategy for small arms and light weapons (SALW)? If so, please provide a copy.

The state policy concerning the coordination and control in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) circulation is ensured by the National Commission for monitoring the circulation of small arms and light weapons, instituted by Government Decision No. 210/2018 on the establishment of the National Commission for monitoring the circulation of small arms and light weapons⁷³.

Pursuant to the Decision No.2/2018 of the National Commission for monitoring the circulation of SALW, a Group of Experts was established under the umbrella of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a view of drafting the National Strategy for Monitoring the Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Action Plan on its implementation.

Currently, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is finalizing the draft Development Strategy in the field of internal affairs for the years 2022-2030, which will integrate among others a programme dedicated to Monitoring the Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Development Strategy shall be adopted until the end of 2022.

⁷³ Government Decision No. 210/2018 on the establishment of the National Commission for monitoring the circulation of small arms and light weapons, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102168&lang=ro

27. Does Moldova have a national registration system and database for small arms and light weapons? If so, please provide recent weapons registration statistics.

The record of small arms and light weapons (SALW) at national level is maintained through the automated information system "*The State Registry of Firearms*". The concept of the automated information system "*The State Registry of Firearms*" was approved by Government Decision No. 609/2018⁷⁴. With the purpose of implementation of the concept of the automated information system "*The State Registry of Firearms*" the Regulation on the methodology of maintaining the State Registry of Firearms was adopted by Government Decision No. 416/2021.

The information system enables a rigorous recording process of weapons, the international tracing of lost, stolen or crime-related firearms. It also establishes a procedure for the complete monitoring of all operations with arms and ammunition since their import into the country by licensed arms dealers, transfer inside the country and abroad, cancellation and suspension of arms licenses or depriving of the right to possess weapons.

Currently, the transfer of files from the old database into the State Registry of Firearms is performed by the police department in charge of this task. At the moment there are 61.640 registered owners, holding 75.121 firearms.

28. Does Moldova have a national commission or authority to monitor the production, import and export of small arms and light weapons? If so, who are its members and what are its terms of reference?

At the national level, an Interagency Commission for the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, comprising State Secretaries of the authorities with competences in the field of national defense, state security and public order, has been established as a permanent body of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

In accordance with Article 1¹ of the Annex No.1 to the Government Decision No.606/2002, the Commission includes the following members/representatives:

- The Minister of Economy, Chairperson of the Commission;
- The Chief of the General Staff of the National Army, Deputy Chairperson of the Commission;
- Head of the Authorization and Certification Division of the Public Service Agency, Secretary of the Commission;

⁷⁴ Government Decision No.609/2018 on the approval of the Concept of the Automated Information System "State Register of Arms", available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123216&lang=ro

- State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (responsible for public order and security, crime prevention and control);
- Head of the General Directorate of the Intelligence and Security Service;
- Deputy Head of the Revenue and Customs Control Department of the Customs Service;
- State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

The Commission, in its turn, sets up working groups, where representatives of other ministries and institutions are included with the aim of examining and developing proposals for concrete problems related to the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods.

The Commission has the mandate to:

- examine the proposals for signing or acceding to inter-State and intergovernmental agreements (at bilateral and multilateral level) in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other strategic goods;
- monitor the compliance with commitments undertaken under inter-State and intergovernmental agreements on non-proliferation and control of trafficking in weapons of mass destruction and other strategic goods;
- examine and take decisions concerning the authorizations for export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods on the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- take decisions on the suspension or cancellation of the authorization for export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods in case an authorized operator has violated the legal provisions in this field or in accordance with the international commitments and the state policy in the field of strategic goods trafficking control.

The Republic of Moldova does not produce SALW. At the same time, the Republic of Moldova does not possess full and official information that would confirm lack of SALW production capacities in the Transnistrian region which is not under the control of the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

29. Does Moldova have legislation in place for the internal control, including at borders, of small arms and light weapons, including possession, use, carriage and registration of weapons?

