

ANNUAL REPORT



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

EUBAM



2008



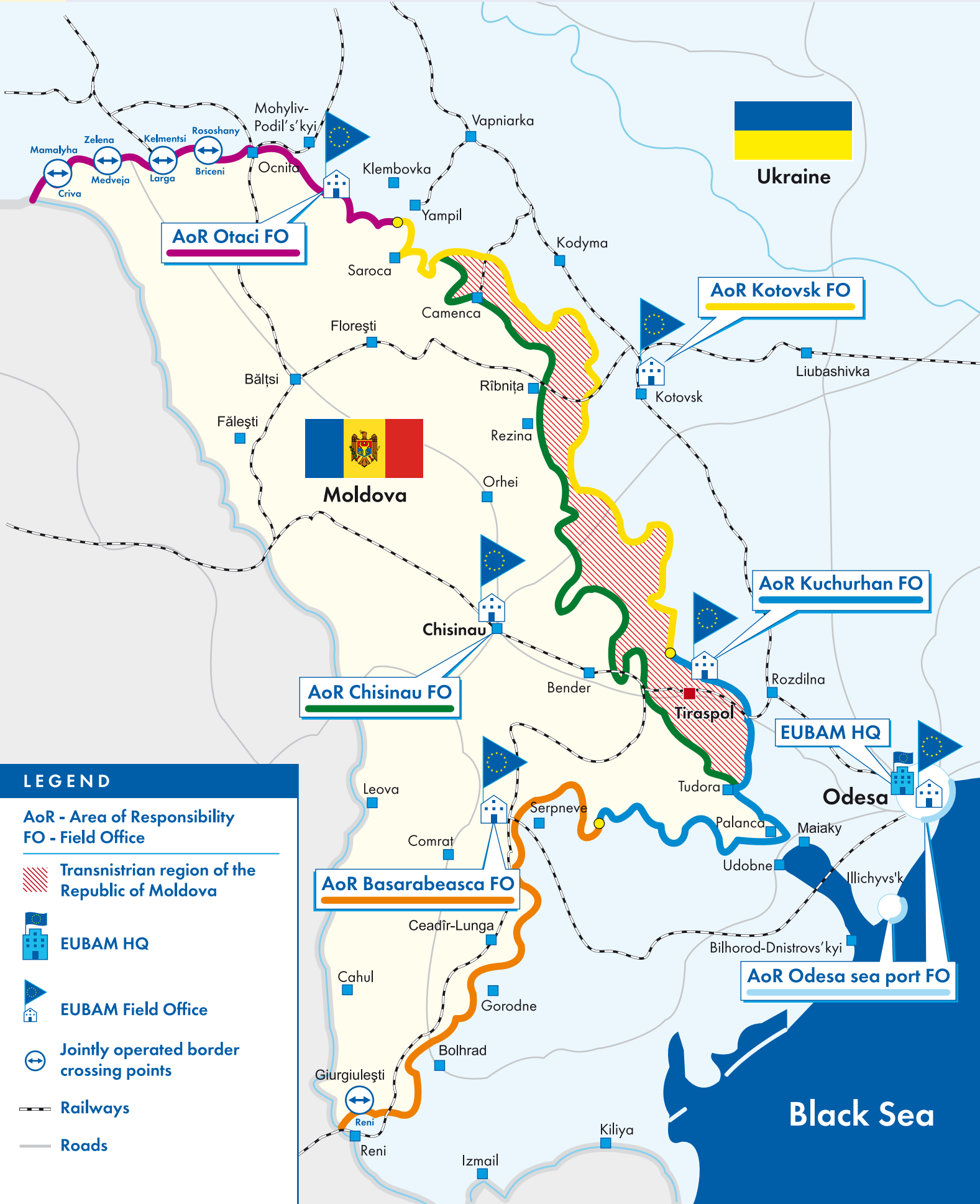
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EUBAM's area of operations




LEGEND

AoR - Area of Responsibility
FO - Field Office

 Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova

 EUBAM HQ

 EUBAM Field Office

 Jointly operated border crossing points

 Railways

 Roads

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1. Foreword



It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report 2008 of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), which provides an overview of the activities and progress achieved by the Mission and its partner services.

The focus of the Mission in 2008 was to ensure the sustainability of the achievements from the previous years and to meet new challenges in border management in Moldova and Ukraine. I am pleased to report that our partners, with the support of the Mission, have continued to facilitate the free movement of people and legitimate trade without compromising security. In this the Mission remained flexible in responding to the demands of a dynamic local and international environment.

The Moldovan and Ukrainian border services effectively utilised EUBAM's assistance in capacity building and technological development to address new challenges in border management and to move closer to European standards.

In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, EUBAM's strategic goals remained unchanged in 2008. The strategic consistency and compatibility of EUBAM's assistance to the development plans of its partners allowed the Mission to plan ahead, and to focus on the medium-term tasks in capacity building and modern border management.

One of the highlights of 2008 has been the reliability and stability of the partnership that has been forged between Moldova, Ukraine and EUBAM, based on mutual respect, equality and confidence. Good cooperation was evidenced by the proper management of the single customs regime, intensified information exchange, joint border control operations, common analytical work, public communication and numerous capacity building events. In addition to particular contributions from the Mission, the partner services benefited from international cooperation on border issues involving EU agencies and the services of EU Member States.

EUBAM's recommendations and practical cooperation, supported by the experience of professionals from 22 EU member states and the technical assistance of the European Commission, accelerated the modernisation of border management in Moldova and Ukraine. It was a

pleasure for the Mission to share this achievement in both border guard and customs services on the international stage during conferences, seminars, workshops and study tours. It needs to be highlighted that supervision of and responsibility for border security, as well as achievements during the past year, belong to our partner services.

I would like to express my particular gratitude for the welcome and cooperation that the Mission has received in Moldova and Ukraine. Moreover, I am grateful to all EUBAM colleagues, both national and international, for their commitment, professionalism and integrity, which ensured the implementation of the EUBAM Action Plan in 2008. I would like to emphasize our continuing support to our partners.

In the coming year EUBAM is committed to supporting the long term development of border guard and customs services in Moldova and Ukraine. The priorities of our future cooperation will focus on the contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian ('TN') conflict, introduction of integrated border management, fighting organised crime, improving service mentality and work ethics, trade facilitation, border demarcation, technical development of border infrastructure, and the adjustment of legislation to European standards.

I, together with my colleagues in EUBAM, look forward to continuing and strengthening the cooperation with our partners that has proved so successful, and has been critical in delivering the considerable achievements which have been realised.

Dr Ferenc Banfi
Head of Mission

2. Views of EUBAM partners

The Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova



Over the last three years the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova has been extensively involved in joint activities with the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, as well as with other national and international partners. The service has achieved good results in improving security at the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border.

The major strategic goal for the service is integration into the European Community. In regard to our priorities for

2008 we have achieved several significant results. Together with EUBAM we have designed and introduced a 3-level (strategic-operational-tactical) management system. We have established new methods and procedures in the field of risk analysis as well as effective communication and information exchange at national and international levels. New structural units responsible for state border surveillance and control have been developed. A Working Agreement with FRONTEX (an EU agency coordinating the operational cooperation between EU Member States in the field of border security) has been signed, covering different aspects of joint border related activities such as information exchange, institutional development, strategic planning, professional training, planning and implementation of joint operations. This agreement was one of our most important achievements in the last year. The Code of Border Guard Ethics and Deontology has been developed jointly with European experts and has been approved by the Director General and registered with the Ministry of Justice.

The Border Guard Service traditionally expresses its main objective for the upcoming year in a short motto, which for the year 2009 is "ORIENTATI SPRE OAMENI - FACING THE PEOPLE". In line with the motto, the service has set the following tasks for the next year:

- to ensure stability at the state border;
- to develop and implement a high performance methodology;
- to develop a system for operational and search activities on the border;
- to implement plans for European integration;

- to interact efficiently on national and international levels;
- to harmonize the state border legislation;
- to develop and adopt national strategy integrated border management;
- to continue capacity building within the service and to provide high quality training for its personnel;
- to develop state border infrastructure and its technical facilities, as well as to improve the telecommunication system used on the border.

Brigadier General Igor Colenov

General Director of the Border Guard Service

The Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

In 2008 the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova focused its efforts on the harmonization of the national customs legislation with European standards.

