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The Evolution of Relations between European Union and Moldova

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Abstract

European Union's external relations with Moldova experienced a tortuous development, with many challenges and benefits for both sides. Being in the EU neighborhood, Moldova is part of the European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.

Membership perspective there is currently little for Moldova, but European integration process is continuous and accelerated after the elections in July 2009, when he came to power the AEI.

In the present paper I analyzed the relations between European Union and Moldova at the global level and I tried to realize a profound conclusion regarding this issue.

Keywords: European Union, Moldova, International Relations

Introduction

When we study the relationship between two entities, must take into account the size of each party. The European Union includes 27 member states with a population of about 500 million, while Moldova has around four million inhabitants.

Thus, it's a giant and a dwarf, where the first dictates the rules and other compliance. Because the European Union is recognized as the most democratic in the world, these relationships have a hegemonic form, as well as Russia's relations within the CIS.

Moldova is the "EU neighborhood" and "near abroad" of Russia. "Neighboring" means the application of the European Neighborhood Policy and Eastern Partnership, in short the economic integration of Moldova. Instead, the concept "near abroad" has been defined by Russian officials to recognize the CSI geopolitical claims.

The main direction of the last remains cooperation with CIS states, which represent a belt of good neighborliness for Moscow.

These two concepts "collide" in Moldova and lead to the formation of prisoner's dilemma with two players - Russia and the EU. But in this case do not bear the consequences involved in the game, but Moldovans.

The prisoner's dilemma is used in game theory, and has applications in many fields. In its classic form two players (two people to do jail) are part of a dilemma and what will happen if they cooperate or not. If both players cooperate, each have maximum sentence if one cooperates and the other does not, the player cooperating to jail, the other is the maximum sentence if neither cooperates, have half of each sentence.

If Russia and the EU will cooperate, both will implement their own concepts, there will be maximum benefit for Moldova.

However, the process of European integration for Moldova will be a long-term will require achieving this compromise with Russia to reduce interest in "near abroad". They will be in the form of dialogues and negotiations with the Russian side.

Settling Transnistrian conflict will last a long time, Russia will strive to maintain its influence in the region and Moldova's integration into the EU will take the form of two steps forward, one back, specific to early 2000.

Under the plan, only into distant future Russian peacekeeping forces in Transnistria will be replacing by a multinational contingent solution for campaigning Chisinau today.

According to prisoner's dilemma, any action will be taken by Moldovan leadership will be

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influenced by both the Russian Federation and the European Union. This is essential especially trade volume and the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Moldova (which, if called on Moldova will not understand the Moldavian region of Romania) is close neighbor of the EU and has expressed interest in membership and EU integration, just like other countries that are part of the partnership Eastern.

The realities of today have shown that up to the accession to the EU is a long way, this is demonstrated by the fact that it is part of the European Neighborhood Policy and Eastern Partnership which relate to states on short and medium term will not join EU.

With all this and or recognized the aspirations, European values and strive to reach the Member States. It places particular emphasis on access of Moldovan products to the EU market access which is influenced by the quality of products.

Moldova started its relations with the EU after August 27, 1991 as successor of the USSR, like other former Soviet republics.

On July 20, 1992 Commission proposes signing of partnership and cooperation with the new independent states emerged from the dissolution of the USSR.

The negotiations to this end began with several CIS countries, but not with Moldova. On November 1, 1993, and repeated on January 28, 2004 President of Moldova Mr. Mircea Snegur addressed the Council Presidency and the European Commission letters, the notes with regret that Moldova is the only country in the area Central and Eastern Europe with which the EU has not yet he defined relations. The Moldovan authorities' insistence when he did finally that the APC should be negotiated and signed within a fairly short - on 28 November 1994, only 10 months since the last post of President Snegur.

Since the entry into force of the agreement was prolonged to October 2, 1995 was signed on May 1, 1996 came into force the Interim Agreement on trade between Moldova and the European Union, which allowed a more dynamic exchanges commercial.

The end of 1994 and the first half of 1995 is the period when Moldova appears in a favorable light on the international arena, reaching even be an example of democratic reforms. It was in this period; specifically on July 13, 1995 Moldova became the first CIS country that is admitted to the Council of Europe, an important step on the way to our country by the EU.

Although PCA has not yet entered into force, the Moldovan authorities, aware that this agreement allows only cooperation, rather than EU integration, try to convince the EU leadership to move to the next stage in relations with Moldova.

At December 13, 1996 President of Moldova Mr. Petru Lucinschi, in his message to Mr. Jacques Santer, Commission President makes first Moldovan desire to become by 2000 associate member of the EU.

