

TITLE IV
ECONOMIC AND OTHER SECTORAL COOPERATION

CHAPTER 1
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

ARTICLE 23

Cooperation shall focus on the development of efficient and accountable public administration in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of supporting implementation of the rule of law, ensuring that state institutions work for the benefit of the entire population of the Republic of Moldova, and promoting the smooth development of relations between the Republic of Moldova and its partners. Particular attention will be given to the modernisation and development of executive functions, with the goal of providing quality services to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 24

Cooperation shall cover the following areas:

- (a) the institutional and functional development of public authorities, in order to increase the efficiency of their activity and to ensure an efficient, participatory and transparent decision-making and strategic planning process;
- (b) modernisation of public services, including the introduction and implementation of e-Governance, with a view to increasing the efficiency of service delivery to citizens and reducing the costs of doing business;
- (c) creation of a professional civil service based on the principle of managerial accountability and effective delegation of authority, as well as fair and transparent recruitment, training, assessment and remuneration;
- (d) effective and professional human resource management and career development; and
- (e) the promotion of ethical values in the civil service.

ARTICLE 25

Cooperation shall cover all levels of public administration, including local administration.

CHAPTER 2

ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

ARTICLE 26

1. The UK and the Republic of Moldova shall facilitate the process of economic reform by improving the understanding of the fundamentals of their respective economies. Cooperation between the Parties shall aim to promote economic policies pertinent to functioning market economies as well as the formulation and implementation of those economic policies.
2. The Parties shall remain committed to a functioning market economy in accordance with the guiding principles of sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies.

ARTICLE 27

To those ends, the Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas:

- (a) exchange of information on macroeconomic policies and structural reforms as well as on macroeconomic performance and prospects, and on strategies for economic development;
- (b) joint analysis of economic issues of mutual interest, including economic policy measures and the instruments for implementing them, such as methods for economic forecasting and elaboration of strategic policy documents, with a view to strengthening the policy-making of the Republic of Moldova;
- (c) exchange of expertise in the macroeconomic and macrofinancial sphere, including public finances, financial sector developments and regulation, monetary and exchange rate policies and frameworks, external financial assistance, and economic statistics.

ARTICLE 28

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 3

**COMPANY LAW, ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING AND CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE**

ARTICLE 29

1. Recognising the importance of an effective set of rules and practices in the areas of company law and corporate governance, as well as in accounting and auditing, for creating a fully-functioning market economy and for fostering trade, the Parties agree to cooperate in relation to:

- (a) protecting shareholders, creditors and other stakeholders;
- (b) using relevant international standards at a national level, and developing appropriate domestic systems, in the field of accounting and auditing;
- (c) further developing of corporate governance policy in line with international standards, in particular the OECD Principles on Corporate Governance.

ARTICLE 30

The Parties will aim at sharing information and expertise on both existing systems and relevant new developments in those areas. In addition, the Parties may seek to improve information exchange between the business registers of the UK and the national register of companies of the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 31

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 4

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ARTICLE 32

The Parties shall strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on promoting the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Decent Work Agenda, employment policy, health and safety at work, social dialogue, social protection, social inclusion, gender equality and anti-discrimination, and social rights, and thereby contribute to the promotion of more and better jobs, poverty reduction, enhanced social cohesion, sustainable development and improved quality of life.

The Parties agree to cooperate in the field of social policies.

ARTICLE 33

Cooperation, based on exchange of information and best practices, may cover a selected number of issues to be identified among the following areas:

- (a) poverty reduction and the enhancement of social cohesion;
- (b) employment policy, aiming at more and better jobs with decent working conditions, including with a view to reducing the informal economy and informal employment;
- (c) promoting active labour market measures and efficient employment services to modernise the labour markets and to adapt to labour market needs;
- (d) fostering more inclusive labour markets and social safety systems that integrate disadvantaged people, including people with disabilities and people from minority groups;
- (e) efficient management of labour migration, aiming at strengthening its positive impact on development;
- (f) equal opportunities, aiming at enhancing gender equality and ensuring equal opportunities between women and men, as well as preventing and combating discrimination on all grounds;
- (g) social policy, aiming at enhancing the level of social protection, including social assistance and social insurance, and modernising social protection systems, in terms of quality, accessibility and financial sustainability;

- (h) enhancing the participation of social partners and promoting social dialogue, including through strengthening the capacity of all relevant stakeholders; and
- (i) promoting health and safety at work.

ARTICLE 34

The Parties shall encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations and in particular social partners, in policy development and reforms in the Republic of Moldova and in the cooperation between the Parties under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 35

The Parties shall aim at enhancing cooperation on employment and social policy matters in all relevant regional, multilateral and international fora and organisations.

ARTICLE 36

The Parties shall promote corporate social responsibility and accountability and encourage responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the UN Global Compact and the ILO tripartite declaration of principles concerning multinational enterprises and social policy.

ARTICLE 37

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 5

CONSUMER PROTECTION

ARTICLE 38

The Parties shall cooperate in order to ensure a high level of consumer protection.

ARTICLE 39

In order to achieve that objectives, the cooperation may comprise, when appropriate:

- (a) promoting exchange of information on consumer protection systems, including consumer legislation and its enforcement, consumer product safety, including market surveillance, consumer information systems and tools, consumer education, empowerment and consumer redress, and sales and service contracts concluded between traders and consumers;
- (b) promoting training activities for administration officials and other consumer interest representatives; and
- (c) encouraging the development of independent consumer associations, including non-governmental consumer organisations (NGOs), and contacts between consumer representatives, as well as collaboration between authorities and NGOs in the field of consumer protection.

CHAPTER 6

STATISTICS

ARTICLE 40

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on statistical issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of providing timely, internationally comparable and reliable statistical data. It is expected that a sustainable, efficient and professionally independent national statistical system shall produce information relevant for citizens, businesses and decision makers in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, enabling them to take informed decisions on that basis. The national statistical system should respect the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,, taking into account international standards and best practice, in order to align the national statistical system with internationally comparable norms and standards.

ARTICLE 41

Cooperation shall aim at:

- (a) further strengthening the capacity of the national statistical system, focusing on the sound legal basis, production of adequate data and metadata, dissemination policy and user-friendliness, taking into account various groups of users, including public and private sectors, the academic community and other users;
- (b) fine-tuning of data provision, taking into account the application of relevant international methodologies, including classifications;
- (c) enhancing the professional and management capacity of the national statistical staff to facilitate the application of statistical standards and to contribute to the development of the statistical system of the Republic of Moldova;
- (d) exchanging experience between the Parties on the development of statistical know-how; and
- (e) promoting total quality management of all statistical production processes and dissemination.

ARTICLE 42

The Parties shall further cooperate , *inter alia*, on the areas of:

- (a) demographic statistics, including censuses, and social statistics;
- (b) agricultural statistics, including agricultural censuses and environment statistics;
- (c) business statistics, including business registers and use of administrative sources for statistical purposes;
- (d) macroeconomic statistics, including national accounts, foreign trade statistics, and foreign direct investment statistics;
- (e) energy statistics, including balances;
- (f) regional statistics; and
- (g) horizontal activities, including statistical classifications, quality management, training, dissemination and use of modern information technologies.