The circulation of small arms and light weapons is regulated by Law No.130/2012 on the regime of firearms and ammunition for civilian use⁷⁵ and Government

⁷⁵ Law No.130/2012 on the regime of firearms and ammunition for civilian use, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110345&lang=ro

Decision No.293/2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the regime of firearms and ammunition for civilian use.

The Law No.130/2012 has been aligned to the EU acquis and establishes a rigorous mechanism of SALW management, including the categories of firearms and ammunition for civilian use and the conditions under which the purchase, transfer, disposal, possession, carriage and use of such firearms and ammunition and the operations with them shall be permitted on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

30. Does Moldova have legislation and measures in place for external transfers (import, export, transit etc.) of such weapons, in line with the Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1560 of 16 September 2019 amending Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment? Does Moldova have the capacity and resources to implement the legislation?

The import and export of small arms and light weapons in the Republic of Moldova is regulated by the following legal acts:

- Law No.105/2015 on the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty⁷⁶;
- Law No.130/2012 on the regime of firearms and ammunition for civilian use⁷⁷;
- Law No.1163/2000 on the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods⁷⁸;
- Government Decision No.293/2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the regime of weapons and ammunition for civilian use⁷⁹;
- Government Decision No.606/2002 on the national system of control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods in the Republic of Moldova⁸⁰;
- Government Decision No.210/2018 on the establishment of the National Commission for monitoring the circulation of small arms and light weapons.

⁷⁶ Law No.105/2015 on the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=82614&lang=ro

⁷⁷ Law No.130/2012 on the regime of firearms and ammunition for civilian use, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=129076&lang=ro#

⁷⁸ Law No.1163/2000 on the control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108380&lang=ro

⁷⁹ Government Decision No.293/2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the regime of weapons and ammunition for civilian use, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=48385&lang=ro

⁸⁰ Government Decision No.606/2002 on the national system of control of export, re-export, import and transit of strategic goods in the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110145&lang=ro

Moldova does have the necessary capacity and resources to implement the aforementioned legislation and enforce its provisions.

31. Please provide information and figures on import and export of small arms and light weapons.

There are 12 licensed dealers in the field of SALW operating in the Republic of Moldova, of which 10 dealers are currently engaged in commercial operations of importing firearms and ammunition. Moreover, according to the territorial principle, 9 dealers are operating in Chisinau, 2 dealers operate in Cahul and 1 dealer in Briceni. There are also 2 licensed companies in the field of arms and ammunition repair.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for 2017 - 2021, to the licensed dealers in the field of import and trade of firearms and ammunition were issued 338 permits for procurement and 338 permits for transportation of arms, under which 12 199 firearms were brought into the territory of the country, as well as 7 permits for transfer of arms were issued, under which 480 arms were transferred.

The data on import and export of SALW for 2017-2021 is provided in the following tables.

Table 1

Category/type	Amount pcs 2017	Amount pcs 2018	Amount pcs 2019	Amount pcs 2020	Amount pcs 2021
Barreled guns	464	623	203	220	367
Shotguns	212	272	395	89	51
Pistols with bullets	511	1442	1066	870	1376
Pneumatic guns	660	969	705	1502	553

Table 2

Type of licenses / transfer permits	Amount pcs 2017	Amount pcs 2018	Amount pcs 2019	Amount pcs 2020	Amount pcs 2021
Procurement	93	108	94	24	19
Transport	93	108	94	248	19
Transfer permits (allowing the export/reexport process)	1	2	3	1	0
	for 21 pistols with bullet	for 5 shotguns & 315 pistols	for 3 shotguns & 37 pistols	for 60 pistols	

32. Please provide information on the extent, nature and mitigation of illicit arms trafficking.

Illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition has a negative impact on the security, rights and freedoms of individuals. Although global instruments have been developed and are in use to address this problem, which continues to persist, partially fueled by the existence of a frozen military conflict, as well as emergence of new regional challenges. Nevertheless, according to official data, this phenomenon has been decreasing steadily in Moldova over the last five years.

In line with the European Convention on the Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Firearms by Individuals (ETS No. 101), ratified by Law No.1578/2002, the Police has intensified the surveillance and prevention process in this sphere, in particular as regards the detection and seizure of illegally kept firearms.