Mr. Santer does not react, even in a way, and at the end of October of the following year in 1997 Lucinschi sent Mr. Santer another letter that reiterates the desire of Moldova to the membership associated Calls for negotiations to conclude an association agreement. Two months later, President Lucinschi sent to all EU Member States Heads letters with similar content, but as addresses by Mr Santer, either went unanswered or the answer was negative.

After the entry into force of the PCA to 1 July 1998, Moldova's relations with the EU were placed in a formal legal framework, which laid the legal basis for the application and TACIS assistance in Moldova

The PCA set for a period of 10 years had the following objectives: continuing political dialogue; promoting trade and investment; cooperation in the legislative, economic, social, financial and cultural; support Moldova's efforts to strengthen democracy, to develop its economy and to complete the transition to a market economy. The institutional framework for implementation of the PCA included Cooperation Council, Cooperation Committee and Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. Apart from the bodies mentioned above, the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee was established to promote political dialogue at parliamentary level

In spring 1999, the new Moldovan government introduced its program in a special chapter, declaring European integration main strategic objective of its foreign policy. But government dismissal, which occurred at the end of 1999, played a negative role in the evolution of relations between Moldova and the EU

In 2001, when Moldova joined the WTO and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Romania was invited to participate in the European Conference, which is a consultative level of foreign ministers of countries EU candidate

On 27.12.2001 it was adopted country strategy paper for Moldova (Country Strategy Paper) 2002-2006. This document sets out the objectives of EU cooperation with Moldova, focusing on implementation of the program to support reforms in the country. Another important factor is the EU geographical near our borders

In 2004 two developments particularly important:

1. On April 2, 2004 7 new countries become members of NATO, among them Romania, and thus the country's western border is the border with the North Atlantic.
2. On May 1, 2004, the accession of ten new members to the European Union is Moldova closer to the EU.

These processes, initiation which took place several years ago, the EU imposed a new development policy to several countries, including towards Moldova. After launching in 2002 by British diplomacy and the Swedish the idea of offering Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova status of special neighbors of the EU on March 11, 2003 published any communication of the European Commission entitled "Wider Europe - Neighborhood: A New Framework for Relations with the EU's neighbors to the east and south".

On July 1st 2003 the European Council adopted a new document called "clear the way for the new tool for policy of good neighborliness.

This new document identifies key objectives for future cross-border cooperation, namely:

1. Promoting economic and social development in border areas;
2. Cooperation to eliminate common risks in areas such as environment, public health and the fight against organized crime;
3. Ensuring efficient and secure borders;
4. Promoting local "people to people.

New Neighborhood Instrument must replace the previous instrument - TACIS, but as TACIS planned by 2006, the Commission decided that the new tool will be applied only after the expiry of the TACIS program

Instead, for the period 2004-2006 it has been proposed another temporary financial instrument - Neighborhood Program, which must be financed cross-border cooperation between Member States and neighboring EU and the candidate countries and non-member common border with new members. EU European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) strategy included ENP country reports and action plans.

The ENP Strategy and Country Reports were published on May 12, 2004, and action plans for the seven countries, including Moldova - 9 December 2004.

Despite new cooperation framework, the legal basis of relations between Moldova and the EU remained the same - APC.

In this highlights the European Parliament resolution of 5 June 2003 on the meeting of the EU Troika with the countries participating in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which says that the European Parliament "... states that the Stabilization and association is a dynamic process that aims to bring the beneficiaries closer to EU standards and euro-Atlantic structures, and therefore calls on the EU institutions to evaluate the feasibility of extending to and including Moldova, and if necessary, to clarify the conditions must be met for this purpose..."

Although the issue of admission of new members of the European Parliament does not have the power of final decision, however, his authority is growing and EP vote is important. Diplomatic relations between Moldova and the EU have become more intense with the launch of ENP.

On the one hand, answering repeated calls of Moldova (and European Parliament), the EU took the decision in principle to open the EU Delegation in Chisinau.

On the other hand, as mentioned by Government Decision at the end of 2004 was established the diplomatic mission of Moldova to the EU. And bilateral diplomatic relations with European countries take constantly increasing.

Following the establishment in 2004 of the Moldovan Embassy in the UK in early 2005 Moldovan President announced the opening of diplomatic missions in Sweden, Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Serbia and Montenegro.

Another constraint on the process of European integration is the Transnistrian conflict. The EU provides assistance on resolving frozen conflicts in the former Soviet Union, including for the Transnistrian conflict.

Until this conflict is resolved, Moldova has no chance to join the European Union. The Moldova Republic is unable to resolve this conflict through their own efforts.