ARTICLE 43

The Parties shall, *inter alia*, exchange information and expertise and shall develop their cooperation, taking into account the already accumulated experience in the reform of the statistical system. The emphasis in the statistical data production process shall be the further development of sample surveys and usage of administrative records, while taking into account the need to reduce the response burden. The data shall be relevant for the designing and monitoring of policies in key areas of social and economic life.

ARTICLE 44

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 7

MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCES: BUDGET POLICY, INTERNAL CONTROL, FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

ARTICLE 45

Cooperation in the field covered by this Chapter will focus on the implementation of international standards as well as good practice in this field, which will contribute to the development of a modern public finance management system in the Republic of Moldova, and international principles of transparency, accountability, economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

ARTICLE 46

Budget and accounting systems

The Parties shall cooperate in relation to:

- (a) improvement and systematisation of regulatory documents on the budgetary, treasury, accounting and reporting systems and their harmonisation on the basis of international standards;
- (b) continuous development of multi-annual budget planning;
- (c) exchange of information, experiences and good practice, including through personnel exchange and joint training in this field.

ARTICLE 47

Internal control, financial inspection and external audit

The Parties shall also cooperate in relation to:

- (a) further improvement of the internal control system (including a functionally independent internal audit function) in state and local authorities by means of harmonisation with generally accepted international standards and methodologies;
- (b) the development of an adequate financial inspection system that will complement but not duplicate the internal audit function and will ensure adequate control coverage of government income and expenditure during a transitional period and thereafter;

- (c) effective cooperation between the actors involved in financial management and control, audit and inspection with the actors for budget, treasury and accounting to foster the development of governance;
- (d) strengthening the competences of the Central Harmonisation Unit for the Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC);
- (e) the implementation of internationally accepted external audit standards by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI); and
- (f) exchange of information, experiences and good practice through, inter alia, personnel exchange and joint training in this field.

ARTICLE 48

Fight against fraud and corruption

The Parties shall also cooperate in relation to:

- (a) exchanging information, experience and good practice;
- (b) improving methods to combat and prevent fraud and corruption in the areas covered by this Chapter, including co- operation between relevant administrative bodies.

ARTICLE 49

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 8

TAXATION

ARTICLE 50

The Parties shall cooperate to enhance good governance in the tax area, with a view to the further improvement of economic relations, trade, investment and fair competition.

ARTICLE 51

1. With reference to Article 50 of this Agreement, the Parties recognise and commit themselves to implement the principles of good governance in the tax area, i.e. the principles of transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition.
2. Nothing in this Agreement affects the rights and obligations, under any tax convention, of the United Kingdom and Moldova. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any such tax convention, the tax convention prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
3. For the purposes of this Article “tax convention” means a convention for the avoidance of double taxation, or any other international taxation agreement or arrangement (including, for the avoidance of doubt, such a convention, agreement or arrangement which is made after this Agreement is ratified, or any amendment to such a convention, agreement or arrangement).

ARTICLE 52

The Parties shall enhance and strengthen their cooperation, with the aim of ensuring effective tax collection and reinforcing the fight against tax fraud and tax avoidance.

ARTICLE 53

The Parties shall develop their cooperation in counteracting and fighting fraud and the smuggling of excisable products. To that end, the Parties will strive to strengthen their cooperation within the regional context.

ARTICLE 54

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 9

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ARTICLE 55

Recognising the relevance of an effective set of rules and practices in the areas of financial services to establish a fully-functioning market economy and in order to foster trade exchanges among the Parties, the Parties agree to cooperate in the area of financial services in line with the following objectives:

- (a) supporting the process of adapting financial services regulation to the needs of an open market economy;
- (b) ensuring effective and adequate protection of investors and other consumers of financial services;
- (c) ensuring the stability and integrity of the financial system of the Republic of Moldova in its entirety;
- (d) promoting cooperation between different actors of the financial system, including regulators and supervisors; and
- (e) ensuring independent and effective supervision.

ARTICLE 56

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between relevant regulatory and supervisory authorities, including information exchange, sharing of expertise on financial markets and other such measures.
2. Special attention shall be paid to the development of administrative capacity of such authorities, including through personnel exchange and joint training.

ARTICLE 57

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 10

INDUSTRIAL AND ENTERPRISE POLICY

ARTICLE 58

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on industrial and enterprise policy, thereby improving the business environment for all economic operators, but with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Enhanced cooperation should improve the administrative and regulatory framework for both UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova operating in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, taking into account internationally recognised principles and practices in this field.

ARTICLE 59

To those ends, the Parties shall cooperate in order to:

- (a) implement strategies for SME development. That cooperation will also include a focus on micro enterprises, which are extremely important for both the economies of the UK and of the Republic of Moldova;
- (b) create better framework conditions, via the exchange of information and good practice, thereby contributing to improving competitiveness. That cooperation may include the management of structural changes (restructuring), the development of public-private partnerships, and environmental and energy issues, such as energy efficiency and cleaner production;
- (c) simplify and rationalise regulations and regulatory practice, with specific focus on exchange of good practice on regulatory techniques;
- (d) encourage the development of innovation policy, via the exchange of information and good practice regarding the commercialisation of research and development (including support instruments for technology-based business start-ups), cluster development and access to finance;
- (e) encourage greater contacts between UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova and between those businesses and the authorities of the UK and the Republic of Moldova;
- (f) support the establishment of export promotion activities in the Republic of Moldova; and
- (g) facilitate the modernisation and restructuring of the industry of the Republic of Moldova in certain sectors.

ARTICLE 60

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter. That may also involve representatives of UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova.

CHAPTER 11

MINING AND RAW MATERIALS

ARTICLE 61

The Parties may develop and strengthen cooperation covering mining industries and trade in raw materials, with the objectives of promoting mutual understanding, improvement of the business environment, information exchange and cooperation on non-energy issues, relating in particular to the mining of metallic ores and industrial minerals.

ARTICLE 62

To that end, the Parties may cooperate in the following areas:

- (a) exchange of information by the Parties on developments in their mining and raw material sectors;
- (b) exchange of information on matters related to trade in raw materials, with the aim of promoting bilateral exchanges;
- (c) exchange of information and best practices in relation to sustainable development aspects of the mining industries; and
- (d) exchange of information and best practices in relation to training, skills and safety in the mining industries.

CHAPTER 12

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 63

The Parties shall cooperate to promote agricultural and rural development.

