

Relationships between Republic of Moldova and the Republic Belarus (1991–2005)

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Political relationships. With the collapse of the USSR, at the end of 1991 on the political maps of the world 15 independent countries appeared. These countries set their development strategies according to their geopolitical situations. In this context post-socialist countries have taken a course of development, in large part, much too similar.

Young Moldavian state, forming part of the former Soviet Union, since the beginning of its formation, has followed international structures and initialised bilateral relationships with various countries of the world, especially those in the former Soviet Union.

In the “Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Moldova” adopted by the Moldovan Parliament on February 2, 1995, it has outlined that bilateral relationships with Belarus, Ukraine and Russian Federation are a priority, as determined by the particular historical development and the country’s geopolitical situation. “The nature of these relationships as specified in that document, will largely depend on political stability and success of political reforms, economic and cultural in our country” [1, c. 98].

Since 1991 the legal basis for multilateral cooperation between the former republics of soviet — the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has constituted. Thus, in 14 years (1991–2005) 1022 documents were adopted, including 376 by the Council of Heads of State and 646 by the Council of the Government Heads. From the total number of the adopted documents 864 (84,5%) came into force on the day of their signature and 158 (15,5%) require ratification or internal procedures [2, c. 4].

Republic of Moldova, as part of the CIS participating in activities within this structure, has signed several bilateral agreements, including with the Republic of Belarus.

Partnership relations in various fields have been established between Moldova and Belarus during the years 1991–2005, such as politics, economy and culture, which influenced the further development of these countries. Relationships have evolved steadily since November 19, 1992 [3], the day when the Establishment Protocol of diplomatic relationships between the two countries was signed, which was an opened door for a fruitful bilateral cooperation. Till the year 2005 between Moldova and Belarus over 70 bilateral agreements in various field between Moldova and Belarus s were signed.

Currently for both Republic of Moldova and Republic of Belarus the problem of integration into the European Union in the context of EU enlargement in Eastern Europe is required. For both countries the need for integration is undeniable, especially if take into account their common past, geographic proximity, similarities in the domestic policy pursued during the transition.

Moreover, after the declared independence, the relations between these not too distant past union republics have not diminished, but on the contrary, they have expanded. In the political field, in this period of over 14 years of collaboration, many bilateral agreements have been signed, among which we mention:

- Agreement on the establishment of friendly relationships and cooperation between Moldova and Belarus, signed on 19 November 1992, which serves as the foundation for relationships between the two countries. The document served as the impetus for the development of bilateral relations, invigorating them. Thus, under the common agreement the parties have agreed on the partnership principles, equality, respect for sovereignty and territorial integration, non-interference in the internal affairs, respecting the rights of the peoples to self – determination, promote mutual understanding and promoting the independent foreign policy, assuming the obligations stipulated International Law.

- During the official visit of the President of Belarus to Moldova A. G. Lukashenko (11–12 September 1995) [4, c. 2], when the Memorandum on guarantees of citizen's rights, including the youth, retired air links, conditions and order of the domicile change was signed.

- Treaty between the Republic of Belarus and Moldova on the long-term economic and commercial cooperation for the years 2000–2009, signed during the official visit of Moldovan President P. Lucinschi, in Belarus in June 2000 [5, c. 26].

- In August 2001 the Prime Minister of Moldova, V. Tarlev, held the official visit to the Belarus Republic. Visit aimed the further development of political relations, economic and trade between the two countries [6].

- Between 16 and 19 December 2001 the President of the Moldovan Parliament, E. Ostapchiuc, held the official to the Republic of Belarus, the partnership visit aimed at the developing of the two countries [7].

- Memorandum on partnership between the National Assembly of Belarus and the Parliament of Moldova was signed in January 2003, during the official visit to Moldova of Belarusian parliamentary delegation headed by A. Voitovich, Soviet Republican President of the National Assembly [8, c. 2].

- In February 2005, V. Sheiman, head of Administration under the President of the Republic of Belarus, met during a working visit with President of Moldova Vl. Voronin. In it's the Belarusian official noted the need to implement a greater number of projects that are of common interest.

- In October 2005 the working visit of the Prime Minister of Moldova, V. Talrev, in Belarus, took place, where he met with Deputy I. Bambiza. Several

topics related to the current state of bilateral relations have been addressed during the visit [9].

The economical relationships. Moldova is an important partner in trade with Belarus. Trade operations volume between the two countries in 1991–2005 were ranked in the top four states in the CIS. If the volume of business operations in 1991 was only 1106 million ruble (45 million dollars), their volume in 2005 amounted to 174.5 million dollars, of which: export – 102,2 million dollars and import – 72,3 million dollars [10, p. 343, 430–433].