In order to simplify customs procedures the service implemented "the Single Window" principle at all the border crossing points. In this regard, a number of amendments aimed at simplifying customs clearance procedures have been introduced into the Customs Code. In addition, the required infrastructure was developed, a special information system was designed and personnel training were conducted. Since the end of 2008, examination of goods and collection of all types of fees have been conducted directly at the border crossing points.

The opening of the Tudora International Road Border Crossing Point in October 2008 marked another step in the modernization of the infrastructure. The crossing point is located on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and was constructed according to the requirements for simplified control procedures. Further construction plans were developed for the renovation of Palanka and Otach border crossing points on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

The customs service paid special attention to the enforcement of the joint control system at five border crossing points on the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border. The introduction of the system of sharing pre-arrival information on goods and vehicles across the Moldovan-



Ukrainian border was a significant accomplishment in this area. The system was introduced with the support of EUBAM.

In the sphere of professional training we have focused our efforts on the development of a training centre for customs officers. In this regard, we are receiving considerable support from the EUBAM side.

In 2009 the customs service started implementing its Institutional Development Plan for 2009-2011 based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, as well as on the EU Customs Blueprints. Our priorities are:

- Implementation of simplified customs procedures, and the improvement of customs control;
- Development of the risk analysis system;
- Development of the customs infrastructure;
- Cooperation with customs authorities of other countries;
- Application of measures to protect intellectual property rights;
- Capacity building.

Viorel Melnic

General Director of the Customs Service

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine



In 2008, the Border Guard Service of Ukraine took further action to implement its plan, "Concept of Service Development 2015".

Considerable results were achieved in the operational and investigation spheres. The service detained 29,724 illegal migrants, 617 pieces of weapons, 463 kilograms of drugs, 79 kilograms of explosive substances, and smuggled goods with a total value of UAH 290 million.

Last year a draft law "On Border Control" was developed and submitted to Parliament for approval. It was based on the Schengen Borders Code and the recommendations of EUBAM. Passport control has been fully automated, and a new technology of border guarding and customs control at road BCPs has been introduced.

The quality standards of border control have been

enforced systematically to ensure speeding-up of procedures and improvements in service culture.

In 2008, the second stage of the project focusing on the implementation of a risk management system and a system of criminal analysis continued. EUBAM provided significant help in developing risk management units in the border guard detachments on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border.

The service has continued its planned work on developing a single information system. This is a modern telecommunication network that includes automated work station complexes, integrated information systems, and a protected centralised database.

Development of border control detachments, based on an EU model, has been completed. A four-tier management system was established instead of five, allowing a reduction in the number of border control units from 488 to 165. Thirty five of these are located along the Transnistrian segment of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border.

In the framework of the EC and the US State Department's technical assistance project "Reinforcing the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine's Human Resource Management System", and with EUBAM's assistance, the border guard service significantly improved its standards of selection, training, and promotion of personnel. In this regard several actions should be indicated:

- three-month training courses for contracted officers to obtain a master's level were developed;
- three-month training courses in English language at the National Academy of Border Guard were organised;
- a staff training centre was established;
- a government regulation on service in the state border guard was developed;
- with EUBAM's support, the project to develop a training centre at Kotovsk Border Guard Detachment was initiated. The centre will provide vocational training to various categories of personnel.

In the framework of the project "Strengthening the Border Management on the Ukrainian-Moldovan Border", sponsored by the US Government, an optical electronic surveillance system was installed in the Kuchurhan area of the border.

In response to EUBAM's recommendations, a tighter control at sea ports was introduced. Based on risk analysis, a subdivision to counteract drug smuggling was established in the border guard detachments, responsible for maritime border control.

Army-general Mykola Lytvyn

Chairman of the State Border Guard Service

The State Customs Service of Ukraine



In 2008 the State Customs Service of Ukraine continued to focus on the improvement of control procedures at the border crossing points on the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border. In particular, we focused on enhancing the functioning of BCPs, and the facilitation of passenger and cargo flow across the border.

To further improve the work of customs on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border, we reorganised our administrative structure. In 2008 the Kuchurgan Customs House was closed

down, and the Dnistrovska Customs House was opened. In addition, changes were introduced in the areas of responsibilities of Kelmenets and Yagorlyk Customs Houses.

Special attention was devoted to the improvement of infrastructure and to equipping border crossing points with modern technical means of control.

On 19 September 2008 new border and customs control procedures were introduced at the road BCPs. These procedures, which fully comply with European standards, help to avoid duplication of functions that are applied by several controlling agencies. In particular, they provide a clear distribution of tasks between border guard and customs agencies during border control procedures.

With the support of EUBAM, the system of exchange of pre-arrival information has been introduced between the Moldovan and the Ukrainian customs services. It greatly improved the monitoring of goods and vehicles crossing the Ukrainian-Moldovan border and the prevention of illegal movement.

The customs services of Ukraine and Moldova started a pilot project focused on the improvement of joint control at the Rososhany-Briceni BCP. The goal of the project is to optimize border crossing procedures by delegating certain functions to representatives of the controlling agencies of the neighbouring country. It is envisaged that in future the border checking procedures will only be conducted in the country of destination.

In the implementation of these tasks, the customs service is

looking forward to further cooperation on methodological and technical development with the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine.

Anatoliy Makarenko

Chairman of the State Customs Service

Assessment of EUBAM in 2008

The Mission has a clear objective to ensure that the advice and support that it provides are relevant, accurate and address the priorities and needs of our partners. It has therefore actively and continuously sought feedback and assurance from the partner services, as well as other national partner services, and international stakeholders, that this objective is being achieved.

As a part of this commitment, EUBAM conducted in May 2008 a transactional satisfaction survey to obtain feedback on its performance. The majority of the questionnaires were sent to members of the border guard and customs services at central and regional levels. Additionally, questionnaires were sent to other national and international partners. The questionnaire contained five blocks of questions relating to the work of EUBAM, and its perceived quality and impact. 65 responses were received, and the results were very encouraging. The average degree of satisfaction with EUBAM expressed by the partner services in Moldova and Ukraine was 82 per cent and for the international partners was 86 per cent.

The work of EUBAM was also evaluated as part of a report by the European Court of Auditors, examining the effectiveness of EU support in the area of freedom, security and justice in Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. The Mission came in for particular praise in this report wherein it was stated that "the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova had contributed greatly to building capacity in the Moldovan and Ukrainian border guard and custom services."



3. Overview of the Mission



The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine was launched on 30 November 2005 at the joint request of the Presidents of Moldova and Ukraine. The Mission was tasked with assisting in the enhancement of border management and border control capacities in line with EU standards, and providing technical input in the settlement process of the Transnistrian conflict. The key partners of the Mission are the border guard and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine.

Over 200 staff members of the Mission work along the 1222 km of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. This includes 120 customs and border guard experts from 22 EU Member States; 110 staff from Moldova and Ukraine; and three representatives of Georgia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in the UNDP contingent. According to an internal staff satisfaction survey conducted during the year, EUBAM's multi-national team is highly satisfied with working and living conditions. The Mission's experts are located in three field offices in Moldova (Basarabeasca, Chisinau, and Otaci) and three in Ukraine (Kotovsk, Kuchurhan, and Odesa Port). The Mission has its headquarters in Odesa, in southern Ukraine.

EUBAM's mandate is outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Moldova, Ukraine and the European Commission, and tasks the Mission to assist the host countries in their common efforts to facilitate trade and the free movement of people, whilst at the same time increase border security. The Memorandum of Understanding is the basis for its partnerships, providing EUBAM with the opportunity to offer practical advice to the relevant authorities on issues

related to border, customs and fiscal matters. Additionally, the Mission is able to enhance the professionalism of the partner services by mentoring their actions and supporting their development towards EU best practice.

All the Mission's activities are guided by its core values of service, results, neutrality, reliability and transparency.

Under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the European Commission (EC) provided a budget of EUR 12 million to fund the Mission in the period from December 2007 to November 2008. Additionally, 22 EU Member States also provide direct contributions by funding the secondment to the Mission of border professionals from their national services.



