

**Statement made by
Mr. Igor DODON,
Vice Minister of economy and commerce of the Republic of Moldova**

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Working Table II – Trade and Investment
(Sofia, 8-10 June 2005)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Audience,**

I am very much delighted to participate in this Ministerial Conference of the Stability Pact. I would like to bring my sincere gratitude to the Stability Pact' and to the Bulgarian Government for their work in organization of this event and for the opportunity to share information, ideas dealing with the future perspective cooperation for greater trade liberalization.

The trade liberalization process in South Eastern Europe has made substantial progress since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Trade on Brussels in June 2001 under the auspices of the Stability Pact. Its results are significant and we should appreciate that its goals served very well the whole Stability Pact process.

The Stability Pact has always viewed trade liberalization as a vital component to improve the business climate and ensure sustainable economic development in South Eastern Europe.

In this respect, I would like to note that Moldova has concluded FTAs with each country of the region. All these agreements were ratified by Moldova's Parliament and are in force from 2004. Moreover, at the beginning of this year, Moldova has notified all agreements to the WTO.

The progress accomplished so far in regional trade integration in South Eastern Europe is impressive: a network of bilateral FTAs is now in force and being implemented. Moldova has accorded a great consideration to trade facilitation, to the elimination of non tariff barriers and to the promotion of trade in services. Moreover, Moldova has launched a legal reform and structural adjustment, which will create the conditions necessary for development, prosperity and stability.

We fully support efforts launched by countries to identify and eliminate non-tariff barriers affecting bilateral trade relation of each country and welcome the initiative of the Working Group on trade to implement of the procedure to eliminate such barriers.

The Republic of Moldova totally upholds the activities launched in the frame of the Stability Pact particularly those referring to trade of goods and services.

I stress the significance of the development of the legal and institutional frame, which ensures a brand new level of integration, signing the multilateral FTA, which will ensure free circulation of goods, services, capital and labor.

I totally support the initiative launched under the Stability Pact to sing a single FTA and I hope that the negotiating formula of a new agreement will be adopted soon. Moldova is ready to start the process of negotiations, considering the recommendations of the Working Group on trade liberalization and facilitation.

Mr. Chairman,

Developing co-operation between our countries is essential, in order to overcome the major challenge of balancing the differences, thus diminishing the influence of all elements leading to political, economic and social instabilities. We see Stability Pact as a forum for such a co-operation, which will strengthen our economic role in this part of Europe.

Moldova is determined to participate actively in this process of the Stability Pact, believing that these gathering would be a success in giving a boost to foster economic growth and development of all countries.

Finally, I take this opportunity to present our appreciation for the contribution of the EU, USA, UK, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and international organizations. We hope that international community will continue its political, technical and financial support for trade liberalization, economic growth and infrastructure development in the region.

Thank you very much for your attention.