ARTICLE 64

Cooperation between the Parties in the field of agriculture and rural development shall cover, inter alia, the following areas:

- (a) facilitating the mutual understanding of agricultural and rural development policies;
- (b) enhancing the administrative capacities at central and local level in the planning, evaluation and implementation of policies;
- (c) promoting the modernisation and the sustainability of agricultural production;
- (d) sharing knowledge and best practices of rural development policies to promote economic well-being for rural communities;
- (e) improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and the efficiency and transparency of the markets;
- (f) promoting quality policies and their control mechanisms, in particular geographical indications and organic farming;
- (g) disseminating knowledge and promoting extension services to agricultural producers; and
- (h) enhancing the harmonisation of issues dealt within the framework of international organisation of which the Parties are members.

ARTICLE 65

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 13
FISHERIES & MARITIME POLICY

SECTION 1
FISHERIES POLICY

ARTICLE 66

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on issues covering fisheries and maritime governance, thereby developing closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fisheries sector. The Parties shall also encourage an integrated approach to fisheries issues and promote sustainable fisheries development.

ARTICLE 67

The Parties shall take joint actions, exchange information and provide support to each other in order to promote:

- (a) good governance and best practices in fisheries management with a view to ensuring conservation and management of fish stocks in a sustainable manner and based on the ecosystem approach;
- (b) responsible fishing and fisheries management consistent with the principles of sustainable development, so as to conserve fish stocks and ecosystems in a healthy state; and
- (c) cooperation through appropriate regional organisations responsible for management and conservation of living aquatic resources.

ARTICLE 68

The Parties will support initiatives, such as mutual exchange of experience and providing support, in order to ensure the implementation of a sustainable fisheries policy, including:

- (a) management of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- (b) inspection and control of fishing activities, as well as development of corresponding administrative and judicial structures capable of applying appropriate measures;

- (c) collection of catch, landing, biological and economic data;
- (d) improving the efficiency of the markets, in particular by promoting producer organisations, providing information to consumers, and through marketing standards and traceability; and
- (e) development of a structural policy for the fisheries sector, with particular attention to the sustainable development of fisheries areas which are defined as an area with lake shore or including ponds or a river estuary and with a significant level of employment in the fisheries sector.

SECTION 2

MARITIME POLICY

ARTICLE 69

Taking into account their cooperation in the spheres of fisheries, transport, environment and other sea-related policies, the Parties shall also develop cooperation and mutual support, when appropriate, on maritime issues.

ARTICLE 70

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 14

ENERGY COOPERATION

ARTICLE 71

The Parties agree to continue their current cooperation on energy matters on the basis of the principles of partnership, mutual interest, transparency and predictability. The cooperation should aim at energy efficiency, taking into account the need to ensure competitiveness and access to secure, environmentally sustainable and affordable energy, including, in the case of the Republic of Moldova, through the provisions of the Energy Community Treaty.

ARTICLE 72

The cooperation shall cover, among others, the following areas and objectives:

- (a) energy strategies and policies;
- (b) the development of competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory energy markets , through regulatory reforms and through the participation in regional energy cooperation;
- (c) development of an attractive and stable investment climate by addressing institutional, legal, fiscal and other conditions;
- (d) energy infrastructure, in order to diversify energy sources, suppliers and transportation routes in an efficient economic and environmentally sound manner;
- (e) enhancement and strengthening of long-term stability and security of energy supply and trade, transit and transport on a mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis in accordance with international rules;
- (f) promotion of energy efficiency and energy saving, inter alia, concerning energy performance of buildings, and the development and support of renewable energies in an economic and environmentally sound manner;
- (g) reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, including through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
- (h) scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information for the development and improvement of technologies in energy production, transportation, supply and end use, with particular attention to energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies; and

(i) cooperation in the Civil Nuclear sector, focusing on ensuring a high level of nuclear safety, the clean and peaceful use of nuclear energy, covering all civil nuclear energy activities and stages of the fuel cycle, including production of and trade in nuclear materials, safety and security aspects of nuclear energy, and emergency preparedness, as well as health-related and environmental issues and non-proliferation. In this context, cooperation will also include the further development of policies and legal and regulatory frameworks based on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards.

ARTICLE 73

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 15

TRANSPORT

ARTICLE 74

The Parties shall:

- (a) expand and strengthen their transport cooperation in order to contribute to the development of sustainable transport systems;
- (b) promote efficient, safe and secure transport operations as well as intermodality and interoperability of transport systems; and
- (c) endeavour to enhance the main transport links between their territories based on provisions of current or future bilateral agreements.

ARTICLE 75

That cooperation shall cover, among others, the following areas:

- (a) development of a sustainable national transport policy covering all modes of transport, particularly with a view to ensuring efficient, safe and secure transport systems and promoting the integration of considerations in the sphere of transport into other policy areas;
- (b) development of sector strategies in light of the national transport policy (including legal requirements for the upgrading of technical equipment and transport fleets to meet highest international standards) for road, rail, inland waterway, aviation, and intermodality, including timetables and milestones for implementation, administrative responsibilities as well as financing plans;
- (c) improvement of the infrastructure policy in order to better identify and evaluate infrastructure projects in the various modes of transport;
- (d) development of funding strategies focusing on maintenance, capacity constraints and missing link infrastructure as well as activating and promoting the participation of the private sector in transport projects;
- (e) accession to relevant international transport organisations and agreements, including procedures for ensuring strict implementation and effective enforcement of international transport agreements and conventions;
- (f) scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information for the development and improvement of technologies in transport, such as intelligent transport systems; and

(g) promotion of the use of intelligent transport systems and information technology in managing and operating all modes of transport as well as supporting intermodality and cooperation in the use of space systems and commercial applications facilitating transport.

ARTICLE 76

1. Cooperation shall also aim at improving the movement of passengers and goods, increasing fluidity of transport flows, by removing administrative, technical and other obstacles, improving transport networks and upgrading the infrastructure. That cooperation shall include actions to facilitate border crossings.
2. Cooperation shall include information exchange and joint activities:
 - (a) at the regional level, in particular taking into consideration and integrating progress achieved under various regional transport cooperation arrangements;
 - (b) at the international level, including with regard to international transport organisations and international agreements and conventions ratified by the Parties.

ARTICLE 77

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 16

ENVIRONMENT

ARTICLE 78

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on environmental issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of sustainable development and greening the economy. It is expected that enhanced environment protection will bring benefits to citizens and businesses in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, including through improved public health, preserved natural resources, increased economic and environmental efficiency, integration of the environment into other policy areas, as well as the use of modern, cleaner technologies contributing to more sustainable production patterns. Cooperation shall be conducted considering the interests of the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, as well as taking into account the interdependence existing between the Parties in the field of environment protection, and multilateral agreements in that field.

ARTICLE 79

Cooperation shall aim at preserving, protecting, improving, and rehabilitating the quality of the environment, protecting human health, sustainable utilisation of natural resources and promoting measures at the international level to deal with regional or global environmental problems, including in the areas of:

- (a) environmental governance and horizontal issues, including Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, education and training, environmental liability, combating environmental crime, trans- boundary cooperation, access to environmental information, decision-making processes and effective administrative and judicial review procedures;
- (b) air quality;
- (c) water quality and resource management, including flood risk management, water scarcity and droughts;
- (d) waste and resource management and shipment of waste;
- (e) nature protection, including conservation and protection of biological and landscape diversity;
- (f) industrial pollution and industrial hazards;
- (g) chemicals;

- (h) noise pollution;
- (i) soil protection;
- (j) urban and rural environment;
- (k) environmental fees and taxes;
- (l) monitoring and environmental information systems;
- (m) inspection and enforcement; and
- (n) eco-innovation including best available technologies.