4. EUBAM Advisory Board



In 2008 the EUBAM governance body, the Advisory Board, met three times to review progress, to evaluate cooperation between the Mission and the partner services, and to offer advice for improving the work of the Mission. The Advisory Board is composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border guard services, the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the EU Special Representative for Moldova (EUSR), the EU Presidency, as well as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Several institutions have observer status: the Ministries of Internal Affairs and the Ministries of Justice of both countries, the Information and Security Service of Moldova (ISS), the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU), the General Prosecutors Offices of both countries, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The Ninth Advisory Board Meeting convened on 11 March 2008 and took note of the Annual Report of EUBAM for 2007, which highlighted the excellent cooperation between the Mission and its partners, and the Activity Report for January-February 2008. The Ukrainian and Moldovan representatives informed the Advisory Board about their priorities in 2008 and provided an update on efforts to demarcate their common border. The Mission was invited as an observer to the demarcation process. It was agreed that the BOMMOLUK project sub-component on information exchange between the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs services had been successfully completed.

The Tenth Advisory Board Meeting took place on 27 June 2008 and took note of the Activity Report for March-May 2008. Amongst other issues the Board discussed the results of the Joint Border Control Operation, FOCUS 2, and welcomed the continued high level of detection of border violations by partner services. At the same time, the Board

highlighted the critical challenge of fighting smuggling activities and illegal migration along the common border. The Advisory Board welcomed the active exchange of pre-arrival information between the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs, and encouraged both services to use the system more effectively with a view to better preventing and detecting customs fraud. In addition, the Board commended the continued implementation of the Joint Declaration between Moldova and Ukraine. Further, the Advisory Board highlighted the evident challenge of tackling corruption in both countries and expressed its support for enhanced anti-corruption measures. Finally, it took note of Ukraine's and Moldova's report on the latest efforts to demarcate the common border, and the technical expertise provided by the Mission.

The Eleventh Advisory Board Meeting took place on 14 October. This was the first time the meeting was held in Chisinau. The Board endorsed the EUBAM Phase 6 Action Plan, and welcomed a review on the implementation of the EUBAM recommendations from May 2006. It encouraged the partner services to continue their efforts in fighting corruption and improving risk analysis. The Board took note of the EUBAM Activity Report for June-September and of the evaluation report of the 5th Joint Border Control Operation, FOCUS 2. It commended the joint work of all border services and law enforcement agencies involved in the operation, and encouraged the services to develop a plan for joint operations in 2009, with particular focus on conducting intelligence led operations.



5. Cooperation with the EU Special Representative for Moldova

The Mission continued cooperation and coordination of efforts with the EU Special Representative for Moldova Dr. Kalman Mizsei, and his political advisors. The Head of Mission, as the Senior Advisor to the EUSR, fulfilled the delegated tasks, and ensured that EUBAM and the EUSR's team complemented and reinforced each other. Regular meetings, consultations and exchange of information took place throughout the year, including a visit by the EUSR to EUBAM. In order to support EUSR's efforts, EUBAM developed several analysis reports. Similarly, the EUSR's team continuously ensured effective political support to EUBAM.



6. Progress towards expected results

EUBAM Action Plan in 2008

EUBAM objectives for 2008 were set out in the Description of the Action and approved by the European Commission. Subsequently, the Phase 5 Action Plan was endorsed by



the Advisory Board at its 7th meeting on 26 September 2007. All partners were kept informed of the progress of the Action Plan as a whole and of certain specific items, through monthly, quarterly and special reports.

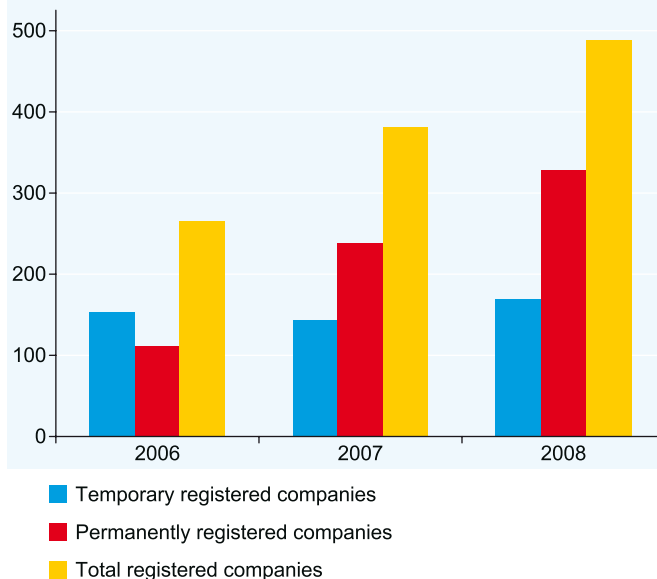
The Phase 5 Action Plan focused on the implementation of the Joint Declaration, capacity building, risk analysis, cross-border cooperation, analytical overview of border security, anti-corruption, and public communication. During the implementation period, a specific objective regarding border demarcation was added to the Action Plan in order to support the efforts of the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities.

Implementation of the Joint Declaration / access to trade preferences

The implementation of the Joint Declaration by the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs services has improved oversight of foreign trade activities in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. It has also facilitated the granting of trade preferences, enabling lower tariffs or duty-free access to goods exported from Moldova and coming from its 'TN' region. In order to benefit from the trade preferences, 'TN' companies increasingly cleared their goods with the Customs Service of Moldova (MDCS), which resulted in a significant increase of exports measured by value. By the end of 2008, 498 companies from the Transnistrian region of Moldova had registered with the State Register Chamber of Moldova in order to enjoy these preferences.

The Mission monitored and contributed to the implementation of the Joint Declaration and provided advice to the implementing partners. Additionally, the MDCS was assisted in applying procedures for customs clearance of goods imported and exported by 'TN' companies, as well as in verifying the origin of goods, in accordance with the international obligations of Moldova. As a result, the current system ensures an equal access to the preferential trade regimes for all registered 'TN' companies.

'TN' companies registered in Moldova



In last quarter of 2008, EUBAM developed a technical proposal to improve the existing customs regime including the import clearance of goods destined for 'TN'. This



proposal has been endorsed by the EC and the EUSR. On the initiative of the EUSR, a joint expert group was established to deal with the resumption of railway traffic through the 'TN' region of the Republic of Moldova. The expert group, consisting of the EC and EUSR representatives, conducted two meetings with the Moldovan and 'TN' railway authorities. Reflecting the customs implications, EUBAM was requested to be present at the consultations.

Professional capacity of border, customs and law enforcement officials

In 2008 Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies continued to improve the quality of their services with regard to the clearance of passengers and cargo. The development plans of the border guard and customs services in both countries demonstrate a clear vision for the



future. However, its realisation will have financial implications, and will require further change in institutional culture.

EUBAM provided two seconded experts to assist the Moldovan border guard and customs services in the development of middle management reform. Furthermore, two EUBAM short term experts worked with the Border Guard Service of Moldova (MDBGS), the MDCS and the State Customs Service of Ukraine (UASCS) to assist senior managers of these three services in strengthening strategic management and planning, change management, decision making, and internal communication.

Training

To facilitate long term and sustainable change in border management, EUBAM delivered a comprehensive training programme to the partner services. The essential elements of this programme were:

- On the job training using transfer of skills
- Formal training
- Study tours

All aspects of the programme were managed by the Training and Standards Coordinators and their team, based in EUBAM HQ, who had responsibility for ensuring that the overall programme addressed identified training needs and priorities, and achieved high standards of delivery.

In total, EUBAM allocated EUR 600,000 for providing external experts, organising seminars, covering travel and

accommodation expenses, and developing training materials. 1,299 representatives of Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities participated in the EUBAM training events in 2008. More detailed information on the major formal training events is provided at Annex 2.

On-the-job training

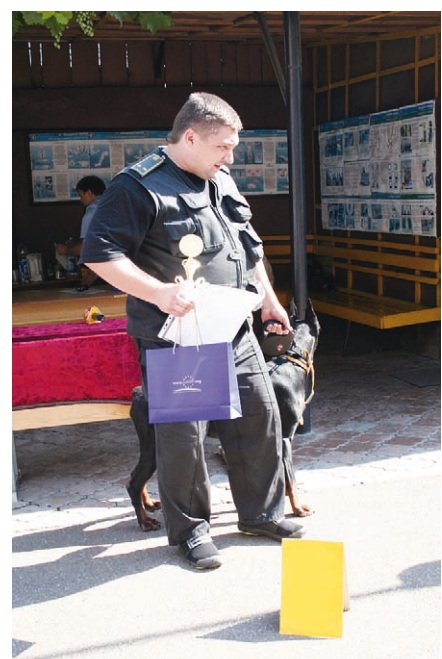
This training activity, conducted on a day to day basis and undertaken at the workplace, is designed to harmonise the skills and knowledge of border guard and customs officers with EU standards. EUBAM experts, deployed at the Field Offices, assisted and gave advice on how to improve border control. Providing continuous transfer of skills to partners, which is particularly relevant to local needs, has constituted a large part of the Mission's work in the field. Sessions have often yielded immediate practical results, and have improved the quality of services provided to the public and trade.