Not having some of its own vital resources, the Republic of Moldova is interested in strengthening economic ties with Belarus in order to import goods of Belarusian industry such as: building materials, trains, tractors, household goods, ethylene copolymers, pharmaceuticals, etc. and export to Belarus the products of food industry like wine, fruit and vegetables, etc. This fruitful collaboration is due to the signed agreements between the two sides at a high level in the 14 years of partnership, of which the most important are:

- Agreement of three trade between the Government of Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, signed on June 16, 1993 in Minsk [11, p. 56–61];
- Agreement between National Bank of Moldova and National Bank of Belarus on the regulation of the banking system between the two countries [12, p. 94];
- Agreement on development economic relations, signed on September 10, 1998 in Minsk;
- Agreement between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Ministry of Economy and Reforms in Moldova, signed in August 2001 also in Minsk. [13, c. 12];
- Agreement on the principles of the state tax collection in the relation of import and export, signed in April 2003 in Chisinau [14, c. 1];
- a series of documents on the development of the tractor assembly were signed in February 2005 by the head Administration under the President of Belarus, V. Sheiman and by President of Moldova, Vl. Voronin [15].

These agreements led to the subsequent signing of the partnership agreements between various economic agents leading to a significant development of national economy. Thus note: in August 2001, the agreement in the production and implementation of pharmaceutical and microbiological products was signed between the Belarusian State Concern and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova [16, p. 43–44].

On January 28, 2002 a commercial contract was signed between “Belresursi” and “Porumbeni S. A.” on delivery of the one hundred tractors to Moldova in exchange for corn seeds.

The contract provided for a period of two years (2003–2005) was signed between the Minsk Tractor Plant and the Project Administration Moldovan-

Japanese assembly, during which Moldova has committed to purchase 300 tractors “MTZ-80” every year at the Belarusian plant [17, c. 1].

The representatives of the furniture manufacturing groups met in March 2003 in Chisinau and signed the Protocol of free marketing of the furniture manufacture materials in Moldova. The Protocol was signed by Belarusian Concern “Bellesbumprom” and financial trade group “Mobila Group” represented by 12 companies producing furniture in Moldova [18, c. 1]. The commercial contract was signed in April 2003 in Chisinau between the two companies “Keramin” in Belarus and “Keramin–Chisinau” in Moldova on supplying the ceramic products on Moldova’s territory such as sanitary technical, tiles, cladding materials, plywood, etc. The contract on achievement of the Moldavian rough food products to Belarus was signed on March 11, 2004 between the Trading and Industry House of Republic of Moldova and “Belgospisceprom” Concern [19].

Thus, at the end of the year 2005 the recorded export volume of production is largely due to the practical application of treaties, signed agreements between the two parties.

Progresses have been also registered in the regional relationships. Thus, during the years 2002–2003 and interregional partnership relations were established between the regions and districts of Republic of Moldova and Belarus, as between the cities of Minsk and Chisinau, Tiraspol and Minsk, Vitebsk and Balti, Cahul and Kobrin. During this period there were 22 meetings of this level and 13 visits or representatives of local government in the Republic of Moldova to Belarus took place, and Moldova has been visited 9 times by the delegations of belarusian regions and cities [20].

The cultural relationships. According to the agreement on friendly relations establishment and cooperation signed in 1992 the parties have declared that relations of partnership in areas such as culture, science, education and information, tourism and sports will be established between Moldova and Belarus.

International Association of Academies of Science from Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine was founded in Kiev in 1993. The Scientific Council has established 14 joint research projects in areas like economics, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics etc. [21, c. 52–76].

An agreement on partnership between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences was signed during the official visit of President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova A. Andries in February 2003. Thus:

Institute of Geophysics and Geology of the ASM and the Institute of Geological Sciences of Belarus have agreed on research for the period 2004–2007 was the development of plate tectonics in Moldova and Belarus;

Resource Centre and networks from Moldova and Information Technologies in Belarus have been determined in the period 2003–2005 the research theme “Information and assurance systems research”;

ASM Genetic Institute and the Institute of Experimental Botany V. F. Krupevici of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have signed a partnership agreement for the years 2003–2008 on joint research on the topic: “Investigation of biological breeding of cereals under the action of the new regulators temperature” [22, с. 3].

According to the agreement between the top leadership of Moldova and Belarus for Republic scientific certification and qualified senior signed in Minsk on June 29, 2000 in both countries the diplomas, degree qualifications, scientific titles, doctors of sciences degrees titles, master’s, academics, issued in the territory of Belarus and Moldova are recognized, and allow their holders to carry out work in both countries in accordance with scientific specialization and according to the degree obtained.

Since 2000 they have established relationships of cooperation, partnership and scientific research between different institutions of higher education in both Republics. Examples of such agreements serve the relationships between the University of Comrat and Mogilev State University, the Belarusian State Economic University and the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus and the Academy of Police “Stefan cel Mare” in Chisinau, of the Slavonic University of Moldova and Belarus State Pedagogical University [23, с. 128–129].

In the 15 years of cooperation different conferences were held with scientific and theoretical themes: «Белорусы в Молдове» [24], «Беларусь — Молдова: на путях дружбы и сотрудничества» [25], «Беларусь — Молдова: взгляд молодежи в третье тысячелетие» [26, 214 с.], «Беларусь — Молдова: 15 лет дипломатических отношений» [27, 298 с.] and the progress made by the two countries on developing relations in all fields are widely discussed.

Moldovan–Belarusian relations have evolved between years 1991–2005 in a progressive way and political dialogue between the two countries has acquired a constant constructive character. As a result, the Moldovan–Belarusian relations have become more rich and vibrant, expanding on many fronts: political, economical and cultural. The Agreements signed during this period were meant to ensure a further development of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between Moldova and Belarus.

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