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Moldova, Russia and Ukraine 2008 - 2012

STATEMENT

ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In the frame of the project BRIDGE – fostering mutual understanding and cooperation of the EU with Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine (2008-2012), co-financed by the European Commission was held on 6-7 May 2010 in Chisinau, Moldova, a seminar, for civil society representatives and civil servants from Moldova.

The participants of the seminar have analyzed and discussed thoroughly different aspects of the EU – Moldova cooperation and elaborated several proposals, aimed at the further development of this cooperation and especially those on which the civil society organizations and institutions are concerned.

The main conclusion of the participants was that the civil society organizations and institutions of Moldova are not enough involved in the development of the EU – Moldova cooperation in the context of the European Neighborhood and European Partnership policy, respectively. This situation does not benefit the successful development of the cooperation of Moldova with the EU.

On the basis of the conclusions of the European Partnership Civil Society Forum which was established in November 2009. The participants of the seminar adopted the following recommendations:

Firstly, the European Commission and the government of Moldova should make efforts to include in adequate ways the activities of the Moldovan civil society organizations and institutions in the EU-Moldova Association Agreement that is under preparation.

Secondly, the Government of the Republic of Moldova should continue and enlarge consultations with the relevant non-governmental organizations and institutions on the

preparation of agreements on the EU – Moldova relations, and should inform them promptly on the ongoing activities concerning the implementation of the EU – Moldova cooperation.

Thirdly, the Government of the Republic of Moldova should, where appropriate, include the relevant civil society organizations and institutions in the preparation of particular EU-Moldova projects, especially those, where the civil society members have recognized expertise and experiences as well.

The participants of the seminar authorized Prof.Dr. Silvo Devetak, the BRIDGE Coordinator, to distribute this statement as wide as possible, and to send a letter in this regard to the EU institutions and to the government of the Republic of Moldova as well.

Chisinau, 7 May 2010