Formal training

Formal training was provided at both local and central levels, usually organised as classroom training events.

Locally, EUBAM experts from Field Offices delivered seminars, addressing the immediate training needs of the partner services. Apart from other benefits, training implemented in the working environment with familiar equipment and trainers helped to build trust and develop mutual cooperation. The training agreed and provided locally covered document examination; drug awareness; risk profiling and selectivity; initial questioning; documentary examination; revenue awareness; stolen vehicle identification; ship and vehicle search; and use of equipment. Altogether 758 border guards and customs officers took part in formal training events at local level.

Centrally, EUBAM developed and delivered courses on a variety of different topics including: combating car trafficking, anti-corruption, public relations, detecting falsified documents, combating organized crime, i2 analytical software for risk analysis, customs valuation, rules of origin, trade facilitation, EU best practices in port control, senior management seminars, trafficking in human beings, intelligence gathering, and building of risk profiles. EUBAM provided ten recognised EU experts in their field in order to implement the 2008 training plan, and to provide



consulting on various topics. In total 541 representatives of law enforcement agencies of the two countries participated in EUBAM training at central level.

Study tours

Three study tours were undertaken with a total of 24 participants. One group visited the UK to observe best practice in risk management. Here they learnt about recent innovations, which could be adopted by their services. Another study tour dedicated to public relations, took participants to Finland. In order to promote a multi-agency approach to combating organised crime, EUBAM conducted seminars in Moldova and Ukraine. A study tour to Poland for seven Ukrainian agencies was organised, enabling participants to observe how large scale organised crime is tackled in Poland.

Enhanced capacity in the fight against cross border crime

The EUBAM Investigation Advisory Unit helped law enforcement agencies to adopt EU practice in conducting criminal investigations, as well as fostering international and inter-agency cooperation. Altogether, 34 criminal investigations were supported with advice, recommendations, facilitation of operational meetings, information exchange, and financial assistance. As a result, cooperation between Moldovan, Ukrainian, the EU, and agencies of the EU Member States has been developed and improved. During the year, EUBAM observed promising results in the area of law enforcement. Furthermore, the prompt reaction by both customs and border guard services, acting upon EUBAM recommendations, has secured several million Euros to the state budgets. Annex 3 provides examples of EUBAM's activity in this area.

Advice on legislation

EUBAM continued to provide assistance and advice in identifying legal gaps and improving existing legislation in the area of border management. In Ukraine, the Head of Mission took part in the Annual Evaluation meeting of the Collegium of the UASCS on 8 February 2008, with the participation of President Victor Yushchenko. The President invited EUBAM to forward suggestions on how to improve the work of the UASCS. The Mission's proposals were submitted and were welcomed.

Elsewhere, EUBAM also advised on several legislative initiatives, which included the Ukrainian Decree No



1030/2008 "On Fighting Smuggling and Violations of Customs Regulations and Coordination of Activities in this Sphere", the White Paper "Development of the Border Crossing System of Persons and Means of Transport", the Ukrainian Bank Regulation 148/2008 "Threshold for Currency Declaration at the Ukrainian Border", the Law "On Border Control Procedures", the Joint Decree of the UASCS and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) "On Approval of the Procedures of Border and Customs Control at the Auto Crossing Points through the State Border".

The pilot project on developing the control system in the BCP Platonove serves as a practical example of EUBAM's engagement in reviewing the existing procedures set by Ukrainian legislation, with regard to border management. In order to further improve control measures at BCPs, a joint working group of border guard, customs and Mission experts reviewed procedures, and recommended adjustment to the current practice.

Following the introduction of the Border Guard Law in Moldova in 2007, structural reorganisation of the MDBGS was implemented in 2008 resulting in decentralisation within the service. EUBAM was actively involved in providing assistance and advice, firstly on the revision, and secondly on the implementation of the Law.

Also in Moldova, the latest amendments of Law 1569-XV of 2 December 2002, which came into force on 4 July 2008, terminated vast imports of consumer goods from Ukraine by natural persons. This closed a legal loophole, which had been identified by the Mission in its reports addressed to the MDCS.

Additionally, the MDCS initiated a pilot project to test the implementation of the "Single Window" system due to start on 1 January 2009. The introduction of the system was supplemented by a launch of the integrated information system "FRONTIERA", which ensures automated recording of border crossings by vehicles, collection of road and ecology tax, and all controls performed by auxiliary services (e.g. veterinary, phytosanitary). The steps were strongly supported by the Mission.

Risk analysis capacity

Risk analysis in border management means targeting resources based on existing knowledge and operational information against known threats. It is designed to result in the faster clearance of passengers, vehicles and freight and in a more effective targeting of cross-border violations and offenders. The end result is less inconvenience and delay to legitimate travellers and trade, and improvements in the detection of offences and violations.

All four partner services made further improvements in the area of risk analysis and invested in the introduction of up to date risk analysis structures. EUBAM assisted this development by providing service tailored risk profiles, reports that helped to identify main criminal routes and modi operandi, and by identifying trends and phenomena related to illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, vehicle trafficking, meat and cigarette smuggling, and customs fraud. However, it is still necessary to provide training and enhance awareness, in order to fully realise the benefits of risk analysis systems and selective controls.

Moldova

In 2008 the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova established regional risk analysis units and finalised the recruitment and selection process of the staff. At the central level, the service elaborated regular risk assessment reports, risk forecasts, and risk profiles. The service developed an intelligence database and renewed the information gathering process in line with EU best practice. The central risk analysis unit started using i2



analytical software, provided by EUBAM, and supported investigation units with analytical and intelligence guidance. In addition, the risk analysis concept was elaborated to provide an outline of the system and its management, in compliance with EU best practice. The



EUBAM Risk Analysis Advisor for the MDBGS assisted in improving the quality of risk analysis products, e.g. monthly situation reports and forecasts; annual and bi-annual evaluation reports; and designed and implemented special workshops. The advisor also assisted in improving bilateral and international cooperation on risk analysis.

The Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova in 2008 significantly reinforced the Risk Analysis Unit, which is responsible for developing risk indicators and for the production of risk profiles. The Information and Intelligence Unit was established to improve information gathering and search. The frequency of selective control at the borders, i.e. physical search of cargo or persons, has been reduced. Members of the Risk Analysis Unit have attended several seminars in Europe to increase their knowledge, and to raise the quality of the risk analysis capacity in the MDCS. The EUBAM Risk Analysis Advisor for the MDCS worked on a daily basis with the Risk Analysis Unit to improve the use of risk analysis, risk profiles and risk indicators.

Ukraine

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine continued its progress towards the development and implementation of risk analysis. Operational infrastructure is now complete with the analytical unit offices being equipped to modern standards. The UASBGS developed and introduced risk analysis into the curriculum at the Border Guard Academy. The service started work on identifying key threats and providing recommendations on managing these issues. The next stage is the implementation of EU compliant processes, particularly with regard to the use of risk profiling in support of selective control. During 2008, the EUBAM Risk Analysis Advisor for the UASBGS assisted in the provision of EU compliant forms and templates to help improve the quality of the data collected for analytical purposes.

The UASCS upgraded the national automated risk analysis system by monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of risk profiles. However, the application of risk-based selectivity needs to be further improved. Currently, the UASCS still examines almost every shipment as required by law and

their internal regulations. A draft Customs Code, however, envisages the application of selectivity in customs controls. During 2008 the EUBAM Risk Analysis Advisor for the UASCS focused on providing various risk profiles relating to cigarette smuggling from Ukraine to the EU, and facilitated international cooperation in investigating specific smuggling cases.