As a result of concerted efforts by authorities, a considerable number of weapons have been withdrawn from circulation, the technical condition of which does not meet the essential safety requirements, or which are damaged, unusable, with unauthorized modifications, kept illegally, found without owner, confiscated or voluntarily handed over for destruction.

In the period covering 2010-2021 - a total of 12787 firearms were withdrawn from the civil circulation, in partnership and with the support of the Government of Switzerland and Norway, SEESAC, UNDP and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Since 2005, a total of 18354 firearms have been destroyed within 7 melting events organized with the support and monitoring of SEESAC, UNDP and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Furthermore, 3 national campaigns were organized and carried out to raise society's awareness of the dangers of illegally held weapons, which resulted in the voluntary surrender of 228 weapons, 5 shells, 2 anti-tank mines, 13 grenades, 1 grenade launcher, 1 rocket, 1 searchlight, 250 cartridges of different calibers, as well as 2 machine-gun magazines.

At the beginning of 2022, the procedure of marking of firearms and their essential components was established and included in the Law 130/2012 on the Regime of Arms and Ammunition for Civilian Use, providing that the firearms and ammunition manufactured abroad and brought into the territory of the Republic of Moldova may be sold or kept by natural and legal persons in the Republic of Moldova only if they are subject to traceability marking.

The Law 130/2012 also establishes the obligation to register cartridges every 10 years, by presenting to the authorized service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs each firearm with three cartridges for experimental firing, with the inclusion of the cartridge cases and the fired bullets in the collection of cartridge cases and bullets of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Security and Intelligence Service (SIS), in compliance with Law No. 753 of 23.12.1999, develops and carries out a system of measures aimed at detecting, preventing and countering the phenomena of illegal trade in weapons and ammunition, perpetrated by cross-border criminal groups and other extremist-terrorist organizations, which pose threat to state security. In addition, the SIS carries out joint measures in partnership with foreign security agencies, as well as provides support to law enforcement agencies and other institutions (by special forces and means, including technical) in order to combat illicit trade of weapons and ammunition.

According to updated information, at this stage - there are no stable groups involved directly in smuggling of weapons and ammunition. At the same time, the risk of weapon circulation in the region is high, which derives from the considerable stocks of weapons and ammunition stored in the Transnistrian region, as well as due to armed hostilities in Ukraine.

33. Please provide information on the type of sanctions (administrative and criminal) as provided for in the legislation for not surrendering illegally possessed firearms.

The Criminal Code no. 985/2002 of the Republic of Moldova⁸¹ contains 3 articles regulating the use of weapons, namely:

Article 290 provides (1) that the illegal carrying, storing, purchasing, producing, repairing, or marketing of firearms as well as the theft thereof, except for smooth-barrel hunting weapons, or of ammunition without proper authorization - shall be punished by a fine in the amount of 650 to 950 conventional units or by community service for 180 to 240 hours or by imprisonment for up to 3 years, while (2) the same actions committed by two or more persons shall carry a sentence from 2 to 7 years in prison.

Article 291 provides that the negligent storage of firearms and ammunition and their transfer to other persons shall be punished by a fine of up to 850 conventional units or carry a sentence of up to 3 years in prison.

Article 248 (6) on smuggling provides that the introduction into or removal from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, both through places established for customs control and through places other than those established for customs control, by concealment in places specifically prepared or adapted for this purpose, or by fraudulent use of customs documents or means of identification, or by non-declaration or unauthentic declaration in customs documents, of arms and ammunition prohibited in civilian circulation or subject to authorization, essential components of firearms, strategic goods, military devices, explosive, nuclear or radioactive materials - shall be punished by a fine of between 5500 and 6500

⁸¹ Criminal Code no. 985/2002 of the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130983&lang=ro

conventional units or carry a sentence of 3 to 8 years in prison, while legal persons – shall be punished by a fine of between 7000 and 11000 conventional units, depriving the legal person of the right to carry out a specific activity. The same actions (7) committed by two or more persons – shall carry a sentence of 4 to 10 years.

Furthermore, in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova there are several articles containing in their provisions the aggravating circumstance *"with the application of a firearm or other objects used as a weapon"*.

