

MOLDOVAN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FORUM

7th EDITION

Towards a European Future for Moldova

Chisinau, December 8, 2020

Moldovan European Integration Forum

The Moldovan European Integration Forum is a platform for discussions on the most critical challenges facing the Republic of Moldova on the path of European integration.

The forum is organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Foreign Policy Association (APE) in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. The event brings together decision makers from the Republic of Moldova and the EU, politicians, opinion leaders, representatives of civil society, political parties and international institutions.

The participants in the forum contribute with their expertise to identifying the most effective solutions to the challenges arising in the process of European integration.

The topics traditionally addressed by the Forum include the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU, regional relations, the issue of regional security seen in the context of frozen conflicts, implementation of the justice system reform, the fight against corruption and freedom of expression.

The 2020 edition of the Forum takes place in an extremely complicated domestic and regional context. In the Republic of Moldova, the adverse effects of the global coronavirus pandemic have been exacerbated by inconsistencies in state policies, lack of a real judicial reform and stagnant investigations into the major corruption cases.

Moldova has failed to make consistent progress in implementing the Association Agreement. The democratic institutions are fragile and continue to be mutilated by private political and economic interests. The political elites continue to polarize the society and divert attention from the country's real problems. The rule of law remains weak and the justice system unreformed. All this has led to a cooling of relations with Western partners.

On the other hand, the European Union has made efforts to stay close to the Moldovan society and has continued the projects aimed at civil society, the media, the business environment, local communities and ordinary people. The EU has become much more critical of the authorities, signaling the lack of progress in reforms and strictly conditioning the assistance.

How and under what conditions can the European integration agenda of the Republic of Moldova be relaunched, so that the aspirations of society are reflected in the actions of the government? Are the Moldovan authorities ready to resume the reform agenda in the field of fighting against corruption, justice system, and integrity of the judiciary? What are the expectations of the Moldovan society from the European Union in the coming years and will it be possible to talk about new approaches of the European Union with regard to the security policy in the Eastern Partnership region?

These are questions that the participants in the 2020 edition of the Moldovan European Integration Forum will seek answers to.

MOLDOVAN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FORUM

Towards a European Future for Moldova

PROGRAMME

December 8, 2020

08.45	Registration of participants
09:00 - 9:10	Welcoming remarks on behalf of the organisers
09.10 - 11.00	Juliane SCHULTE, Representative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Romania and the Republic of Moldova PANEL I: Relaunching the European Integration Agenda of the Republic of Moldova: Main Challenges & Prospects Moderator: Anatol GOLEA, Journalist Speakers: Aureliu CIOCOI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova Nils SCHMID, Member of Bundestag, Foreign Affairs Committee Peter MICHALKO, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova Ion STURZA, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Association of Moldova, ex-Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova Key questions: • Is the Republic of Moldova ready to relaunch its European integration reform agenda? • What are the main challenges and what should be the main priority areas? Q&A Session
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11:30-13:30	PANEL II: Justice System Reform: judicial integrity, quo vadis? Moderator: Victoria SANDUȚA, Judge, president of the "Voice of Justice", Judges' Association, expert in the field of judicial ethics, judicial integrity

Speakers:

Radu FOLTEA, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

Cristina ȚĂRNĂ, Anti-corruption expert, ex-deputy director of National Anti-Corruption Centre

Mariana RAȚĂ, Journalist, TV8

Bohdan KRYKLYVENKO, Head of Staff of the Ukraine's High Anti-Corruption Court

Key questions:

- How to strengthen judicial integrity, accountability and professionalism and prevent corruption in the judiciary?
- The role of the executive and legislative powers in securing judicial integrity. How to ensure integrity in the high-level judicial appointments?
- Judiciary, politics and public perception: breaking the vicious circle or striking the right balance?
- How to prevent political interference with the judiciary? The role of mass media.
- Challenges and good practices in promoting judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system - learning from the international experience. Commonalities

Q&A Session

16:00-18:00

PANEL III Reinforcing security dimension of the Eastern Partnership

Moderator: Victor CHIRILA, Executive director, APE

Speakers:

Nicu POPESCU, Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Eka TKESHELASHVILI, Former Foreign Minister of Georgia

Vadim HALAICHUK, Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada European Integration Committee

Fritz FELGENTREU, Spokesman on security and defence policy of the SPD Parliamentary Group, Chairman of the German–Moldovan Forum

Key questions:

- Why should the EU become more ambitious about the security dimension of the Eastern Partnership?
- Is EU prepared to speak the language of power in Eastern Europe by becoming more geopolitical and developing stronger security partnerships with its neighbors?
- What should be the key focus/objectives/action areas of the Eastern Partnership Security Compact?
- Are Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia ready to jointly promote an Eastern Partnership Security Compact with the EU?