ARTICLE 80

The Parties shall, inter alia:

- (a) exchange information and expertise;
- (b) cooperate in joint research activities and exchange of information on cleaner technologies;
- (c) cooperate in handling of industrial hazards and accidents;
- (d) implement joint activities at regional and international level, including with regard to multilateral environment agreements ratified by the Parties, and joint activities in the framework of relevant agencies, as appropriate.

The Parties shall pay special attention to transboundary issues and regional cooperation.

ARTICLE 81

The cooperation shall cover, as appropriate, the following objectives:

- (a) effective implementation of environment policies, including procedures for the promotion of the integration of the environment into other policy areas; and promotion of green economy measures and eco-innovation; and
- (b) issues related to air quality; water quality and resource management; waste and resource management; biodiversity and nature protection; industrial pollution and industrial hazards and chemicals, noise pollution, soil protection, urban and rural environment, eco-innovation in line with timetables and milestones to which both Parties are committed through international agreements.

ARTICLE 82

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 17

CLIMATE ACTION

ARTICLE 83

The Parties may develop and strengthen their cooperation to combat climate change. Cooperation shall be conducted considering the interests of the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and taking into account the interdependence existing between bilateral and multilateral commitments in this field.

ARTICLE 84

Cooperation may promote measures at the domestic, regional and international level, including in the areas of:

- (a) mitigation of climate change;
- (b) adaptation to climate change;
- (c) carbon trading;
- (d) research, development, demonstration, deployment and diffusion of safe and sustainable low-carbon and adaptation technologies;
- (e) mainstreaming of climate considerations into sector policies; and
- (f) awareness raising, education and training.

ARTICLE 85

The Parties may, inter alia:

- (a) exchange information and expertise;
- (b) implement joint research activities and exchanges of information on cleaner technologies;
- (c) implement joint activities at the regional and international level, including with regard to multilateral environment agreements ratified by the Parties, and joint activities in the framework of relevant agencies, as appropriate.

The Parties may pay special attention to transboundary issues.

ARTICLE 86

The cooperation may cover, among others, the development and implementation of:

- (a) an overall climate strategy and action plan for the long-term mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
- (b) vulnerability and adaptation assessments;
- (c) a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change;
- (d) a low-carbon development strategy;
- (e) long-term measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;
- (f) measures to prepare for carbon trading;
- (g) measures to promote technology transfer on the basis of a technology needs assessment;
- (h) measures to mainstream climate considerations into sector policies; and
- (i) measures related to ozone-depleting substances.

ARTICLE 87

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 18

INFORMATION SOCIETY

ARTICLE 88

The Parties shall strengthen cooperation on the development of the Information Society to benefit citizens and businesses through the widespread availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and through better quality of services at affordable prices. That cooperation should aim at facilitating access to electronic communications markets, encouraging competition and investment in the sector, and promoting the development of public services online.

ARTICLE 89

Cooperation may cover the following subjects:

- (a) exchange of information and best practices on the implementation of national Information Society strategies, including, inter alia, initiatives aiming at promoting broadband access, improving network security and informational systems, and developing public services online;
- (b) exchange of information, best practices and experience to promote the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework for electronic communications, and in particular to strengthen the administrative capacity of the national administration in Information and Communication Technologies, as well as of the independent regulator, to foster a better use of spectrum resources and to promote interoperability of networks in the Republic of Moldova and with the UK;
- (c) encouraging and promoting the implementation of ICT tools for a better governance, e-learning and research, public healthcare, digitisation of cultural heritage, development of e-content and electronic commerce; and
- (d) enhancing the level of security of personal data and the protection of privacy in electronic communications.

ARTICLE 90

The Parties shall promote cooperation between UK regulators and the national regulatory authorities of the Republic of Moldova in the field of electronic communications. The Parties shall also consider cooperation in other relevant areas, including through regional initiatives.

CHAPTER 5

CONSUMER PROTECTION

ARTICLE 38

The Parties shall cooperate in order to ensure a high level of consumer protection.

ARTICLE 39

In order to achieve that objectives, the cooperation may comprise, when appropriate:

- (a) promoting exchange of information on consumer protection systems, including consumer legislation and its enforcement, consumer product safety, including market surveillance, consumer information systems and tools, consumer education, empowerment and consumer redress, and sales and service contracts concluded between traders and consumers;
- (b) promoting training activities for administration officials and other consumer interest representatives; and
- (c) encouraging the development of independent consumer associations, including non-governmental consumer organisations (NGOs), and contacts between consumer representatives, as well as collaboration between authorities and NGOs in the field of consumer protection.

CHAPTER 6

STATISTICS

ARTICLE 40

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on statistical issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of providing timely, internationally comparable and reliable statistical data. It is expected that a sustainable, efficient and professionally independent national statistical system shall produce information relevant for citizens, businesses and decision makers in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, enabling them to take informed decisions on that basis. The national statistical system should respect the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,, taking into account international standards and best practice, in order to align the national statistical system with internationally comparable norms and standards.

ARTICLE 41

Cooperation shall aim at:

- (a) further strengthening the capacity of the national statistical system, focusing on the sound legal basis, production of adequate data and metadata, dissemination policy and user-friendliness, taking into account various groups of users, including public and private sectors, the academic community and other users;
- (b) fine-tuning of data provision, taking into account the application of relevant international methodologies, including classifications;
- (c) enhancing the professional and management capacity of the national statistical staff to facilitate the application of statistical standards and to contribute to the development of the statistical system of the Republic of Moldova;
- (d) exchanging experience between the Parties on the development of statistical know-how; and
- (e) promoting total quality management of all statistical production processes and dissemination.

ARTICLE 42

The Parties shall further cooperate , *inter alia*, on the areas of:

- (a) demographic statistics, including censuses, and social statistics;
- (b) agricultural statistics, including agricultural censuses and environment statistics;
- (c) business statistics, including business registers and use of administrative sources for statistical purposes;
- (d) macroeconomic statistics, including national accounts, foreign trade statistics, and foreign direct investment statistics;
- (e) energy statistics, including balances;
- (f) regional statistics; and
- (g) horizontal activities, including statistical classifications, quality management, training, dissemination and use of modern information technologies.

ARTICLE 43

The Parties shall, *inter alia*, exchange information and expertise and shall develop their cooperation, taking into account the already accumulated experience in the reform of the statistical system. The emphasis in the statistical data production process shall be the further development of sample surveys and usage of administrative records, while taking into account the need to reduce the response burden. The data shall be relevant for the designing and monitoring of policies in key areas of social and economic life.