The Code of Administrative Offenses no. 2018/2008⁸² establishes sanctions for violation of the rules on the use of weapons through 3 articles, namely:

Article 360 on violation of procedures for the sale and/or for surrendering of firearms and ammunition provides that the sale of lethal or non-lethal arms and ammunition to unauthorized persons - shall be sanctioned by a fine of 240 to 300 conventional units for legal persons, while the violation of the rules on sale and transfer of lethal and non-lethal arms and ammunition subject to authorization to unauthorized persons – shall be sanctioned by a fine of 30 to 60 conventional units. At the same time, item (3) provides that evading the transfer of a personal firearm and ammunition in the event of cancellation or suspension of a permit to carry a firearm - shall be sanctioned by a fine of 30 to 60 conventional units for individuals and by a fine of 120 to 240 conventional units for legal entities.

Article 361 (4) provides that illegal procurement, storage, bearing, use, repair and sale of non-lethal arms and ammunition that are subject to registration shall be sanctioned by a fine of 60 to 90 conventional units.

Article 362 on violations of timeframes for registering or re-registering lethal and non-lethal arms or for extending a permit for holding and bearing arms provides in item (1) that breaches of timeframes for notification of police on the change of place of storage of arms or for timeframes for registering or obtainment of a permit shall be sanctioned by a fine of 30 to 50 conventional units (...) for an individual and a fine of 100 to 150 conventional units⁸³ for a legal person.

It is worth mentioning that both the Criminal Code and Code of Administrative Offenses are constantly in process of amendment, often with the introduction of more severe sanctions for the aforementioned offenses in the modified legal provisions.

⁸² Code of Administrative Offenses no. 2018/2008, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=130832&lang=ro#

⁸³ One conventional unit equals 50 MDL under Article 34 (1) of Order No. 45 of the Ministry of Finance, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112878&lang=ro

34. Does Moldova comply with the 2001 UN Program of Action against the spread of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) and its protocol?

The Republic of Moldova streamlined its policies against the spread of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in 2002, when it started a close cooperation with the South East Europe and Eastern Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Centre (SEESAC) which operates under the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

In 2018, the national SALW Commission was established in the Republic of Moldova, with the purpose of coordinating and monitoring all national efforts related to SALW control. The creation of the SALW Commission strengthens the country's commitments undertaken through the European Union (EU) Action Plan on SALW control, as well as the commitments undertaken under the UN Program of Action against the spread of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) and its protocol.

In the period covering 2010-2021 a total of 12.787 firearms were withdrawn from the civil circulation, in partnership and with the support of the Government of Switzerland and Norway, SEESAC, UNDP and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

The organization of SALW melting and voluntary surrender activities contributes directly to the promotion of a fair, peaceful and inclusive society, which represents objective 16 of the 17 in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.

In 2019 the Forensic and Judicial Expertise Center of MIA was equipped with the firearms marking equipment (laser machine) and the personnel were trained to operate, handle and maintain the respective equipment.

Currently, the Regulation on the regime of weapons and ammunition for civilian use work, approved by Government Decision No.293/2014⁸⁴ is in the process of being amended. The new draft Regulation provides the categories and types of firearms and their parts (lethal, non-lethal, pneumatic, etc.), subject to marking, which will enable, upon approval, the implementation of the procedures of marking of firearms and their essential components.

In September - November 2017, a team of experts under the umbrella of SEESAC performed a feasibility study for 7 countries in Southeast Europe, including the Republic of Moldova, aimed at providing a normative, institutional, legal and technical analysis to support the development of Firearms Focal Points. In 2018 a working group for the establishment of the National Focal Point on SALW comprising representatives of the police, the Customs Service and the General Prosecutor's Office was created. With common efforts in 2020 the draft interagency order on the establishment and functioning of the National Focal Point within the General Police Inspectorate was developed and sent for consultation to all law enforcement agencies with competencies in this field. Presently the draft order is under revision and adjustment at the General Prosecutor's Office. The creation of the National Focal Point is a priority for the Republic of Moldova, stemming from the implementation of 2021 UN Resolution A/RES/76/232 - The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

⁸⁴ Government Decision No.293/2014 for the approval of the Regulation on the regime of weapons and ammunition for civilian use, available in Romanian at:
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=48385&lang=ro

C. Cooperation with international organisations

35. In view of the provision for Member States to co-ordinate action in international organisations (Art. 34 and 35 TEU) please provide a list of the relevant international organisations or other less formal international groupings of which Moldova is a member (with date of joining) or is negotiating membership, such as the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, etc.