Q&A Session

18:00

Concluding Remarks

PANEL I

RELAUNCHING THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AGENDA OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: MAIN CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS

KEY QUESTIONS:

- *Is the Republic of Moldova ready to relaunch its European integration reform agenda?*
- *What are the main challenges and what should be the main priority areas*



MODERATOR

Anatol GOLEA,

Journalist, political analyst and opinion maker

Anatol Golea is journalist, political analyst and opinion maker. At present, he is executive director of the “INFOTAG” Press Agency and moderator of the debate programme “Пятница с Анатолием Голя” (“Friday with Anatol Golea”) of the “RTR Moldova” TV station. He participated as expert in many international conferences and seminars on the European integration, settlement of frozen conflicts and electoral technologies.

He graduated from the Journalism faculty of the Moldovan State University. He worked for the “ATEM” and “Moldova-press” press agencies. In various periods, he has been accredited as correspondent for the Republic of Moldova of the Associated-press, Interfax and France-press press agencies.

In 1992, he was one of the founders of the “Infotag” press agency – the first independent press agency in the Republic of Moldova. Between 1998 and 2001, he acted as spokesman and head of the press service of the president of the Republic of Moldova, Petru Lucinschi.

He had acted as president of the ORT-Moldova TV station for more than 10 years and later, of the TV7. He won the title of emeritus in 2001 and that of the ‘Cavaler al Ordinului Republicii’ in 2009.



SPEAKER

Aureliu CIOCOI,

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

Aureliu Ciocoi has been Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova since November 2020. He also held that position between November 2019 and March 2020. In recent years, he has acted as foreign policy adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova Igor Dodon.

A career diplomat, Aureliu Ciocoi started his activity in the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. Over the years, he was ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Germany and Denmark, China, and the USA.

Aureliu Ciocoi graduated from the Faculty of International Relations of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest (SNSPA) in 1994, and in 1997 he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.



SPEAKER

Nils SCHMID,

Member of Bundestag, Foreign Affairs Committee

Nils Schmid has been a Member of the German Bundestag for the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) since September 2017. He serves as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Since 2018, he has been the spokesperson on foreign affairs for the SPD parliamentary group. He also serves as a substitute member of the Committee on Transport and Digital Infrastructure. Additionally, he is a member of the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly.

From 1997 to 2017, Nils Schmid was a Member of the Baden-Württemberg Land Parliament. He became the spokesperson on financial policy for the SPD parliamentary group following his re-election in 2001. In 2006, he was elected as deputy chairman of the SPD parliamentary group. In 2009, he was elected chairman of the Baden-Württemberg Land branch of the SPD by party members, an office he held until 2016. From 2011 to 2016, he served as Baden-Württemberg's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and as Deputy Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg.

Nils Schmid also holds several honorary posts, especially in the fields of arts and culture, international understanding and social cohesion. Among other things, he is a member of the executive committee of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the council of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). Furthermore, he is a member of the executive committee of the Franco-German Institute (DFI) and sits on the advisory board of the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS).



SPEAKER

Peter MICHALKO,

Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

Peter Michalko has been the head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova since September 2017.

During 2013-2017, he was Slovakia's ambassador to Greece.

Peter Michalko is a career diplomat. He held several positions in the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1994, including Deputy Director of the Department for the EU Internal Affairs and Institutions (2007-2008), Director of the Department for South Eastern Europe (2009- 2011) and political director of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011-2012).

Mr Michalko served as deputy political adviser to the KFOR Commander in Pristina (2006-2007) and political adviser to the EU Special Representative in Moldova, Kalman Mizsei (2008-2009). Ambassador Michalko holds a M.A. in international relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and a PhD in international relations at Matej Bel University, Slovakia. Peter Michalko speaks Greek, English, Russian, Romanian, Polish, and French.



SPEAKER

Ion STURZA,

President of the Foreign Policy Association of Moldova, ex-Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Ion Sturza is president of the Foreign Policy Association (APE) and director of the Fribourg Capital Investment Fund. He is an important opinion leader and businessman with international investments.

