



**ANNUAL MOLDOVAN
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
DEBATE FORUM**

Towards a European Future for Moldova

PROGRAMME

Thursday, November 30th

08:30 Registration of participants and welcome coffee

09:00-09:15 **Welcoming Remarks**

Andrei GALBUR, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

Michael WEICHERT, Acting Representative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Romania and the Republic of Moldova

Ion STURZA, Co-founder of the Foreign Policy Association of Moldova, ex-Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova

09.15-09.30 **Keynote Speech**

Andrian CANDU, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (tbc)

09:30-11:15 **PANEL I. Moldova-EU Relations in the Changing Domestic and International Environment**

Moderator: Anatol GOLEA, Director, Infotag News Agency

Speakers:

Andrei GALBUR, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

Peter MICHALKO, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

Andi CRISTEA, Head of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee #

Ion STURZA, Co-founder of the Foreign Policy Association of Moldova, ex-Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova (APE)

Q&A Session (40 minutes)

Key questions:

- The Association Agreement - three years after the signing. Achievements and shortcomings.
- How does the changing of the international context influence the EU interests towards the Republic of Moldova?
- European integration reforms in the Republic of Moldova - how do we make the Moldovan political class accountable and how do we move from words to action?
- How do we ensure that the European assistance serve the interests of the European integration of the Republic of Moldova?
- How can Moldova safeguard its pro-European course under the increased support for pro-Eastern parties?
- What are the major challenges in the short to medium term perspective of the Moldova-EU relations?
- How can Moldova regain its credibility as an important player within the EaP and what would be the main challenges for the country after the November 2017 EaP Summit?

11:15-11:45 **Coffee break**

11:45-13:30 **PANEL II. Role of the Moldovan Civil Society in Promoting Political Accountability for the European Integration Reform Agenda in the Republic of Moldova**

Moderator: Vasile BOTNARU, Director, Radio Free Europe, Moldova Office

Speakers:

Vladimir CEBOTARI, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Markus MECKEL, Ex-member of German Bundestag

Natalia PORUBIN, Project Co-ordinator, Investigative Journalism Centre

Nadejda HRIPTIEVSCHI, Programme Coordinator, Centre for Legal Resources

Q&A Session (40 minutes)

Key questions:

- What role can the civil society play in the implementation and monitoring of the European integration reform agenda in the Republic of Moldova?
- Should civil society be political? The role of civil society in the public life and in promoting political accountability and good governance in the Republic of Moldova
- How can the Moldovan legislation encourage the activity of the civil society or avoid hindering it by imposing legal restrictions as well as financial and administrative constraints on NGOs?
- How can the state institutions and civil society coordinate their efforts in order to advance the European reforms?
- How can the civic engagement and oversight in the public affairs be ensured?
- Does civil society and media have a say in stimulating the fight against corruption, justice sector reform and transparent governance?

13:30-14:30 **Buffet lunch**

14:30-16:00

PANEL III. Towards a Common Vision in the Transnistrian Settlement

Moderator: *Lina GRĂU, Journalist, Radio Free Europe*

Speakers:

Ion STĂVILĂ, Ambassador on Special Missions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

Wolf-Dietrich HEIM, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement Process

Stefan WOLFF, Professor of International Security at University of Birmingham

Vladimir IASTREBCHIAK, Ex-chief negotiator in the 5+2 format from the Transnistrian side

Andrei POPOV, Deputy-Chairman, Foreign Policy Association of Moldova

Q&A Session (40 minutes)

Key questions:

- How can a common vision of Moldovan political actors be reached in the Transnistrian settlement?
- Federalization of the Republic of Moldova and representatives of Transnistria in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova - real objectives or political rhetoric?
- Why are the negotiations over the Transnistrian settlement stagnating? Small steps policy of the Transnistrian Settlement: a policy breakthrough or another dead end?
- Are there alternatives to the 5+2 negotiations format?
- Joint control at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border-between speculation and realities.
- What is the progress of the Transnistrian region in complying with the provisions of the Free Trade Agreement with the EU?
- What is the impact of the EU projects oriented at strengthening the confidence building measures on the two banks of the Nistru?
- How can be the protection of human rights ensured on the left bank of the Nistru?

16:00-16:10

Closing Remarks

Victoria BUCĂȚARU, Executive Director, Foreign Policy Association of Moldova (APE)

16:10

Pastry, tea & coffee