The Republic of Moldova is a member of the following international organizations:

- United Nations – UN (2 March 1992)
- International Monetary Fund – IMF (12 August 1992)
- World Bank Group – WB (12 August 1992)
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – IBRD (12 August 1992)
 - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency – MIGA (9 June 1993)
 - International Development Association – IDA (14 June 1994)
 - International Finance Corporation – IFC (10 March 1995)
 - International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes – ICSID (4 June 2011)
- World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO (25 December 1991)
- World Health Organization – WHO (4 May 1992)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO (27 May 1992)
- International Labour Organization – ILO (8 June 1992)
- International Civil Aviation Organization – ICAO (1 July 1992)
- International Telecommunication Union - ITU (18 February 1997)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization – UNIDO (1 June 1993)
- World Customs Organization (28 October 1994)
- World Meteorological Organization – WMO (21 December 1994)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO (17 January 1996)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development – IFAD (17 January 1996)
- Universal Postal Union – UPU (3 July 1997)
- World Trade Organization – WTO (26 July 2001)
- International Maritime Organization – IMO (12 December 2001)
- International Seabed Authority – ISA (6 February 2007)
- World Tourism Organization – UNWTO (1 January 2022)

- International Organization for Migration – IOM (13 June 2003)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – OPCW (29 April 1997)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization – CTBTO (signature 24 September 1997)
- International Atomic Energy Agency – IAEA (24 September 1997)
- International Criminal Court (1 January 2011)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – OSCE (30 January 1992)
- Joint Consultative Group established in accordance with article XVI of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe – CFE (16 July 1992)
- OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (4 April 1999)
- Council of Europe (13 July 1995)
- European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission (25 June 1996)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union – UIP (1992)
- International Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL (28 September 1994)
- World Organisation for Animal Health – OIE (29 September 1994)
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie – OIF (28 February 1996)
- International Sugar Organization – ISO (9 June 1998)
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants – UPOV (28 October 1998)
- International Organization of Vine and Wine – OIV (1 January 2004)
- International Renewable Energy Agency – IRENA (3 August 2011)
- International Organization of Legal Metrology – OIML
- International Organization for Standardization – ISO
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES (27 June 2001)
- Convention establishing the European Telecommunication Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT) (28 November 2002)
- International Electrotechnical Commission – IEC
- International Union of Railways - UIC
- Joint Aviation Authorities – JAA
- European Conference of Ministers of Transport - CEMT (30 August 1996)
- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology – ICGEB (6 March 2019)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – EBRD
- European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) (1 March 2000)
- European Civil Aviation Conference - ECAC (16 January 1998)

- European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)
- European Organisation for Telecommunication Satellites – EUTELSAT (28 November 2002)
- European Committee for Standardization – CEN
- European Committee for Electro technical Standardization – CENELEC
- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (1 May 1999)
- Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM (30 July 2012)
- Commonwealth of Independent States (8 April 1994)
- Convention regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube (Danube Commission) (1 April 1999)
- Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor (TRACECA) (4 December 1999)
- The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) (16 March 2016)
- Convention of the Metre (1 January 2007)
- Convention of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters
- United Institute of Nuclear Research (Dubna) (26 August 1992)
- European Broadcasting Union (1 January 1993)
- European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
- Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) (25 February 1998)
- The Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) (7 October 2011)
- Eurasian Patent Organization
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (1 November 2015)
- Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, as amended (22 July 2006)
- International Plant Protection Convention (25 January 2001)

In addition, the Republic of Moldova is participating to the following less formal international groupings and initiatives:

- Community of Democracies CoD
- Alliance for Multilateralism

36. Does Moldova engage with international organisations on e.g. elections monitoring, training activities? Please specify which ones.