ARTICLE 44

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 7

MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCES: BUDGET POLICY, INTERNAL CONTROL, FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

ARTICLE 45

Cooperation in the field covered by this Chapter will focus on the implementation of international standards as well as good practice in this field, which will contribute to the development of a modern public finance management system in the Republic of Moldova, and international principles of transparency, accountability, economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

ARTICLE 46

Budget and accounting systems

The Parties shall cooperate in relation to:

- (a) improvement and systematisation of regulatory documents on the budgetary, treasury, accounting and reporting systems and their harmonisation on the basis of international standards;
- (b) continuous development of multi-annual budget planning;
- (c) exchange of information, experiences and good practice, including through personnel exchange and joint training in this field.

ARTICLE 47

Internal control, financial inspection and external audit

The Parties shall also cooperate in relation to:

- (a) further improvement of the internal control system (including a functionally independent internal audit function) in state and local authorities by means of harmonisation with generally accepted international standards and methodologies;
- (b) the development of an adequate financial inspection system that will complement but not duplicate the internal audit function and will ensure adequate control coverage of government income and expenditure during a transitional period and thereafter;

- (c) effective cooperation between the actors involved in financial management and control, audit and inspection with the actors for budget, treasury and accounting to foster the development of governance;
- (d) strengthening the competences of the Central Harmonisation Unit for the Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC);
- (e) the implementation of internationally accepted external audit standards by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI); and
- (f) exchange of information, experiences and good practice through, inter alia, personnel exchange and joint training in this field.

ARTICLE 48

Fight against fraud and corruption

The Parties shall also cooperate in relation to:

- (a) exchanging information, experience and good practice;
- (b) improving methods to combat and prevent fraud and corruption in the areas covered by this Chapter, including co- operation between relevant administrative bodies.

ARTICLE 49

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 8

TAXATION

ARTICLE 50

The Parties shall cooperate to enhance good governance in the tax area, with a view to the further improvement of economic relations, trade, investment and fair competition.

ARTICLE 51

1. With reference to Article 50 of this Agreement, the Parties recognise and commit themselves to implement the principles of good governance in the tax area, i.e. the principles of transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition.
2. Nothing in this Agreement affects the rights and obligations, under any tax convention, of the United Kingdom and Moldova. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any such tax convention, the tax convention prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
3. For the purposes of this Article “tax convention” means a convention for the avoidance of double taxation, or any other international taxation agreement or arrangement (including, for the avoidance of doubt, such a convention, agreement or arrangement which is made after this Agreement is ratified, or any amendment to such a convention, agreement or arrangement).

ARTICLE 52

The Parties shall enhance and strengthen their cooperation, with the aim of ensuring effective tax collection and reinforcing the fight against tax fraud and tax avoidance.

ARTICLE 53

The Parties shall develop their cooperation in counteracting and fighting fraud and the smuggling of excisable products. To that end, the Parties will strive to strengthen their cooperation within the regional context.

ARTICLE 54

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 9

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ARTICLE 55

Recognising the relevance of an effective set of rules and practices in the areas of financial services to establish a fully-functioning market economy and in order to foster trade exchanges among the Parties, the Parties agree to cooperate in the area of financial services in line with the following objectives:

- (a) supporting the process of adapting financial services regulation to the needs of an open market economy;
- (b) ensuring effective and adequate protection of investors and other consumers of financial services;
- (c) ensuring the stability and integrity of the financial system of the Republic of Moldova in its entirety;
- (d) promoting cooperation between different actors of the financial system, including regulators and supervisors; and
- (e) ensuring independent and effective supervision.

ARTICLE 56

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between relevant regulatory and supervisory authorities, including information exchange, sharing of expertise on financial markets and other such measures.
2. Special attention shall be paid to the development of administrative capacity of such authorities, including through personnel exchange and joint training.

ARTICLE 57

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 10

INDUSTRIAL AND ENTERPRISE POLICY

ARTICLE 58

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on industrial and enterprise policy, thereby improving the business environment for all economic operators, but with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Enhanced cooperation should improve the administrative and regulatory framework for both UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova operating in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, taking into account internationally recognised principles and practices in this field.

ARTICLE 59

To those ends, the Parties shall cooperate in order to:

- (a) implement strategies for SME development. That cooperation will also include a focus on micro enterprises, which are extremely important for both the economies of the UK and of the Republic of Moldova;
- (b) create better framework conditions, via the exchange of information and good practice, thereby contributing to improving competitiveness. That cooperation may include the management of structural changes (restructuring), the development of public-private partnerships, and environmental and energy issues, such as energy efficiency and cleaner production;
- (c) simplify and rationalise regulations and regulatory practice, with specific focus on exchange of good practice on regulatory techniques;
- (d) encourage the development of innovation policy, via the exchange of information and good practice regarding the commercialisation of research and development (including support instruments for technology-based business start-ups), cluster development and access to finance;
- (e) encourage greater contacts between UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova and between those businesses and the authorities of the UK and the Republic of Moldova;
- (f) support the establishment of export promotion activities in the Republic of Moldova; and
- (g) facilitate the modernisation and restructuring of the industry of the Republic of Moldova in certain sectors.

ARTICLE 60

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter. That may also involve representatives of UK businesses and businesses of the Republic of Moldova.

CHAPTER 11

MINING AND RAW MATERIALS

ARTICLE 61

The Parties may develop and strengthen cooperation covering mining industries and trade in raw materials, with the objectives of promoting mutual understanding, improvement of the business environment, information exchange and cooperation on non-energy issues, relating in particular to the mining of metallic ores and industrial minerals.

ARTICLE 62

To that end, the Parties may cooperate in the following areas:

- (a) exchange of information by the Parties on developments in their mining and raw material sectors;
- (b) exchange of information on matters related to trade in raw materials, with the aim of promoting bilateral exchanges;
- (c) exchange of information and best practices in relation to sustainable development aspects of the mining industries; and
- (d) exchange of information and best practices in relation to training, skills and safety in the mining industries.

CHAPTER 12

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 63

The Parties shall cooperate to promote agricultural and rural development.

ARTICLE 64

Cooperation between the Parties in the field of agriculture and rural development shall cover, inter alia, the following areas:

- (a) facilitating the mutual understanding of agricultural and rural development policies;
- (b) enhancing the administrative capacities at central and local level in the planning, evaluation and implementation of policies;
- (c) promoting the modernisation and the sustainability of agricultural production;
- (d) sharing knowledge and best practices of rural development policies to promote economic well-being for rural communities;
- (e) improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and the efficiency and transparency of the markets;
- (f) promoting quality policies and their control mechanisms, in particular geographical indications and organic farming;
- (g) disseminating knowledge and promoting extension services to agricultural producers; and
- (h) enhancing the harmonisation of issues dealt within the framework of international organisation of which the Parties are members.

ARTICLE 65

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 13
FISHERIES & MARITIME POLICY

SECTION 1
FISHERIES POLICY

ARTICLE 66

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on issues covering fisheries and maritime governance, thereby developing closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fisheries sector. The Parties shall also encourage an integrated approach to fisheries issues and promote sustainable fisheries development.