Ion Sturza was Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova between February to December 2020. As an opinion leader he is known by his critical public positions in recent years through which he warned about serious schemes of corruption and embezzlement of public money, including the “theft of the billion”, the concession of the Chisinau International Airport, corruption schemes in the energy system and others.

Since 2009, Ion Sturza has been running his own investment fund, Fribourg Capital, which over the years has made several investments in the Republic of Moldova and Romania. Ion Sturza is one of the founders and the first director of the Foreign Policy Association (APE) in Chisinau and member of the Boards of Directors of several companies and non-governmental organizations.

PANEL II

JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM: JUDICIAL INTEGRITY, QUO VADIS?

KEY QUESTIONS:

- ▶ *How to strengthen judicial integrity, accountability and professionalism and prevent corruption in the judiciary?*
- ▶ *The role of the executive and legislative powers in securing judicial integrity. How to ensure integrity in the high-level judicial appointments?*
- ▶ *Judiciary, politics and public perception: breaking the vicious circle or striking the right balance?*
- ▶ *How to prevent political interference with the judiciary? The role of mass media.*
- ▶ *Challenges and good practices in promoting judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system - learning from the international experience. Commonalities*



MODERATOR

Victoria SANDUȚA,

Judge, President of the "Voice of Justice" Judges' Association

Victoria Sanduța is a judge, President of the "Voice of Justice" Judges' Association, trainer/ expert in the field of ethics and judicial deontology, judicial integrity.

Victoria Sanduța has been judge since March 2017. In August 2019, together with two other colleagues, she created the "Voice of Justice" Judges' Association, which aims at contributing to the independence of the judiciary and encouraging the judges to act in an independent way, without any interference.

Victoria Sanduța holds a PhD in public law and is a graduate of the Law Faculty of the Moldovan State University. In 2016, she graduated from the National Justice Institute of the Republic of Moldova, where she attended training courses for judges' candidates. She is also lawyer and university professor at the "Constantin Stere" University of European Political and Economic Studies.

Victoria Sanduța forms part of the young generation of judges who has distinguished herself through an active civic position, separate critical opinions within the Superior Council of Magistracy and through repeated calls for independence of the judiciary and the justice system reform. She is advocating development of legal culture, morality and integrity in society.



SPEAKER

Radu FOLTEA,

State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

Radu Foltea is State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, representative of the Government in Parliament and the acting representative of Government in the Constitutional Court. He is also the coordinator of the working group on human rights on behalf of Chisinau in the dialogue with the European Union.

He was appointed in the current position in November 2019. He has previously worked as a national legal consultant for the Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Department of the USA Embassy in the Republic of Moldova.



SPEAKER

Cristina ȚĂRNĂ,

Anti-corruption expert, former deputy director of the National Anticorruption Center

Cristina Țărnă is an anti-corruption expert, working as an independent international consultant in the field of anti-corruption and justice sector reforms within projects funded by the Council of Europe, OSCE, UNDP and EU in a number of countries.

From 2013 to 2017 she has acted as Deputy Director of the National Anticorruption Center (CNA) of the Republic of Moldova, where she focused on corruption prevention, analytical activity and development of relevant legislation.

Previously, Cristina Țărnă also worked in civil society and as an independent expert in the field of anti-corruption for projects implemented by the EU, the Council of Europe and the World Bank in the Central and Eastern Europe. As a prominent civic activist, in 2012 she was appointed by Parliament as a representative of civil society in the National Integrity Commission.



SPEAKER

Mariana RAȚĂ,

Journalist, TV8

Mariana Rață is the news director at the TV8 and producer of the "Cutia Neagră" (Black Box) investigative show.

During 2016-2017 she was editor-coordinator at the Center for Journalistic Investigations in the Republic of Moldova.

She is holder of numerous national awards in the field of investigative journalism and was named one of the top 10 journalists of the year in the Republic of Moldova in 2013.

She started her journalistic career at the Jurnal de Chișinău newspaper, where she has worked for ten years. Throughout her career, Mariana Rață was also the producer of the political show "Chestiunea zilei" (The Question of the Day) of the JurnalTV and deputy editor-in-chief of the Ziarul Național.



SPEAKER

Bohdan KRYKLYVENKO,

Head of Staff of the High Anti-Corruption Court in Ukraine

Bohdan Kryklyvenko has been the head of staff of the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine since May 2019. His duties include ensuring information protection, non-interference in the distribution of cases and guaranteeing the independence of court employees.