Moldova actively engages with international organizations on elections monitoring and training activities.

In accordance with its international commitments the Moldovan experts (representing both authorities and civil society) in cooperation with OSCE/ODIHR have been participating in 19 Elections Observation Missions (EOMs) with support through OSCE Diversification Fund, 23 of them participated as short-term observers (STOs) and 13 participated as long-term observers (LTOs).

Parliamentary elections

- Kazakhstan, January 15, 2012 - 2 short-term observers; 1 long-term observer
- Belarus, September 23, 2012 - 2 short-term observers; 2 long-term observers
- Armenia, May 6, 2012-1 long-term observer
- Ukraine, October 28, 2012-1 long-term observer
- Bulgaria, May 12, 2013 -2 short-term observers; 1 long-term observer
- Albania, June 23, 2013 - 2 short-term observers; 1 long-term observer
- Hungary, April 6, 2014- 1 long-term observer
- Kyrgyzstan, November 28, 2021 – 1 short-term observer
- Mongolia, June 29, 2016 – 1 long-term observer
- Russian Federation, September 18, 2016 - 1 long-term observer

Presidential elections

- Montenegro, April 7, 2013 - 1 long-term observer
- North Macedonia, April 13, 2014- 2 short-term observers
- Kyrgyzstan, October 15, 2017- 1 long – term observer
- Ukraine (1st and 2nd round) March 31 – April 21 – 2 short term-observers
- Uzbekistan, October 24, 2021 – 2 short-term observers

Local elections

- North Macedonia, March 24, 2013-1 long-term observer
- Albania, June 30 2019- 2 short-term observers
- Georgia, October 2, 2021- 2 short-term observer
- North Macedonia, October 17, 2021 – 4 short-term observers

Training activities:

For many years the Council of Europe has been continuously assisting the national institutions in the electoral field, starting with the drafting of electoral legislation, training the electoral staff, creating the Center for Continuous Electoral Training, as well as generally strengthening the capacities in this regard.

The Centre for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET) of the Republic of Moldova is a public institution subordinated to the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), established in line with art. 27 of the Electoral Code, on 9th of December 2011. The Centre has been established for the purpose of training and certifying electoral officials. Its main objective is transferring through training the best practices in the electoral field to the persons involved in the organization and conducting elections.

The CCET's main partners are the Council of Europe, United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Embassy of the United States of America in the Republic of Moldova, Government of Canada, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

To date, CCET has trained over 40,000 individuals from all levels of the electoral process - members of electoral councils and of polling stations, persons delegated by candidates, representatives of local public administration responsible for checking and updating the electoral lists, judges, etc.

D. Security measures (classified information)

37. Does Moldova comply with the EU security policy requirements?

By signing the EU-Moldova Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information, the Republic of Moldova committed itself to fulfilling the requirements of the European Union's security policy⁸⁵.

Moreover, one of the actions arising from the cooperation with the EU in the field of security, is the compliance of the national regulatory framework in the field of information security with the European norms. Thus, the *Law 245/2008 on state secret*⁸⁶ and *Regulation on ensuring the secret regime within public authorities*

⁸⁵ Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information, available in English at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A22017A0422%2801%29>

⁸⁶ The Law on state secret is available in Romanian at:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112337&lang=ro

*and other legal entities*⁸⁷ (approved by Government Decision no.1176 of December 22, 2010) ensure *that* the security standards for the protection of classified information similar to those applied in the EU.

38. Is the legal framework on security procedures for the exchange of classified information which enables secure communication between Member States' Foreign Ministries in place?

The Republic of Moldova has concluded agreements on the exchange and mutual protection of classified information with the following EU member countries: Romania, Bulgaria. Moreover, negotiations with Lithuania and Cyprus on signing agreements on exchange of classified information were launched. The aim of the agreements is to provide the legal framework of cooperation on security and put in place mechanisms to ensure that the information remains secure.

Also, the Republic of Moldova has a functional security agreement with NATO and this exchange is handled through the MFAEI.