ARTICLE 67

The Parties shall take joint actions, exchange information and provide support to each other in order to promote:

- (a) good governance and best practices in fisheries management with a view to ensuring conservation and management of fish stocks in a sustainable manner and based on the ecosystem approach;
- (b) responsible fishing and fisheries management consistent with the principles of sustainable development, so as to conserve fish stocks and ecosystems in a healthy state; and
- (c) cooperation through appropriate regional organisations responsible for management and conservation of living aquatic resources.

ARTICLE 68

The Parties will support initiatives, such as mutual exchange of experience and providing support, in order to ensure the implementation of a sustainable fisheries policy, including:

- (a) management of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- (b) inspection and control of fishing activities, as well as development of corresponding administrative and judicial structures capable of applying appropriate measures;

- (c) collection of catch, landing, biological and economic data;
- (d) improving the efficiency of the markets, in particular by promoting producer organisations, providing information to consumers, and through marketing standards and traceability; and
- (e) development of a structural policy for the fisheries sector, with particular attention to the sustainable development of fisheries areas which are defined as an area with lake shore or including ponds or a river estuary and with a significant level of employment in the fisheries sector.

SECTION 2

MARITIME POLICY

ARTICLE 69

Taking into account their cooperation in the spheres of fisheries, transport, environment and other sea-related policies, the Parties shall also develop cooperation and mutual support, when appropriate, on maritime issues.

ARTICLE 70

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 14

ENERGY COOPERATION

ARTICLE 71

The Parties agree to continue their current cooperation on energy matters on the basis of the principles of partnership, mutual interest, transparency and predictability. The cooperation should aim at energy efficiency, taking into account the need to ensure competitiveness and access to secure, environmentally sustainable and affordable energy, including, in the case of the Republic of Moldova, through the provisions of the Energy Community Treaty.

ARTICLE 72

The cooperation shall cover, among others, the following areas and objectives:

- (a) energy strategies and policies;
- (b) the development of competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory energy markets , through regulatory reforms and through the participation in regional energy cooperation;
- (c) development of an attractive and stable investment climate by addressing institutional, legal, fiscal and other conditions;
- (d) energy infrastructure, in order to diversify energy sources, suppliers and transportation routes in an efficient economic and environmentally sound manner;
- (e) enhancement and strengthening of long-term stability and security of energy supply and trade, transit and transport on a mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory basis in accordance with international rules;
- (f) promotion of energy efficiency and energy saving, inter alia, concerning energy performance of buildings, and the development and support of renewable energies in an economic and environmentally sound manner;
- (g) reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, including through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
- (h) scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information for the development and improvement of technologies in energy production, transportation, supply and end use, with particular attention to energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies; and

(i) cooperation in the Civil Nuclear sector, focusing on ensuring a high level of nuclear safety, the clean and peaceful use of nuclear energy, covering all civil nuclear energy activities and stages of the fuel cycle, including production of and trade in nuclear materials, safety and security aspects of nuclear energy, and emergency preparedness, as well as health-related and environmental issues and non-proliferation. In this context, cooperation will also include the further development of policies and legal and regulatory frameworks based on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards.

ARTICLE 73

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 15

TRANSPORT

ARTICLE 74

The Parties shall:

- (a) expand and strengthen their transport cooperation in order to contribute to the development of sustainable transport systems;
- (b) promote efficient, safe and secure transport operations as well as intermodality and interoperability of transport systems; and
- (c) endeavour to enhance the main transport links between their territories based on provisions of current or future bilateral agreements.

ARTICLE 75

That cooperation shall cover, among others, the following areas:

- (a) development of a sustainable national transport policy covering all modes of transport, particularly with a view to ensuring efficient, safe and secure transport systems and promoting the integration of considerations in the sphere of transport into other policy areas;
- (b) development of sector strategies in light of the national transport policy (including legal requirements for the upgrading of technical equipment and transport fleets to meet highest international standards) for road, rail, inland waterway, aviation, and intermodality, including timetables and milestones for implementation, administrative responsibilities as well as financing plans;
- (c) improvement of the infrastructure policy in order to better identify and evaluate infrastructure projects in the various modes of transport;
- (d) development of funding strategies focusing on maintenance, capacity constraints and missing link infrastructure as well as activating and promoting the participation of the private sector in transport projects;
- (e) accession to relevant international transport organisations and agreements, including procedures for ensuring strict implementation and effective enforcement of international transport agreements and conventions;
- (f) scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information for the development and improvement of technologies in transport, such as intelligent transport systems; and

(g) promotion of the use of intelligent transport systems and information technology in managing and operating all modes of transport as well as supporting intermodality and cooperation in the use of space systems and commercial applications facilitating transport.

ARTICLE 76

1. Cooperation shall also aim at improving the movement of passengers and goods, increasing fluidity of transport flows, by removing administrative, technical and other obstacles, improving transport networks and upgrading the infrastructure. That cooperation shall include actions to facilitate border crossings.
2. Cooperation shall include information exchange and joint activities:
 - (a) at the regional level, in particular taking into consideration and integrating progress achieved under various regional transport cooperation arrangements;
 - (b) at the international level, including with regard to international transport organisations and international agreements and conventions ratified by the Parties.

ARTICLE 77

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 16

ENVIRONMENT

ARTICLE 78

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on environmental issues, thereby contributing to the long-term objective of sustainable development and greening the economy. It is expected that enhanced environment protection will bring benefits to citizens and businesses in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova, including through improved public health, preserved natural resources, increased economic and environmental efficiency, integration of the environment into other policy areas, as well as the use of modern, cleaner technologies contributing to more sustainable production patterns. Cooperation shall be conducted considering the interests of the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, as well as taking into account the interdependence existing between the Parties in the field of environment protection, and multilateral agreements in that field.

ARTICLE 79

Cooperation shall aim at preserving, protecting, improving, and rehabilitating the quality of the environment, protecting human health, sustainable utilisation of natural resources and promoting measures at the international level to deal with regional or global environmental problems, including in the areas of:

- (a) environmental governance and horizontal issues, including Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, education and training, environmental liability, combating environmental crime, trans- boundary cooperation, access to environmental information, decision-making processes and effective administrative and judicial review procedures;
- (b) air quality;
- (c) water quality and resource management, including flood risk management, water scarcity and droughts;
- (d) waste and resource management and shipment of waste;
- (e) nature protection, including conservation and protection of biological and landscape diversity;
- (f) industrial pollution and industrial hazards;
- (g) chemicals;

- (h) noise pollution;
- (i) soil protection;
- (j) urban and rural environment;
- (k) environmental fees and taxes;
- (l) monitoring and environmental information systems;
- (m) inspection and enforcement; and
- (n) eco-innovation including best available technologies.