In 2005, in order to legitimate trade and increase stability between Moldova and Ukraine, the EU launched the EU Border Assistance Mission, which is a technical project without any political strategy for negotiating an agreement between the two sides of the conflict.

A comprehensive solution can be reached only at the political level, which contributes to the European Union as an observer.

Transnistria is a source of tension for Moldova with Russia and a source of instability in Eastern Europe. Moldova's trade with the European Union increased significantly in recent years, over that of the CIS.

This was due to the General System of Preferences granted by the EU to the Republic of Moldova, which was then improved by introducing other products exempt from customs duties forming the General System of Preferences plus.

From March 2008 they were introduced unilateral autonomous trade preferences which were exempted from customs duties within the limits of contingent almost all products imported from Moldova. On the other hand, the Moldovan market is an open access of EU products in Moldova is easy and 50% of imports are from EU member states.

The largest share of total imports has goods group Machinery, electrical equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound, and parts and accessories of such articles with shares of 18.10% in 2007, 20.04% in 2008 and 17.12% in 2009 the total value of imports and US \$ 304 292 600 in 2007, 421 899 200 US dollars in 2008 and 243 574 000 in 2009.

No. 2 is mineral products after the group of goods with an average share of about 15% for 2007-2009 and for 2009 a value of 215 242 500 US dollars, decreasing compared to 2008 when there was a volume of such imports of 349 196 700 US dollars, and in 2007 240 481 100 US dollars. 3rd in commodity groups are products of the chemical or allied industries" for 2007-2009 which registered a growing trend.

European Neighborhood Policy first appeared in 2004 in order to help the neighboring countries with the European Union to reach a level of economic, social, and cultural near EU Member States. The reason there is such a policy is to ensure stability in the community area near the borders. Inclusion in the European Neighborhood Policy does not necessarily mean that the state becomes a Member State under this policy. Only after making progress, fulfillment of the Copenhagen Criteria State may join the European Union.

Regarding progress made by Moldova in the European Neighborhood Policy, the European Commission published each year by a report analyzing the situation in Moldova for the period, and nominating areas where further efforts are needed. In March 2005, after the signing of the EU-Moldova Action Plan within the European Neighborhood Policy, the Council adopted a Joint Action (Joint Action) creating the position of EU Special Representative in Moldova and calling it in this position Mr. Adrian Jacobovitz Szeged.

In February 2007, the Council appointed Kálmán Mizsei to succeed Ambassador Jacobovitz. Kálmán Mizsei is currently the EU Special Representative in Moldova have. Its mandate is extended each year, making it the last extension until August 2010, but may be terminated earlier depending on how the Commission decides. As regards Moldova and the Eastern Partnership, which will also boost future?

On January 12, 2010 began the negotiations between the EU Delegation and representatives of the Government of Moldova on the Association Agreement. The last round of negotiations is planned for June 2010, after which it will be signed and Association Agreement, which will highlight progress to date and future prospects. It will not mean that Moldova will become a candidate or potential candidate for EU membership.

The Eastern Partnership is an opportunity for Moldova, but it depends on the Moldovan government that has shown its ability to implement reforms in the last months of 2009 and the first half of 2010. Activity Mission European Union Border Assistance Moldova and Ukraine was launched on

30 November 2005 at the joint request of the President of the Republic and the President of Ukraine.

The mission is an advisory and technical body. It has no executive powers. EUBAM staff is over 200 people, including about 120 experts in customs and border of the European Union member states, assisted by local staff from Moldova and Ukraine.

The mission is funded by the European Union, the Rapid Reaction Mechanism started, then the TACIS program of the European Commission and currently under the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

A significant contribution to the work of EUBAM conducted more than 20 EU member states, which directly assist its experts in the Mission into ongoing border.

Conclusion

The process of European economic integration depends on the position of Russia towards Moldova. Today this process has become irreversible and will be a long-term, no matter what position it would take Russia.

Transnistria is an impediment on the accession to the EU. A country that has a frozen conflict on its territory cannot join the EU.

Another problem is the gap between EU Member States and Moldova. European Commission assists the neighboring country to reduce the economic gap and to settle the Transnistrian conflict.

The European Union has adopted in its relations with Moldova a diplomatic attitude, impartial and provided financial, technical almost all spheres of the Moldovan economy, The reservations about implementing reforms, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms were highlighted by the European Commission in the country reports and communicated. Of course, the strengths of the reforms implemented by the Moldovan Government have been identified thus encouraging further progress

The prospects of relations between the EU and Moldova are high.

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