Cross-border cooperation between border, customs and law enforcement authorities

Reasonable progress has been observed on information exchange between the border guard services of Moldova and Ukraine. The annual cooperation plan of the Moldovan and Ukrainian border guard, and regular meetings of the heads of the two services, provided an effective framework for collaboration and information exchange.

Generally, international cooperation and information exchange was further enhanced, and particular improvement has been made in the development of joint operations and bilateral cooperation with border services of EU Member States, such as with the Hungarian Police, and Lithuanian and Latvian border guard services. The MDBGS signed a working agreement with FRONTEX. The agreement opened doors for exchange of information and analytical documents, and for participation in coordinated border operations with EU Member States.

Since April 2008, the Pre-arrival Information Exchange System (PAIES) between the customs services of Moldova and Ukraine has been fully operative and accessible at all



BCPs and inland customs posts in the Mission's area of responsibility. PAIES allows the exchange of import/export information between Moldova and Ukraine. It is a key element in fighting against customs fraud. EUBAM contributed to the PAIES implementation by providing software, the server, and training to users. In addition, an EUBAM short term expert assisted the customs services in running the system and confirmed its functionality. The overall cost of the venture was EUR 155,600. Subsequently, the Mission monitored the use of PAIES and

provided recommendations on its application. The results of the monitoring indicate that the system needs to be used more effectively by both customs services to enhance their control of goods crossing the border.

EUBAM facilitated and logistically supported the implementation of the Joint Border Control Operation, FOCUS 2, which aimed to enhance cooperation and intelligence sharing between the Moldovan and Ukrainian agencies, and with international law enforcement agencies. During the FOCUS 2 operation several migration channels and contraband cases were identified. The partner services successfully contributed to the



investigation of five major cases of illegal migration. During the operation Moldovan and Ukrainian services detected 293 cases of smuggling of goods at border crossing points and along the green border. The total value of goods seized during the operation amounted to more than EUR 1 million.

In order to decrease border crossing times by simplifying border control procedures, EUBAM supported several events aimed at the establishment of jointly operated BCPs (JBCPs). In March 2008 the Mission created a working group and assigned two short term experts to advise and assist the team. The EUBAM experts worked intensively with the partner services, and new working principles for future JBCPs were elaborated.

Since March 2008, the Deputy Head of Mission has participated as an observer in the meetings of the Joint Ukrainian-Moldovan Demarcation Commission offering EUBAM's assistance and advice to the partners. At a Trilateral Meeting on border issues, held in Brussels on 18 December 2008, the parties agreed to develop terms of reference for an EU short term expert to assist the commission. This will be accomplished in 2009.

Analytical overview on border security and cross-border movement of goods and persons

Both Moldova and Ukraine showed increasing commitment towards European integration, including closer cooperation with EU law enforcement agencies. The EU enlargement experience indicates that this process requires legal and technical harmonization of border management, as well as confidence building with European partners through closer international cooperation.



EUBAM has supported the development of the Common Border Security Assessment Report (CBSAR), and has ensured financial and technical support for the implementation and continuous improvement of the

document. 12 such reports were produced in 2008 with EUBAM's assistance. These reports are an important tool for assessing risks at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. Based on monthly CBSARs, EUBAM developed quarterly overviews of the security situation on the Moldova-Ukraine border. These contained recommendations on strategic and operational planning. More detailed information about the security situation at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border is contained in Annex 1.

Based on trend analysis of the quarterly CBSAR, EUBAM was able to alert the partner services about possible illegal activity and emerging trends. The EUBAM assessment in 2008 suggested that trafficking of hard drugs could be flowing through Moldova and Ukraine, although seizures had been scarce. In March a seizure was made in Moldova of 200 kg of heroin from Afghanistan with a street value of EUR 10 million. EUBAM indicated a drug trafficking route using ports in Ukraine and transiting Moldova to the EU. Several seizures of drugs in Odesa Commercial Sea Port supported these indications. A particular example was the detection of 39.6 kg of cocaine with a street value of EUR 7.92 million that was detected in February 2008 in a container from Costa Rica.

EUBAM also assisted the daily operational work of the partner services by delivering reports and analysis that helped identify criminal routes, hot spots, trends and phenomena related to illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, vehicle trafficking, and meat and cigarette smuggling.

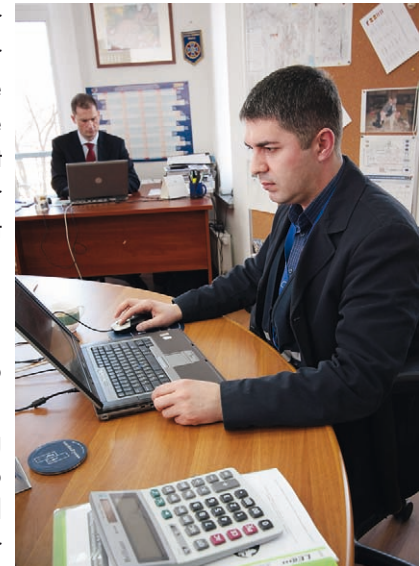
In addition, training on the i2 Analyst's Notebook was delivered in order to improve analytical work. The i2

products help to visualise and analyse large amounts of complex data, and they are used to support individual investigations as well as wider intelligence collection and analysis.

Anti-corruption measures at operational and tactical level

EUBAM observed political commitment to decrease corruption in both countries. Several public statements from the two Presidents as well as ministers and politicians were followed by legislative initiatives. Both states continued developing anti-corruption strategies, established institutions, and introduced measures in order to prevent and repress the phenomenon.

All partner services have introduced measures to reduce corruption. These have included service delivery surveys in order to gauge the amount of perceived corruption at the border. Strict regulations have also been introduced for personnel working at border crossing points; and they have received a considerable amount of training and support from EUBAM and other international development programmes.



EUBAM provided a short term anti-corruption expert who focused on a practical approach to tackling corruption. In addition to working with the Ukrainian and Moldovan customs and border guard services, he had a number of meetings with the Centre for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption, reflecting its critical role and responsibilities in the fight against corruption in both services of Moldova. As part of his work, training and seminars were provided to personnel of the partner services on developing statistical risk assessment capability; improving capacity to detect and investigate cases of serious misconduct and corruption; and developing intelligence gathering capacity.

The Mission continued to provide further practical assistance to counter corruption including training, on-the-job advice, mentoring, and establishing EUBAM focal points in each Field Office.

All these efforts, however, require coordination within the respective services and amongst all national institutions and agencies. EUBAM assisted the Moldovan and

Ukrainian agencies to identify corruption cases, and submitted recommendations on how to improve investigation and prosecution of such cases. There is room for significant improvement in this area, in order to create effective deterrence against corruption and impose legal consequences for corrupt officials.

EUBAM public relations

In 2008 EUBAM continued proactive communication with its main contacts: citizens of Moldova and Ukraine, partner services, EU institutions and citizens of the EU Member States. In doing so the Mission focused on media relations both local and international as well as on community relations. In the framework of the media communication, EUBAM conducted 10 press conferences and facilitated 20 media visits to the EUBAM HQ in Odesa and Field Offices. As a result, the work of the Mission was reported in more than 150 articles. Throughout the year EUBAM continued to enjoy great media interest in Moldova and Ukraine. Internationally, several media outlets such as BBC World (UK), Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany), Austria Presse Agentur, France 24, Visao Portuguese, Mega TV (Greece), MTV (Hungary), and the Economist (UK) reported on the work of the partner services and EUBAM.

