



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 27 April 2012
EUCO 74/12
PRESSE 182
PR PCE 66

**Remarks by President of the European Council
Herman Van Rompuy
after his meeting with President of the Republic of Moldova
Nicolae Timofti**

It is a pleasure to welcome President Timofti here today. Your choice to visit Brussels as your first foreign destination is greatly appreciated, and shows your commitment to the Republic of Moldova's European vocation.

Mr President, as I have said many times: The European Union has a stake in the Republic of Moldova's future. A successful Republic of Moldova is an important piece of a Europe whole and at peace. Equally important, the Republic of Moldova is becoming a model for many other countries. You have shown that political transition can be peaceful and that it is possible to turn democratic values into reality.

Let me make the following points from our discussions today: it is only through reforms that Republic of Moldova's prosperity and stability can be ensured in the long term. The more the Republic of Moldova reforms the more the EU can do to help and support. Your personal commitment, Mr President, will as well be crucial, in supporting and advancing the ambitious work being done already by the government of the Republic of Moldova.

The relationship between the EU and the Republic of Moldova is rapidly developing. We have achieved a lot in record time: Negotiations on the Association Agreement is steadily progressing. Here, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, where negotiations have been launched, is an integral part of the Association Agreement. We are soon ready to sign a number of important sectoral agreements, in areas such as air transport and civil protection. And, we are exploring new areas for enhanced co-operation.

P R E S S

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The Republic of Moldova is also one of the frontrunners in the Eastern Partnership. The next Eastern Partnership Summit in Lithuania 2013 will be an important follow-up to the Summit in Warsaw, and an opportunity to again confirm the importance of the EU's relationship with its eastern neighbours, including the Republic of Moldova, and to inject momentum for our future cooperation.

Finally on Transnistria: The region and the Republic of Moldova deserve an end to the dispute that has divided the country for far too long. The constructive approach followed by Republic of Moldova is widely appreciated in the EU. I also welcome the resumption yesterday of rail traffic through Transnistria.

On our side, The EU is determined to step up its involvement on the ground as well as in the 5+2 negotiating format. Mr President, I look forward to our continued cooperation.
Thank you