Kryklyvenko is a human rights' activist and founder of the Ukrainian Institute for Human Rights. Since June 2012, he has headed the secretariat of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament.

In 2005-2007, he worked for the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. From 2007 to 2012 he has worked for the secretariat of the Government Commissioner for the European Court of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

He graduated as a lawyer from the University of Internal Affairs in Kiev, has a degree in law and another degree in finance, and holds a M.A in public administration.

PANEL III

REINFORCING SECURITY DIMENSION OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

KEY QUESTIONS:

- ▶ *Why should the EU become more ambitious about the security dimension of the Eastern Partnership?*
- ▶ *Is EU prepared to speak the language of power in Eastern Europe by becoming more geopolitical and developing stronger security partnerships with its neighbors?*
- ▶ *What should be the key focus/objectives/action areas of the Eastern Partnership Security Compact?*
- ▶ *Are Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia ready to jointly promote an Eastern Partnership Security Compact with the EU?*



MODERATOR

Victor CHIRILA,

Executive Director of the Foreign Policy Association

Victor Chirila is Executive Director of the Foreign Policy Association. He is a former Foreign Policy Adviser of the Moldovan Prime minister and career diplomat.

During his work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he held various positions including Deputy Director of the European Integration Department, Chief of Staff of the Foreign Minister, Political Counselor at the Moldovan Embassy in the United State of America, Deputy Director of the Europe and North America Department and the International Economic Relations Department.

Mr. Chirila holds Master of Science in European Public Policy awarded by the Edinburgh University. He has written many analyses, commentaries and studies on European integration, Moldovan foreign policy and Transnistrian settlement, which can be found on the Foreign Policy Association website - www.ape.md.



SPEAKER

Nicu POPESCU,

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

Nicu Popescu is former Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova in Maia Sandu's office in 2019. Foreign policy and international relations expert, he is currently director of the Wider Europe programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations, and he works from ECFR's Paris office. His topics of focus include EU's relations with Russia and the Eastern Partnership countries, post-Soviet conflicts and cybersecurity.

Previously, Nicu Popescu has worked as a senior analyst for the EU Institute for Security Studies (2013-2018). He was senior advisor on foreign policy to the prime minister of Moldova (2010, 2012-2013), a position within which he dealt, among other things, with the EU-Moldova visa liberalization process and Moldova's accession to the European Common Aviation Area. Nicu Popescu was also a senior research fellow at ECFR's London office (2007-2009, 2011-2012), and a research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels (2005-2007).

Since 2016, Nicu Popescu has been teaching at the Sciences-Po Paris (Institute of Political Studies in Paris). He holds a PhD in International Relations at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. He is author of books, studies and publications in the international press.



SPEAKER

Eka TKESHELASHVILI,

ex-Foreign Minister and Vice Prime Minister of Georgia

Eka Tkeshelashvili is a Georgian lawyer and politician, formerly serving as Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of the National Security Council, and Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Reintegration of Georgia under President Mikheil Saakashvili.

She is now head of the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative – currently EU's largest support programme in the area of anti-corruption in Ukraine. Prior to leaving for Kiev, she was president of the Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies.

Eka Tkeshelashvili teaches at the Civil and Political School in Kiev, Ukraine, and at the Black Sea University in Tbilisi, Georgia. She teaches courses on state building, transformational leadership, European studies and international law.

Eka Tkeshelashvili was also Georgia's Prosecutor General in 2008, and as Minister of Justice she has led the reform of the judiciary and the public and civil service reform. She has also served as chairperson of the Tbilisi Court of Appeal and has been a member of Georgia's Supreme Council of Justice. She has also worked for the Prosecutor's Office of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (the Netherlands) and the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (USA).



SPEAKER

Vadim HALAICHUK,

First Deputy Chairman of the European Integration Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Vadim Halaichuk is the first deputy chairman of the European Integration Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a member of the People's Servant Party faction.

Vadim Halaichuk is a lawyer and expert in constitutional, administrative and electoral law. During the 2019 presidential elections in Ukraine, he was the chief lawyer of the campaign staff of the current president Volodymyr Zelenski and his representative at the CEC.

In 2012-2013, he headed the International Relations Department of the European Party of Ukraine. In 2002-2004, he was a lawyer within the legal department of the "Our Ukraine" Bloc and the lawyer of the presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko.

Since 2014, he has been a member of the Ukrainian Bar Association, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights.