ARTICLE 80

The Parties shall, inter alia:

- (a) exchange information and expertise;
- (b) cooperate in joint research activities and exchange of information on cleaner technologies;
- (c) cooperate in handling of industrial hazards and accidents;
- (d) implement joint activities at regional and international level, including with regard to multilateral environment agreements ratified by the Parties, and joint activities in the framework of relevant agencies, as appropriate.

The Parties shall pay special attention to transboundary issues and regional cooperation.

ARTICLE 81

The cooperation shall cover, as appropriate, the following objectives:

- (a) effective implementation of environment policies, including procedures for the promotion of the integration of the environment into other policy areas; and promotion of green economy measures and eco-innovation; and
- (b) issues related to air quality; water quality and resource management; waste and resource management; biodiversity and nature protection; industrial pollution and industrial hazards and chemicals, noise pollution, soil protection, urban and rural environment, eco-innovation in line with timetables and milestones to which both Parties are committed through international agreements.

ARTICLE 82

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 17

CLIMATE ACTION

ARTICLE 83

The Parties may develop and strengthen their cooperation to combat climate change. Cooperation shall be conducted considering the interests of the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and taking into account the interdependence existing between bilateral and multilateral commitments in this field.

ARTICLE 84

Cooperation may promote measures at the domestic, regional and international level, including in the areas of:

- (a) mitigation of climate change;
- (b) adaptation to climate change;
- (c) carbon trading;
- (d) research, development, demonstration, deployment and diffusion of safe and sustainable low-carbon and adaptation technologies;
- (e) mainstreaming of climate considerations into sector policies; and
- (f) awareness raising, education and training.

ARTICLE 85

The Parties may, inter alia:

- (a) exchange information and expertise;
- (b) implement joint research activities and exchanges of information on cleaner technologies;
- (c) implement joint activities at the regional and international level, including with regard to multilateral environment agreements ratified by the Parties, and joint activities in the framework of relevant agencies, as appropriate.

The Parties may pay special attention to transboundary issues.

ARTICLE 86

The cooperation may cover, among others, the development and implementation of:

- (a) an overall climate strategy and action plan for the long-term mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
- (b) vulnerability and adaptation assessments;
- (c) a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change;
- (d) a low-carbon development strategy;
- (e) long-term measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;
- (f) measures to prepare for carbon trading;
- (g) measures to promote technology transfer on the basis of a technology needs assessment;
- (h) measures to mainstream climate considerations into sector policies; and
- (i) measures related to ozone-depleting substances.

ARTICLE 87

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 18

INFORMATION SOCIETY

ARTICLE 88

The Parties shall strengthen cooperation on the development of the Information Society to benefit citizens and businesses through the widespread availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and through better quality of services at affordable prices. That cooperation should aim at facilitating access to electronic communications markets, encouraging competition and investment in the sector, and promoting the development of public services online.

ARTICLE 89

Cooperation may cover the following subjects:

- (a) exchange of information and best practices on the implementation of national Information Society strategies, including, inter alia, initiatives aiming at promoting broadband access, improving network security and informational systems, and developing public services online;
- (b) exchange of information, best practices and experience to promote the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework for electronic communications, and in particular to strengthen the administrative capacity of the national administration in Information and Communication Technologies, as well as of the independent regulator, to foster a better use of spectrum resources and to promote interoperability of networks in the Republic of Moldova and with the UK;
- (c) encouraging and promoting the implementation of ICT tools for a better governance, e-learning and research, public healthcare, digitisation of cultural heritage, development of e-content and electronic commerce; and
- (d) enhancing the level of security of personal data and the protection of privacy in electronic communications.

ARTICLE 90

The Parties shall promote cooperation between UK regulators and the national regulatory authorities of the Republic of Moldova in the field of electronic communications. The Parties shall also consider cooperation in other relevant areas, including through regional initiatives.

ARTICLE 91

A regular dialogue will take place on the issues covered by this Chapter.

ARTICLE 91

A regular dialogue will take place on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 19

TOURISM

ARTICLE 92

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of tourism, with the aim of strengthening the development of a competitive and sustainable tourism industry as a generator of economic growth, empowerment, employment and foreign exchange.

ARTICLE 93

Cooperation at a bilateral level would be based on the following principles:

- (a) respect for the integrity and interests of local communities, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) the importance of cultural heritage; and
- (c) positive interaction between tourism and environmental preservation.

ARTICLE 94

Cooperation shall focus on the following topics:

- (a) exchange of information, best practices, experience and ‘know-how’ transfer, including on innovative technologies;
- (b) establishment of a strategic partnership between public, private and community interests in order to ensure the sustainable development of tourism;
- (c) promotion and development of tourism products and markets, infrastructure, human resources and institutional structures as well as the identification and elimination of barriers to travel services;
- (d) development and implementation of efficient policies and strategies including appropriate legal, administrative and financial aspects;
- (e) tourism training and capacity building in order to improve service standards; and
- (f) development and promotion of community-based tourism.

ARTICLE 95

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 20
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 96

1. The Parties shall promote mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation in the field of regional policy, including methods for formulating and implementing regional policies, governance and multilevel partnership, with particular emphasis on the development of disadvantaged areas and on territorial cooperation, as an objective to establish channels of communication and to improve exchanges of information and experience between national, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society;
2. The Parties shall cooperate to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of national and regional institutions in the field of regional development and spatial planning, inter alia by:
 - (a) improving the mechanism of vertical and horizontal interaction of central and local public administration in the process of developing and implementing regional policies;
 - (b) the exchange of knowledge, information and best practices on regional development policies to promote the economic well-being of local communities and the homogenous development of regions.

CHAPTER 21

PUBLIC HEALTH

ARTICLE 97

The Parties agree to develop their cooperation in the field of public health, with a view to raising the level of public health safety and protection of human health as a precondition for sustainable development and economic growth.

ARTICLE 98

The cooperation shall cover, in particular, the following areas:

- (a) strengthening of the public health system of the Republic of Moldova, in particular through implementing health sector reform, ensuring high-quality of healthcare, and improving health governance and healthcare financing;
- (b) epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis, as well as increased preparedness for public health threats and emergencies;
- (c) prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, mainly through exchange of information and best practices, promoting healthy lifestyles and addressing major health determinants, such as nutrition and addiction to alcohol, drugs and tobacco;
- (d) quality and safety of substances of human origin;
- (e) health information and knowledge; and
- (f) full and timely implementation of international health agreements, in particular the International Health Regulations and the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of 2003.

CHAPTER 22

CIVIL PROTECTION

ARTICLE 99

The Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation on natural and man-made disasters. Cooperation shall be conducted considering the interests of the Parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, as well as taking into account the interdependence existing between the Parties and multilateral activities in the field of civil protection.

ARTICLE 100

Cooperation shall aim at improving the prevention of, preparation for and response to natural and man-made disasters.

ARTICLE 101

The Parties shall, inter alia, exchange information and expertise and implement joint activities at a national, regional and international level. Cooperation shall include the implementation of specific agreements and administrative arrangements in this field, concluded between the Parties and in accordance with the legal procedures of the Parties.