39. What specific legislation is in place to regulate the field of information security fully in accordance with EU standards?

The area of classified information is regulated by the Law no. 245/2008 on state secret of the Republic of Moldova⁸⁸, which sets the legal framework for protection of state secrets in order to ensure the interests and/or security of the Republic of Moldova. The Law establishes the system of defining and protection of classified information of significance for national and public safety, defence, internal and foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the protection of all classified data, access to classified information and cessation of their confidentiality, the jurisdictions of the bodies and further implementation of the Law and other relevant issues. The provisions of the Law are also valid for foreign citizens and stateless persons who have undertaken the obligation or are bound according to their status, to execute the requirements of the legislation on state secret of the Republic of Moldova.

Under the Law no. 245/2008 , a state secret is information protected by the state in areas of its national defense, economy, science and technology, external relations, state security, legal order insurance and activities of public authorities, whose unauthorized disclosure or loss can harm the interests and/or security of the Republic of Moldova. In order to carry out state policy aimed at attributing information to the state secret and its classification, the Government adopts the

⁸⁷ The Regulation on ensuring the secret regime within public authorities and other legal entities is available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=67278&lang=ro

⁸⁸ Law 245/2008 on state secret of the Republic of Moldova, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112337&lang=ro

list⁸⁹ of information attributed to state secret that includes public authorities with powers to access and handle such information, which is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova.

Also, the Law no. 245/2008 establishes 4 levels of information classification, depending on the severity of the damages that may be caused to the interests and/or the security of the Republic of Moldova in case of disclosure or loss of this information - "*Strictly secret*" (non-disclosure for up to 25 years); "*Secret*" (*non-disclosure for up to 15 years*); "*Confidential*" (*non-disclosure for up to 10 years*); "*Restricted*" (non-disclosure for up to 5 years).

The supervision/control of the aforementioned Law's implementation is under the purview of Intelligence and Security Service. The conclusions of the Intelligence and Security Service drawn up following activities of control over the implementation of the Law's provisions - are obligatory for execution by officials of bodies of the public authority and other legal bodies.

Pursuant to this Law, the **Regulation on ensuring the secret regime within public authorities and other legal entities**, was adopted by Government Decision No. 1176/2010⁹⁰). The Regulation establishes the modality of ensuring the secret regime within the public authorities and other legal entities. The Chapter X of the Regulation (paras 838-965) is specifically dedicated to the measures on ensuring *information security* (INFOSEC) in handling classified information.

40. Does Moldova comply with the Council Decision of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (2013/488/EU)?

In order to comply with the Decision 2013/488/EU, in particular Article 13 and Annex VI (EU cooperation with third parties), the Republic of Moldova has signed an agreement with the European Union which lays down the basic principles and minimum security standards for the protection of classified information. Thus, on 1st of January 2018, EU-Moldova Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information entered into force – SIA (422/2017)⁹¹.

To implement SIA, security arrangements needed to be established between the competent security authorities from EU and the Republic of Moldova, each acting under the direction and on behalf of its organizational superiors and in coordination with the other relevant authorities, in order to establish the standards for the mutual protection of classified information under the Agreement. On 26 of January 2021,

⁸⁹ Government Decision no. 411/2010 the approval of the Nomenclature of the information attributed to state secret, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110056&lang=ro

⁹⁰ Government Decision no. 1176/2010 on the adoption of the Regulation on ensuring the secret regime within public authorities and other legal entities, available in Romanian at: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=67278&lang=ro

⁹¹ The EU-Moldova Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information entered into force, available in English at : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A22017A0422%2801%29>

the Implementing Arrangements were approved and SIA officially became operational.

According to the Agreement the Republic of Moldova has committed to ensure that the security measures applied to protect the EU Classified Information are at least equivalent to those ensured by the EU.

IV. CSDP — CONTRIBUTING CAPACITIES

41. Is Moldova committed to the development of the CSDP and does Moldova subscribe to the EU's goal to be active, capable and effective in the area of civil and military crisis management?

