



**SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT**

in co-operation with
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Key Note by the President of the Republic of Moldova

Vladimir Voronin

Chişinău – 26th of April, 2005

International Conference

„Moldova and Europe: Bridging the Gap”

Chişinău, April 26-27, 2005

**Dear Invitees,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This conference organized only a few days after the investiture of the new leadership of the country, convening well-known representatives of the European states, European Union and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, represents undoubtedly a recognition and, therefore, a support for the objectives of the Republic of Moldova for the following years, subordinated to the strategic priority- integration into the European Union.

The option for Europe is a goal of the whole Moldovan society, confirmed by the choice made in favour of democracy and welfare on May 6.

In this regard, Moldova-EU Action Plan, entered into force on February 22, opens the path to a new quality of our relations with the European Union. For the next years, the implementation of Action Plan's provisions represents a catalyst for internal transformations such as the edification of a modern European state will mobilize the resources and potential of the whole society and state structures.

We realize the enormous responsibility in capitalizing maximally the chance of making a qualitative leap on the way to the European Union, which the Action Plan offers to our country. The objectives and the stipulations of this document of a major importance for the European destiny position the state policy for the next years.

The consolidation of the democracy and rule of law, legislative harmonization, border protection and security, connection to the European infrastructure networks and advancement of the structural reforms constitute the priorities of the internal and external policy of Moldova, the achievements of which will consolidate the positions of our country in the big European family.

The modernization of the state institutions will require, first of all, continuing the public administrative reform oriented towards efficiency as a result of simplifying the administrative procedures and increasing the accessibility of the services offered by the public administration. A de-bureaucratization in favor of the responsibility, transparency and decentralization will be operated. We intend to confer to the government for the following four years a plus of dynamism, consistence and firmness.

The edification of the multicultural society on the basis of values of social consensus, tolerance, harmony, ensuring favourable conditions for maintaining and developing the culture, traditions and the national minority languages, undoubtedly, represent an indicator of a society and state modernism.

In spite of the fact that the organized civil society is an expression of the modernism, all the efforts will be made to create a flexible social dialogue, which will include the development of the social partnership, pluralism, consolidation of the dialogue with social and civil partners, as well as with their involvement in the process of state development.

The stimulation of investments and competitiveness, improvement of the business environment, reorganization of the national economic sectors, including the harmonization of the national legislation to the European legislation, adaptation of the commercial policies with the ones of the European Union, development of an efficient and competitive agricultural sector, connection of the transport and energetic infrastructure to the European networks, creation of the conditions for a further economic progress will include activities which will have as a basis the modernization of the economy.

The construction of a modern society based on knowledge and information through a substantial increase of investments in the human capital, research, education, policies for youth represent an essential pillar of the activity for creating a strong state. A priority in this context will be to adjust to the exigencies of the European education system, revitalize the interests for research and science, particularly by ensuring the development of the industrial research.

Ensuring the internal security by means of fortifying the justice area, internal order and security on the whole territory of the country and of its security in external aspect, guaranteeing the inviolability of its internationally recognized frontiers, represent an imperative of time. In this context, we affirm the unitary, independent, and sovereign character of the Republic of Moldova, a quality which determines our Moldovan authorities to continue to make all the efforts with the view to settle the Transnistrian problem and bring to an end the foreign presence of troops on its territory.

The country's reintegration will be a priority objective of our country, whose special importance will be determined by the threats to regional and European security generated by the persistent tension, supplied continuously by threats from the Security Zone, supported by the separatist leaders, and by a lack of any control at the Moldovan-Ukrainian frontier on the Transnistrian segment. The ground of internal and external policy actions of the Republic of Moldova was always the unanimously recognized principles within UN, OSCE, and Council of Europe and only on their basis the cooperation relations with foreign partners are reconstructed.

The experience of useless 12 years of negotiations demonstrate the inefficiency of the actual format and the incontestable necessity of a more active involvement of the European Union, USA, and Romania as a neighbour in the settlement of the

Transnistrian problem. We highly appreciate the appointment of the EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova and the positions taken by Europe towards the illegal, aggressive and criminal actions of the separatist regime.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We perceived and accepted from the beginning the European Neighbourhood Policy as a transitory stage to the fulfillment of the aspirations for the European integration of the Republic of Moldova, a first stage in this direction, followed by obtaining a new status in our contractual relations with the European Union at the final period in the Action Plan implementation.

The implementation of the Action Plan provisions by undertaking internal political, economic and social transformations and by promoting an active, credible and efficient external policy on the priority directions identified represent important premises for a successful achievement of the objectives we have set.

At the same time, realizing the value of the experience of our foreign partners in the modernization process and accession to the European Union, we will appreciate the support that the countries you represent could offer us.

I have a special pleasure to be present at the opening of this Conference, which objectives are to address important issues for the Republic of Moldova as the EU-Moldova Action Plan implementation process started. The initiative of the “South East Europe” Society supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany is welcome for the reason of its importance for the consolidation of the European character of the Republic of Moldova.

We are a part of Europe, we believe in the force and vitality of the European Union, in the stable, secure and prosper future of the Republic of Moldova

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