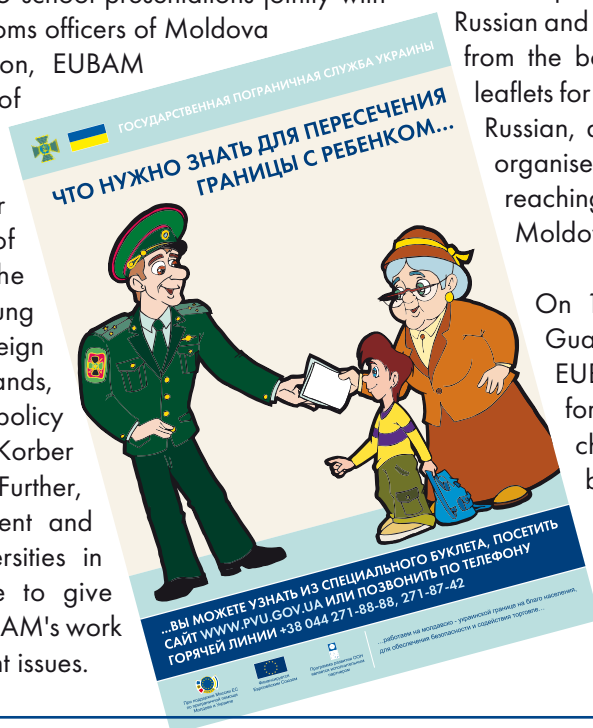
EUBAM community relations focused on building trusting relations with the local population in the Mission's area of responsibility. EUBAM experts from Field Offices conducted more than 25 school presentations jointly with border guards and customs officers of Moldova and Ukraine. In addition, EUBAM hosted three visits of students from Ukraine and Moldova and organised briefings for the Association of Political Science of the University of Leiden, young diplomats from the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, and a group of foreign policy professionals from the Korber Foundation (Germany). Further, the EUBAM management and experts attended universities in Moldova and Ukraine to give presentations about EUBAM's work and border management issues.



Public relations capabilities of partner services

Effective border management depends on many factors, including public communication, which ensures that passengers and businesses receive sufficient and understandable information about border crossing rules. In order to increase the effectiveness of the partners in public communication, EUBAM worked in two directions. Firstly, EUBAM offered a training programme to public information professionals consisting of three seminars and a study visit to Finland. Secondly, EUBAM was an initiator and facilitator of several joint public information activities. For example, every month the partner services and EUBAM produced a joint information newsletter in Russian and English to inform travellers of the latest news from the border. Further, border agencies produced leaflets for travellers in the state language of Moldova, Russian, and Ukrainian. Finally, the partner services organised information stands during Europe Day reaching directly up to 2500 people in Ukraine and Moldova.

On 12 December in Odesa the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, with the assistance of EUBAM, launched an information campaign for families planning to travel abroad with children. The information campaign included booklets, posters, a hot-line, and Internet posting of information materials aiming to inform travellers about rules of crossing the border with children.



7. Supporting projects

A significant part of cooperation between the EUBAM and its partner services is the provision of technical support within the framework of an EC-financed project called BOMMOLUK (Improvement of Border Controls at the Moldovan-Ukrainian State Border). The EUBAM's role is to provide its expertise and actively participate in the organisation and implementation of the BOMMOLUK project.

The specific objective of the BOMMOLUK project was to build up appropriate operational and institutional capacity in Moldova and Ukraine to ensure effective border and customs controls and surveillance, with particular attention to the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border. The BOMMOLUK project was divided into three parts.

The BOMMOLUK 1 project, which was implemented in 2006-2008, consisted of three components:

- Development of risk analysis systems in the border guard and customs services;
- Development of a joint training course for staff deployed at the joint border crossing points of Moldova and Ukraine;
- Procurement of equipment for the border guard and customs services.

The BOMMOLUK 1 project, with funding of EUR 3.3 million, was successfully completed at the beginning of 2008 with the provision of additional computers, i2 software and five 4x4 multifunction mini-vans for the partner services.

The implementation of the BOMMOLUK 2 was conducted by the EC Delegation in Ukraine with EUBAM's assistance. EUR 8.2 million was committed in 2008 to purchasing equipment, e.g. mobile x-ray scanners, thermo imaging binoculars and systems, and biometric passport readers, to increase the operational capacity of the partner services. In addition funds were committed to establishing a regional

training centre at Kotovsk for the UASBGS. The remaining funds will be committed in 2009. The total investment in the border security of Moldova and Ukraine within BOMMOLUK 2 will reach EUR 9.77 million.

Within the framework of BOMMOLUK 3 for Ukraine, EUR 5 million will be provided to the UASCS and the UASBGS for the implementation of selected needs identified in the EUBAM's review of the Needs Assessment and Recommendations Report 2008. At the beginning of 2009 EUBAM will start discussions with the two services to identify and evaluate their priority needs.



In parallel with the BOMMOLUK projects, the EC Delegation to Moldova committed EUR 31 million to develop a radio-telecommunication system for the MDBGS.



8. Cooperation with stakeholders in Moldova, Ukraine and the European Union

Moldova and Ukraine

The Mission continued to work closely with Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities and enjoyed a high level of political support from both countries.

In Moldova, the Head of Mission had regular meetings with the heads of the customs and border guard services. At the meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova Ms Zinaida Greciani, the HoM discussed the Mission's assistance in the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict. The Prime Minister confirmed strong commitment to deepening cooperation with EUBAM, and reaffirmed that all conditions for effective cooperation would be provided to the Mission. The Head of Mission had consultations about EUBAM's work with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Minister for Reintegration, the Minister of Interior, the Head of ISS and members of the Moldovan Parliamentary Commissions.



Similarly, in Ukraine the Head of Mission had regular meetings with the heads of border guard and customs services, and discussed border issues with the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Interior, members of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committees, the Head of the Ukrainian Security Service, and the First Deputy General Prosecutor. EUBAM also participated in the annual donor coordination meeting in Kyiv in order to align its efforts, and to harmonise with other border related projects in Ukraine.

The Mission cooperated with its implementing partner UNDP in both Ukraine and Moldova.

The European Union

The Head of Mission provided regular briefings to EU Ambassadors in Chisinau and Kyiv, as well as to various institutions in Brussels, including the Political and Security Committee (PSC), the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM), the Directorate-General for External Relations (DG RELEX), the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE), the Customs Union Directorate-General (DG TAXUD), and EuropeAid. The Head of Mission also met with the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Ms Benita

Ferrero-Waldner and reported on the work of EUBAM.

The 7th Trilateral Meeting on border-related issues organised by the European Commission with the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took place on 18 December 2008 in Brussels. The meeting focused on issues related to border security on the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border; implementation of the Customs Regime; exchange of pre-arrival customs information between Moldova and Ukraine; border demarcation; prevention of and fight against corruption; and jointly operated border crossing points.

Visits to EUBAM

EUBAM was visited by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Chairman in Office of the OSCE, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Director of the European Police Office (EUROPOL). Delegations from the European Parliament,

the European Commission, and the United Nations Development Programme met with EUBAM representatives. The Head of the European Commission's Directorate for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia was familiarised with the Mission's activity and cooperation at the HQ in Odesa and the Field Offices in Kuchurhan and Chisinau.

In addition, the Mission hosted several officials from the border services of EU Member States, and representatives of FRONTEX, and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Centre for Combating Trans-Border Crime (SECI Centre).

Further, Ambassadors from several EU Member States in Moldova visited EUBAM and met with the senior management of the Mission and visited Field Offices.

Participation in international forums

The Head of Mission addressed the 716th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna; participated in the XVIII Economic Forum in Krynica (Poland), the Wilton Park Conference "Moldova: Moving Ahead" (UK), and the 7th Congress on Security and Defence in Berlin.

9. Looking ahead - EUBAM Phase 6 Action Plan

On 14 October 2008 the 11th meeting the Advisory Board endorsed the Phase 6 Action Plan for 2009. According to the plan, EUBAM will focus on eight specific objectives, which follow upon the objectives of the previous five phases. The plan aims at promoting EU standards and practice within the partner services of Moldova and Ukraine. In particular, EUBAM will work in the following areas:

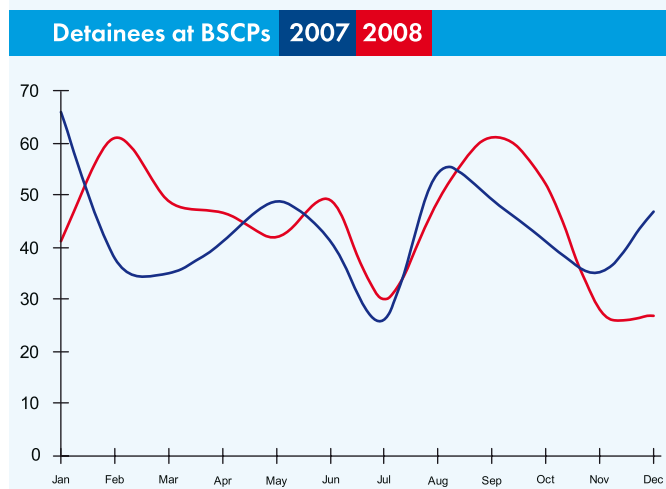
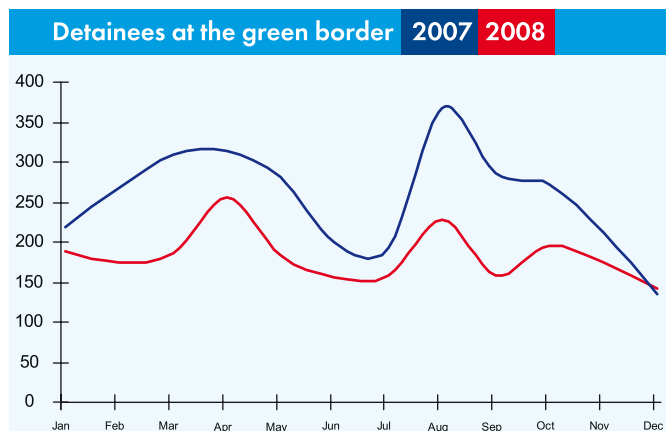
- Enhancing the effectiveness of border guard and customs control at border crossing points, the green and blue border between Moldova and Ukraine; and on the internal boundary line in Moldova.
- Building capacity and knowledge of EU standards and best practice.
- Improving enforcement measures and focusing on prevention of crime, and on developing criminal investigation at international level.
- Enhancing customs revenue and evaluating all aspects of customs clearance at inland locations. Improving the use of the Pre-arrival Information Exchange System.
- Supporting anti-corruption efforts at operational and tactical level.
- Developing integrated border management by further improving interagency cooperation on a national and bilateral basis.
- Contributing to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict through monitoring the implementation of the Joint Declaration and making recommendations; by providing technical assistance in border demarcation; and cooperating with the EUSR.
- Enhancing public awareness of border management and security.



...working in Moldova and Ukraine to develop European standards of border management on their common border to benefit people, security and trade...

Annex 1: Security Situation at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border

Statistical data on border security is provided by the border guard, customs and other law enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine within the framework of the Common Border Security Assessment Report.

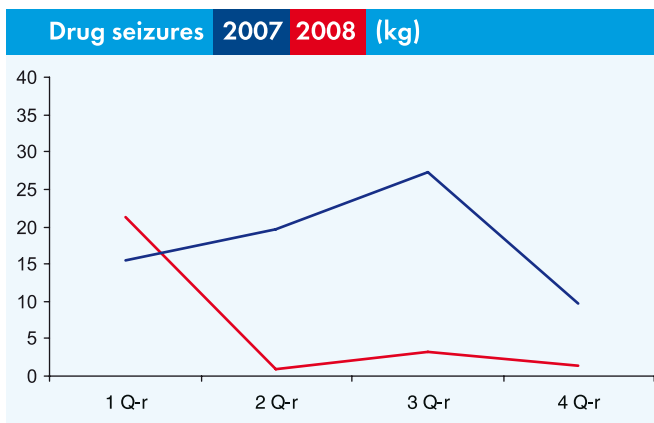


Illegal border crossings

There was a 30% decrease in the number of persons detained trying to illegally cross the Moldovan-Ukrainian green border in 2008, compared with 2007. At the BCPs there was an increase of 3% in the number of detections of persons using false or falsified documents, or using invalid or other people's documents.

Drug seizures

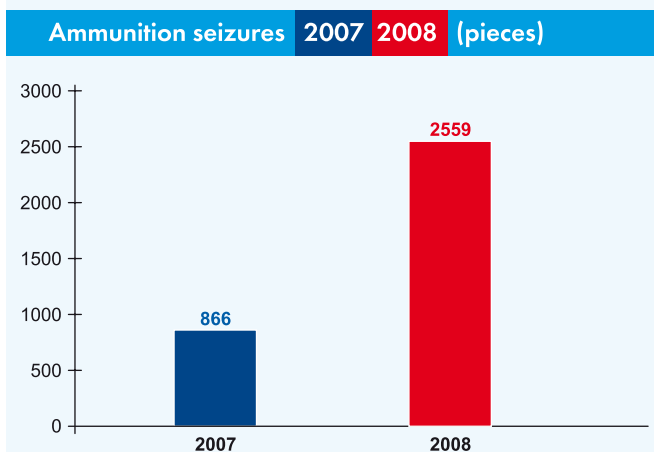
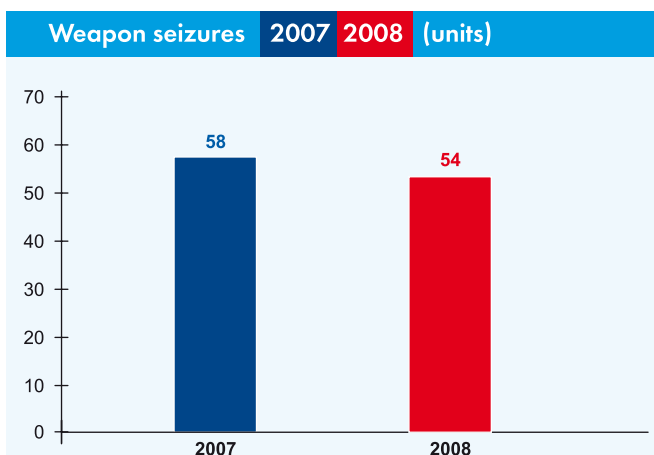
Two seizures of heroin, in quantities of 162 kg and 105 kg were made in 2007 at Ilichevsk Port, and a heroin seizure of 200 kg was made in Chisinau in March 2008. They represent the largest drug detections in the region in more than five years. These seizures, along with cocaine in Odesa port of 39.6 kg and another of cocaine in Chisinau of 5.9 kg, both in February 2008, provide strong indications of a smuggling route that uses the Southern Ukrainian ports to then transit Moldova and enter the EU. The improved use of strategic and tactical risk analysis, international cooperation, and information exchange that



was recommended and provided by EUBAM, will continue to support law enforcement actions in this regard. The diagram is based on the figures relating to the common Moldovan-Ukrainian border; and therefore does not include the seizures mentioned above.

Seizures of weapons and ammunition

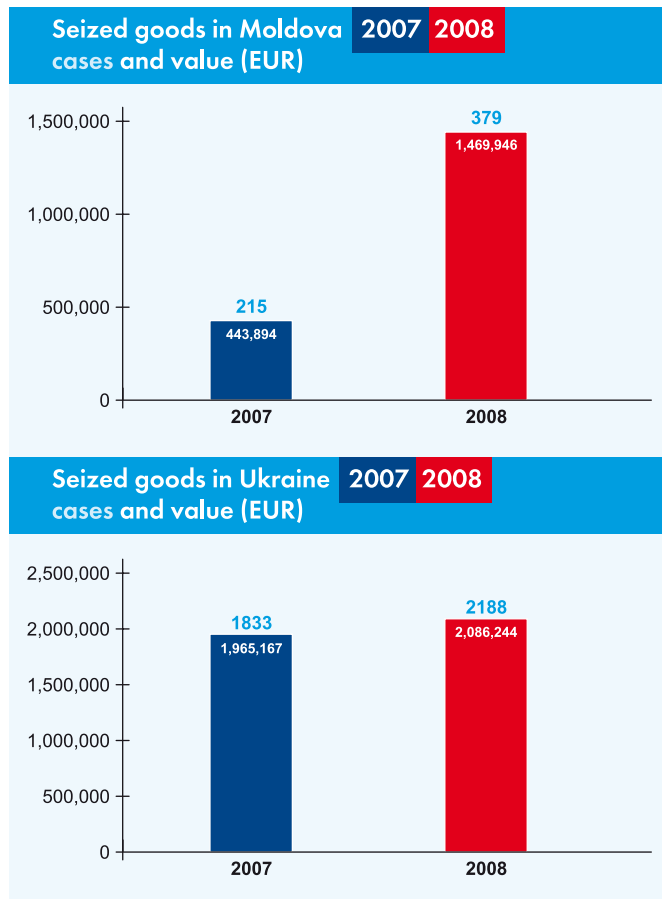
Isolated cases of hunting and pneumatic weapons were detected, but there were no signs of organised trafficking. In 2008 there was a significant increase in detections of



ammunition, showing an 195% increase on 2007, based upon the number of pieces detected.