The Republic of Moldova is committed to the development of the CSDP and subscribes to the EU's goal to be active, capable and effective in the area of civil and military crisis management.

The Republic of Moldova's participation in CSDP missions and operations is an important aspect for the development of bilateral political relations that contributes to common efforts to ensure security in Europe. This commitment also derives from the Eastern Partnership Declaration (Warsaw 2011). According to the National Security Strategy, contribution to the EU crisis management operations is a priority.

Over the past years, the Republic of Moldova has been invited to participate in a number of EU missions, including EUCAP Somalia, EUBAM Libya, EUMAM RCA, EUTM Sahel Mali and EUTM Mali. The Republic of Moldova has deployed experts to EUTM Mali (2014; 2016; 2018-to date) and EUMAM in the Central African Republic (2015-2016). From 2014 to 2020, the Republic of Moldova has deployed 8 national experts to EU crisis management missions.

Since 2014, Moldova and the EU have conducted staff-to-staff consultations on security and defence related matters. At these meetings, the priorities of bilateral cooperation in the field of CSDP are set out, such as: the development of institutional capacities for the participation of Moldova in crisis management missions; cooperation in the field of exchange of classified information; ensuring convergence to the alignment of the Republic of Moldova with EU restrictive measures; including setting priorities for cooperation in preventing and combating hybrid threats.

42. Is Moldova supporting the Headline Goal process?

The Republic of Moldova generally supports the Headline Goal Process and EU endeavors aimed at crisis-management, in particular the objectives of emergency operations for the evacuation of European nationals in less than 10 days, rapid-response civil-military humanitarian assistance and/or disaster relief operations, etc.

As regards the EU Battlegroup Concept, the Republic of Moldova (MoD) could potentially take part in the initiative in a manner similar to the current participation of Moldova in the KFOR mission, where 41 Moldovan servicemembers (33 infantry soldiers, 7 EOD engineers and a staff officer) are embedded in the Italian

contingent. The rotation of Moldovan military contingent in KFOR has been ensured since 2014.

The Republic of Moldova will continue to strive to develop niche capabilities, as well as advance in its reforms of the Armed Forces to assure a greater degree of interoperability and capability to deploy in order to contribute to EU's crisis-management initiatives and rapid-response with humanitarian assistance and participation in disaster relief operations.

43. Is Moldova willing to support the objectives and commitments established in the framework of PESCO?

The Republic of Moldova is willing to support the objectives and commitments established in the framework of PESCO, in particular after the Council established the general conditions under which non-EU countries could exceptionally be invited to participate in individual PESCO projects.

The Republic of Moldova believes that it can add value to certain PESCO projects and already generally meets the political, substantive and legal conditions for third-country participation, in particular as it shares the values on which the EU was founded and has in place an agreement to exchange classified information with the EU.

Moldova would be further interested to take part in defensive PESCO projects, such as the Cyber Rapid Response Teams, as well as other possible programmes of cooperation within PESCO.

44. Does Moldova agree to continuously strengthen its capabilities in line with the commitments provided by the Civilian CSDP Compact?

The Republic of Moldova is willing to continuously strengthen its capabilities, in line with the commitments provided by the Civilian CSDP Compact, especially as this strategic document is aimed at consolidating the civilian dimension of CSDP.

The reforms implemented within the public administration authorities of the Republic of Moldova coincide with the CSDP Civilian Compact objectives of rendering civilian CSDP with increased effectiveness, flexibility, responsiveness, as well as commitments aimed at reinforced cooperation between civilian CSDP missions and justice and home affairs actors.

Republic of Moldova has declared its interest to contribute to civilian CSDP missions' objectives of strengthening international peace and security, as an integrated approach to external conflicts and crises.

Moldova is committed to consolidate its own capacities in order to be able to contribute to the civilian dimension of CSDP, in particular in response to common emerging threats and challenges, including but not limited to: hybrid threats, cybersecurity, disinformation and generally strengthening resilience. At the same time, Moldova fully agrees with the objectives of the Compact to build capacities to deploy and sustain civilian crisis management missions, in particular as it aims at reinforcing the police, rule of law and civil administration in fragile and conflict settings.