ARTICLE 102

The cooperation shall cover, amongst others, the following objectives:

- (a) facilitating mutual assistance in case of emergencies;
- (b) exchanging as necessary early warnings and updated information on large scale emergencies affecting the UK or the Republic of Moldova, including requests for and offers of assistance;
- (c) assessment of the environmental impact of disasters;
- (d) inviting experts to specific technical workshops and symposia on civil protection issues;
- (e) inviting, on a case by case basis, observers to specific exercises and trainings organised by the UK and/or the Republic of Moldova; and

(f) strengthening cooperation on the most effective use of available civil protection capabilities.

ARTICLE 103

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 23

COOPERATION ON EDUCATION, TRAINING, MULTILINGUALISM, YOUTH AND SPORT

ARTICLE 104

The Parties shall cooperate to promote lifelong learning and encourage cooperation and transparency at all levels of education and training, with a special focus on higher education.

ARTICLE 105

That cooperation shall focus, inter alia, on the following areas:

- (a) promoting lifelong learning, which is a key to growth and jobs and can allow citizens to participate fully in society;
- (b) modernising education and training systems, enhancing quality, relevance and access;
- (c) promoting convergence in higher education, deriving from the Bologna process;
- (d) reinforcing international academic cooperation and participation in cooperation programmes, increasing student and teacher mobility;
- (e) establishing a national qualification framework to improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences; and
- (f) promoting cooperation in vocational education and training.

ARTICLE 106

The Parties shall promote cooperation and exchanges in areas of mutual interest, such as linguistic diversity and lifelong language learning, through an exchange of information and best practices.

ARTICLE 107

The Parties agree to cooperate in the field of youth to:

- (a) reinforce cooperation and exchanges in the field of youth policy and non-formal education for young people and youth workers;

- (b) facilitate active participation of all young people in society;
- (c) support young people and youth workers' mobility as a means to promote intercultural dialogue and the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences outside the formal educational systems, including through volunteering; and
- (d) promote cooperation between youth organisations to support civil society.

ARTICLE 108

The Parties shall promote cooperation in the field of sport and physical activity through the exchange of information and good practices in order to promote a healthy lifestyle, the social and educational values of sport and good governance in sport within the societies of the UK and the Republic of Moldova.

CHAPTER 24

COOPERATION IN RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION

ARTICLE 109

The Parties may promote cooperation in all areas of civil scientific research and technological development and demonstration (RTD) on the basis of mutual benefit and subject to appropriate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

ARTICLE 110

Cooperation in RTD may cover:

- (a) policy dialogue and the exchange of scientific and technological information;
- (b) facilitating adequate access to the respective programmes of the Parties;
- (c) increasing research capacity;
- (d) the promotion of joint projects for research in all areas of RTD;
- (e) training activities and mobility programmes for scientists, researchers and other research staff engaged in RTD activities on both sides;
- (f) facilitating, within the framework of applicable legislation, the free movement of research workers participating in the activities covered by this Agreement and the cross-border movement of goods intended for use in such activities; and
- (g) other forms of cooperation in RTD (including through regional approaches and initiatives), on the basis of the Parties' mutual agreement.

CHAPTER 25

COOPERATION ON CULTURE, AUDIO-VISUAL POLICY AND MEDIA

ARTICLE 111

The Parties will promote cultural cooperation in accordance with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005. The Parties will seek a regular policy dialogue in areas of mutual interest, including the development of cultural industries in the UK and the Republic of Moldova. Cooperation between the Parties will foster intercultural dialogue, including through the participation of the culture sector and civil society of the UK and of the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 112

1. The Parties may develop a regular dialogue and cooperate to promote the audiovisual industry in Europe and encourage co-production in the fields of cinema and television.
2. Cooperation could include, inter alia, the issue of the training of journalists and other media professionals, as well as support to the media, so as to reinforce their independence, professionalism and links with UK media in compliance with European standards, including standards of the Council of Europe and the 2005 Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

ARTICLE 113

The Parties shall concentrate their cooperation on a number of fields:

- (a) cultural cooperation and cultural exchanges, as well as the mobility of art and artists;
- (b) intercultural dialogue;
- (c) policy dialogue on cultural policy and audiovisual policy;
- (d) cooperation in international fora such as Unesco and the Council of Europe, in order to, inter alia, develop cultural diversity and preserve and valorise cultural and historical heritage; and
- (e) cooperation in the field of media.

CHAPTER 26

CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION

ARTICLE 114

The Parties shall establish a dialogue on civil society cooperation, with the following objectives:

- (a) to strengthen contacts and the exchange of information and experience between all sectors of civil society in the UK and in the Republic of Moldova;
- (b) to ensure a better knowledge and understanding of the Republic of Moldova, including its history and culture, in the UK, thus allowing for a better awareness of the opportunities and challenges for future relations; and
- (c) to ensure, reciprocally, a better knowledge and understanding of the UK in the Republic of Moldova and in particular among civil society organisations of the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 115

The Parties shall promote dialogue and cooperation between civil society stakeholders from both sides as an integral part of the relations between the UK and the Republic of Moldova. The aims of such a dialogue and such cooperation are:

- (a) to ensure the involvement of civil society in UK-Republic of Moldova relations, in particular in the implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) to enhance civil society participation in the public decision-making process, particularly by establishing an open, transparent and regular dialogue between the public institutions and representative associations and civil society;
- (c) to facilitate a process of institution-building and consolidation of civil society organisations in various ways, including advocacy support, informal and formal networking, mutual visits and workshops, in particular with a view to improving the legal framework for civil society; and
- (d) to enable civil society representatives from each side to become acquainted with the processes of consultation and dialogue between civil and social partners on the other side, in particular with a view to further integrating civil society in the public policy-making process in the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 116

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.

CHAPTER 27

COOPERATION IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

ARTICLE 117

The Parties agree to cooperate in ensuring the promotion of the rights of the child according to international laws and standards, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, taking into account the priorities identified in the specific context of the Republic of Moldova, in particular for vulnerable groups.

ARTICLE 118

Such cooperation shall include, in particular:

- (a) the prevention and combating of all forms of exploitation (including child labour), abuse, negligence and violence against children, including by developing and strengthening the legal and institutional framework as well as through awareness-raising campaigns in that domain;
- (b) the improvement of the system of identification and assistance of children in vulnerable situations, including increased participation by children in decision-making processes and the implementation of efficient mechanisms to handle individual complaints made by children;
- (c) exchange of information and best practices on the alleviation of poverty among children, including on measures to focus social policies on children's wellbeing, and to promote and facilitate children's access to education;
- (d) the implementation of measures aimed at promoting children's rights within the family and institutions, and strengthening the capacity of parents and carers in order to ensure child development; and
- (e) accession to, ratification and implementation of the relevant international documents, including those developed within the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, with the purpose of promoting and protecting of children's rights in line with the highest standards in the field.

ARTICLE 119

A regular dialogue may take place between the Parties on the issues covered by this Chapter.