In 2007-2008, he participated in the training of Moldovan election observers. He has participated in numerous election observation missions in Ukraine and abroad. In 1998, he was a legal advisor to the Barents Group's banking supervision programme for the National Bank of Ukraine.

He graduated from the Law Faculty of the Taras Shevchenko University in Ukraine, holds a MA in Sociology at the School of Criminal Justice of the University of Michigan (USA).



SPEAKER

Fritz FELGENTREU,

Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the German–Moldovan Forum

Fritz Felgentreu is member of the German Bundestag, spokesman on security and defence policy of the SPD Parliamentary Group

From 2001 until 2011, Dr Fritz Felgentreu was a member of the Berlin House of Representatives, deputy chairman of the SPD parliamentary group and spokesman on legal policy affairs. He has been a member of the German Bundestag since September 2013. He is the spokesman of the SPD Parliamentary Group on security and defense policy and the 1st committee of inquiry since January 2018.

Since 2014 he has been deputy chairman of the German Bundestag's working group on reservist affairs and chairman of the Berlin national association of the German War Graves Commission. Furthermore, Dr Fritz Felgentreu is member of the executive committee of the German Atlantic Association and chairman of the German-Moldovan Forum since November 2015.

WHO WE ARE?



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a German political social-democratic foundation, which aims to promote democracy, peace, international understanding and cooperation. FES performs its tasks in the spirit of social democracy and participates in public debates to identify social-democratic solutions to current and future issues in society.

FES in Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova, FES aims to foster European integration, democracy, peace and social justice through political dialogue, education and research. Our main areas of activity are the following:

Democratization and political participation

The Republic of Moldova faces challenges related to strengthening its democratic institutions and developing a democratic culture that would make the country fully compliant with the standards of the EU. FES contributes to this by promoting political participation in civil society organizations, political parties and local public administration bodies. In this area, FES puts a particular focus on building the capacities of citizens in the regions. Citizens should be trained to follow critically and participate in public debates in order to monitor decision-makers, express their views and act in their own interests. Therefore, through its activities, FES has committed itself to promoting participatory democracy and citizens' civic and political culture at the local level.

European integration

The Republic of Moldova is a part of the European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership. FES aims to support the European integration process of the country. Through a number of tools, such as radio debates, news bulletins, policy papers, publications and conferences, FES focuses on the main challenges related to European integration, facilitating people's access to up-to-date and reliable information on the topic, improving the dialogue between the civil society and decision-makers as regards the requirements for successful European integration, and strengthening, in this way, the efforts of Moldovan authorities to integrate into the EU. Additionally, FES supports non-government organizations in contributing to a peaceful resolution of the Transnistrian conflict, as a precondition for successful European integration in the long-term.

Economic, social and environmental policy

FES supports its partners in developing and implementing policies for a sustainable and socially-balanced market economy that is able to address the needs of all citizens. The activity and projects in this area focus on such topics as: reforming social security systems, improving working conditions and labor market opportunities, and fostering sustainable development. Additionally, FES runs programmes that aim to promote social-democratic values.

WHO WE ARE?



The Foreign Policy Association of Moldova (EPA) is one of the main “think-tanks” in Moldova in the field of foreign policy. APE aims at supporting the Europeanization and European integration process of the Republic of Moldova, and Transnistrian settlement.

APE was set up in the autumn of 2003 by a group of well-known experts, public figures and former officials and high-ranking diplomats who have thus decided to contribute through their expertise and experience to a comprehensive analysis of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova, as well as to formulation of an effective foreign policy.

NOTES

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Moldovan European Integration Forum can be followed on social networks, using the hashtags:

#EuropeanForum2020
#EuropeanForum
#Moldova2020
#EUMoldova



*Foreign Policy Association of
Moldova*

Alexei Sciusev 64 Str., MD-2012,
Chisinau mun., Republic of
Moldova
Tel: +373 22 224430,
+373 22 210986
Email: office@ape.md
Webpage: www.ape.md



**Ministerul Afacerilor Externe
și Integrării Europene
al Republicii Moldova**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs and
European Integration
of Republic of Moldova (MFAEI)*

MD2012 80, 31 August 1989 Str.
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
phone: +373-22-578207, 578206,
fax: +373-22-232302
email: secdep@mfa.md
www.mfa.gov.md



Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

111 Bucuresti Str., MD 2012,
Chisinau mun., Republic of
Moldova
Phone: 373 22 855830
Fax: +373 22 855831
Email: fes@fes-moldova.org
Webpage: www.fes-moldova.org