

TITLE II

POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND REFORM, COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

ARTICLE 3

Aims of political dialogue

1. Political dialogue on all areas of mutual interest, including foreign and security matters as well as domestic reform, shall be further developed and strengthened between the Parties. That will increase the effectiveness of political co- operation and promote cooperation on foreign and security matters.
2. The aims of political dialogue shall be:
 - (a) to deepen political partnership and increase political and security policy cooperation and effectiveness;
 - (b) to promote international stability and security based on effective multilateralism;
 - (c) to strengthen cooperation and dialogue between the Parties on international security and crisis management, particularly in order to address global and regional challenges and key threats;
 - (d) to foster result-oriented and practical cooperation between the Parties for achieving peace, security and stability on the European continent;
 - (e) to strengthen respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and to contribute to consolidating domestic political reforms;
 - (f) to develop dialogue and to deepen cooperation of the Parties in the field of security and defence; and
 - (g) to respect and promote the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and independence.

ARTICLE 4

Domestic reform

The Parties shall cooperate on the following areas:

- (a) developing, consolidating and increasing the stability and effectiveness of democratic institutions and the rule of law;
- (b) ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (c) making further progress on judicial and legal reform, so as to secure the independence of the judiciary, strengthen its administrative capacity and guarantee impartiality and effectiveness of law enforcement bodies;
- (d) further pursuing the public administration reform and building an accountable, efficient, transparent and professional civil service; and
- (e) ensuring effectiveness in the fight against corruption, particularly in view of enhancing international cooperation on preventing and combating corruption, and ensuring effective implementation of relevant international legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption of 2003.

ARTICLE 5

1. The Republic of Moldova may benefit from financial assistance to contribute to achieving the objectives of this Agreement, if agreed by both Parties.
2. Financial assistance covers a range of forms and means, including assistance provided through multilateral and regional organisations.
3. In order to make the best use of the resources available, the Parties shall endeavour to implement any assistance in close cooperation and coordination with other donor countries, donor organisations and international financial institutions, and in line with international principles of aid effectiveness.
4. The Parties shall implement any assistance in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and shall cooperate in protecting the financial interests of the UK and of The Republic of Moldova. The Parties shall take effective measures to prevent and fight fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, inter alia by means of mutual administrative assistance and mutual legal assistance in the fields covered by this Agreement.

5. Where assistance is provided by the UK authorities to the entities of the public sector in the Republic of Moldova, the details of the UK contribution shall be laid out in specific agreements between the Parties. For assistance delivered by the UK in the Republic of Moldova, outside the public sector of the Recipient country, the UK shall keep the Republic of Moldova authorities informed of the volume and objectives of such cooperation.

ARTICLE 6

The Government of Moldova shall exempt any financial non-reimbursable assistance, technical assistance and humanitarian aid provided and financed by the Government of the UK under this Agreement from the payment of all duties, fees, levies or any costs whatsoever, including VAT.

ARTICLE 7

Foreign and security policy

1. The Parties shall intensify their dialogue and cooperation in the area of foreign and security policy, and shall address in particular issues of conflict prevention and crisis management, regional stability, disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and export control. Cooperation shall be based on common values and mutual interests, and shall aim at increasing policy effectiveness, making use of bilateral, international and regional fora.

2. The Parties reaffirm their commitment to the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and independence, as established in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and their commitment to promote those principles in their bilateral and multilateral relations.

ARTICLE 8

International Criminal Court

1. The Parties reaffirm that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and that their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national and international level, including the International Criminal Court (ICC).

2. The Parties consider that the establishment and effective functioning of the ICC constitutes an important development for international peace and justice. The Parties agree to support the ICC by implementing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its related instruments, giving due regard to preserving its integrity.

ARTICLE 9

Conflict prevention and crisis management

The Parties shall enhance practical cooperation in conflict prevention and crisis management.

ARTICLE 10

Regional stability

1. The Parties shall intensify their joint efforts to promote stability, security and democratic development in the region and, in particular, shall work together for the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts.
2. The Parties reiterate their commitment to a sustainable solution to the Transnistrian conflict, in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognised borders, as well as to jointly facilitating post-conflict rehabilitation. Pending its resolution and without prejudice to the established negotiating format, the Transnistrian conflict will constitute one of the central subjects on the agenda of political dialogue and cooperation between the Parties, as well as in the dialogue and cooperation with other interested international actors.
3. Those efforts shall follow commonly shared principles of maintaining international peace and security as established by the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and other relevant multilateral documents.

ARTICLE 11

Weapons of mass destruction

1. The Parties consider that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, both to state and non-state actors, represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and stability. The Parties therefore agree to cooperate and contribute to countering the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery through full compliance with, and national implementation of, their existing obligations under international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements, and other relevant international obligations. The Parties agree that this provision constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.

2. The Parties furthermore agree to cooperate and to contribute to countering the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery by:

- (a) taking steps to ratify, or accede to, as appropriate, and fully implement all other relevant international instruments; and
- (b) establishing an effective system of national export controls, controlling the export as well as transit of WMD-related goods, including a WMD end-use control on dual-use technologies, and containing effective sanctions for breaches of export controls.

3. The Parties agree to make this a subject of the political dialogue provided for in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

Small arms and light weapons and conventional arms export control

1. The Parties recognise that the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), including their ammunition, and their excessive accumulation, poor management, inadequately secured stockpiles and uncontrolled spread continue to pose a serious threat to peace and international security.

2. The Parties agree to observe and fully implement their respective obligations to deal with the illicit trade in SALW, including their ammunition, under existing international agreements and UN Security Council resolutions, as well as their commitments within the framework of other international instruments applicable in that area, such as the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

3. The Parties shall undertake to cooperate and to ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in their efforts to deal with the illicit trade in SALW, including their ammunition, and the destruction of excessive stockpiles, at a global, regional, sub-regional and national level.

4. Furthermore, the Parties agree to continue to cooperate in the area of conventional arms export control.

5. The Parties agree to make this a subject of the political dialogue provided for in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13

International cooperation in the fight against terrorism

1. The Parties agree to work together at a bilateral, regional and international level to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with international law, relevant UN resolutions, international human rights standards, and refugee and humanitarian law.
2. To that effect, the Parties shall in particular cooperate so as to deepen international consensus on the fight against terrorism, including on the legal definition of terrorist acts and by working towards an agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
3. The Parties shall, in the framework of the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant UN instruments and of applicable international conventions and instruments, exchange information on terrorist organisations and groups and their activities and support networks in accordance with international law and the legislation of the Parties.