Seizures of goods

In 2008, there were 2,567 cases in which the attempted smuggling of goods was detected by Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities at the border. These goods had a total value of EUR 3.56 million. This represents a substantial increase in comparison to 2007, when 2,048 cases were detected amounting to EUR 2.41 million. It is considered that the increase in detections is a reflection of more effective use of risk analysis and selective control, as advocated and assisted by EUBAM.



Annex 2: EUBAM major formal training events in the Phase 5

Subject	Type	Partners services	Date	Notes
Trafficking in Human Beings	Training Event 1,5 day	MD and UA BG and Police officers, MD CU and SSU	December 2007	The training was organised in three phases. The sessions were led by EUBAM experts, IOM trainers and representatives of the NGOs.
Risk Analysis	Study tour to the UK	MD and UA CU	December 2007	To observe best practice in risk management and innovations in this area
Anti Corruption	Consultancy & Training 12 x 1 day	MD, UA CU and BG and other agencies	February- November	Delivered by the EUBAM STE on anti-corruption
Detection of Falsified Documents	Training Event 3 x 1 day	MD BG	March	Delivered by EUBAM expert, the programme focused on Romanian passports and ID cards, Latvian and Lithuanian travel documents and Italian residence cards
Public Relation	Training Event 3 x 2 days	MD and UA BG and CU	February, June, November	Delivered by EUBAM STE
Rules of Origin	Training Event 5 days	MD CU	June	Delivered by EUBAM STE
Rules of Origin	Training Event 5 days	UA CU	June	Delivered by EUBAM STE
Combating Organised Crime	Training Event 2 days	11 MD agencies	June	Delivered by EUBAM STE. The main aim was to promote a multi-agency approach to combating organised crime
Trade of Facilitation	Training Event 2 days	MD CU	June	Delivered by EUBAM STE
Trade of Facilitation	Training Event 2 days	UA CU	June	Delivered by EUBAM STE
Senior Management Advice	Training & Consultancy	MD and UA CU	July- November	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Assistance to the senior managers of the MDCS and the UASCS in developing and enhancing management capacity
Intelligence Gathering and Building of Risk Profiles	Training Event 8 x 1 day	UA BG	July, September	Delivered by EUBAM expert
Combating Organised Crime	Training Event 2 days	7 UA Agencies	August	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Focused on a multi-agency approach to combating organised crime
Joint BCP Development	Consultancy	MD and UA BG and CU	August - November	Delivered by two EUBAM STEs
Joint BCP Development	Meetings & Workshops	MD and UA BG and CU	August - November	Delivered by EUBAM experts
Public Relation	Study tour to Finland	MD and UA BG and CU	September	To observe best practices in public relations including external and internal communication

Subject	Type	Partners services	Date	Notes
Combating Car Trafficking	Training Event 2 days	MA and UA BG and Mol and CU	September	Delivered by EUBAM STE. The training focused on detection and deterrence of stolen cars in accordance with EU standards
Senior Management Advice	Consultancy	MD BG	October- November	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Assistance to senior managers of the MDBGS in strategic planning, change management, decision making and internal communication
Advice to the MDCS Training Centre	Consultancy	MD CU	October 2008	Implemented by EUBAM expert with training experience to provide assistance to the newly established Customs Training Centre in Chisinau
Customs Valuation	Training Event 4 days	MD and UA CU and EUBAM CU advisors	October	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Focused on the key principles governing international practice in customs valuation
i2 Analytical Software	Training Event 5 days	MD BG and CU	October	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Focused on tactical intelligence analysis using the i2 Analysis Notebook
Management Development	Training Event 5 days	MD CS	November	Training for two officers of the MDCS at the management course organised by the UASCS in Dnepropetrovsk
EU Best Practices in Ports	Training Event 1 day	MD BG and CU in Giurgiulesci Port	November	Delivered by EUBAM experts. Introduction to the working procedures, task sharing and responsibilities of those involved in EU commercial ports
i2 Analytical Software	Training Event 5 days	UA BG and CU	November	Delivered by EUBAM STE. Focused on tactical intelligence analysis using the i2 Analysis Notebook
Combating Organised Crimes	Study Tour to Poland	7 UA agencies	November	The study tour aimed to demonstrate strategies and tactics used to fight organised crime

Annex 3: EUBAM case studies on criminal investigations

1. Large scale cigarette smuggling from Ukraine to EU Member Countries

In 2008 EUBAM provided assistance to the SSU and the ISS in an intelligence-led operation against the smuggling of cigarettes from Ukraine to Moldova, destined for the EU market. The special operation resulted in a seizure of 5 million cigarettes. Investigations in Germany revealed that since March 2008 at least 44 containers had left the Odesa Commercial Sea Port with Germany as the final destination. Cigarettes, produced in Ukraine, were hidden in steel constructions and then transported in containers from Odesa via Haifa/Israel to Amsterdam/Netherlands and finally by trucks to Germany. After arrival at the warehouse the cigarettes were removed from the legitimate steel load, which was then returned to Ukraine for another smuggling run.

2. Illicit Drug Trafficking

EUBAM facilitated three operational meetings with partners following separate detections in February 2008 of 5.9 kg of cocaine in Chisinau and 39.6 kg in Odesa. It was suspected that the two seizures were linked, and meetings were arranged to help coordinate the separate investigations. Apart from EUBAM experts, the meetings included representatives from the Ministry of Interior of Moldova, the ISS, the SSU as well as representatives from the Ministry of Interior of Bulgaria, the US Drug Enforcement Administration, and EUROPOL. During the meetings each party provided their latest findings, and presented identified trends and the modi operandi related to drug trafficking.

3. Trafficking in human beings

EUBAM helped to identify a modus operandi in human trafficking from Moldova via the Moldovan-Ukrainian border to Odesa airport with Italy as the final destination, and also helped to facilitate international cooperation during the subsequent investigation. On 16 April 2008 during the 5th Joint Operation, FOCUS 2, the Moldovan Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTP) informed EUBAM that they had initiated an investigation against a criminal group organising illegal migration from Moldova to different EU countries. Perpetrators were providing their victims with false documents, including Italian working permits. The victims exited Moldova via the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and travelled to Odesa airport, from where they flew to Milan and Venice via Budapest and Warsaw. On 16 April 2008 EUBAM organised a meeting with the SSU and the CCTP in Odesa. A targeted operation was initiated. This resulted in the detention of two Moldovan citizens at the airports of Milan and Venice using false Italian work permits. In addition, two organisers and one illegal migrant were detained in Odesa.

4. Green cards

EUBAM experts assisted the Ministry of Interior of Moldova to investigate counterfeit green cards. Since the end of 2007, EUBAM monitored an increasing number of falsified Moldovan green card seizures at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. In order to assist our Moldovan partners in combating and preventing this type of crime, a number of meetings were organised by EUBAM with the relevant Moldovan authorities. A special report with recommendations was sent to the Moldovan General Prosecutor's Office, the border guard service and the police. Based on EUBAM's recommendations, the Ministry of Justice initiated changes in the legislation. In addition, the General Prosecutor's Office analysed cases of falsified green cards and issued specific instructions to the relevant law enforcement agencies on how to carry out future investigations.

5. Vehicle trafficking

In 2008 the traffic police in the Odesa region requested EUBAM's assistance in the verification of 194 vehicles. It was suspected that some of these vehicles had never been registered in Ukraine, but from the database records, they appeared to bear number plates legally belonging to other cars. There were, however, no records of the vehicles having crossed into Ukraine. The Mission received information from the Bavarian Regional Crime Office, LKA Munich, that 45 out of 194 vehicles were reported as having been stolen. The findings were forwarded to the Ukrainian partners for further investigation.

Annex 4: Abbreviations

AoR	Area of Responsibility
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BOMMOLUK	Project on Improving Border Controls on the MD/UA State Border
CBSAR	Common Border Security Assessment Report
CCECC	Centre for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
EUSR	European Union Special Representative for Moldova
FO	Field Office
FRONTEX	EU agency coordinating the operational cooperation between EU member states in the field of border security
MDBGS	Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova
MDCS	Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PAIES	Pre-Arrival Information Exchange System
SSU	Security Service of Ukraine
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISS	Information Security Service of Moldova
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SECI Centre	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Centre for Combating Trans-Border Crime
STE	Short-term expert
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
'TN'	Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova
UASBGS	State Border Guard Service of Ukraine
UASCS	State Customs Service of Ukraine



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

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