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Welcome Address by Wolfgang Lerke
German Ambassador
Chişinău – 26th of April, 2005

International Conference

„Moldova and Europe: Bridging the Gap”

Chişinău, April 26-27, 2005

Mr. President,

Mr. Prime Minister

Ministers,

esteemed representatives of Parliaments and Governments
dear political directors and representatives of Foreign ministries
dear fellow ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions and international
institutions,
ladies and gentlemen,

it is with great pleasure and some pride that I welcome such an august assembly on behalf the German Embassy in Chişinău. The presence of H.E. the President of the Republic of Moldova in particular bestows a great honour indeed upon this conference – Mr. President, please allow me to thank you personally for your preparedness not only to come to the opening ceremony, but also to contribute key notes that have offered to this audience the freshest possible outline of Moldova's course towards European integration.

I am particularly happy that the venue this time is Chişinău – both previous meetings took place in Germany, with almost equally important attendance, but for the final event the capital of the Republic of Moldova is, I think, the appropriate choice. The timing, admittedly, could not be better: one of the first decisions of the newly elected Parliament of Moldova was to enact the EU-Action Plan for Moldova, thus setting the tone for the work of the new Government.

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