



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

PC.DEL/983/12
2 November 2012

ENGLISH only

Activity Report (1 December 2011 – 30 October 2012) of the Head of EUBAM, Mr Udo Burkholder, to the OSCE Permanent Council,

15 November 2012, OSCE Vienna

1. Introduction

On 7 October 2005, seven years ago, the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the European Commission Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and to Ukraine was signed at Palanca, the Republic of Moldova. The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) began its work on 30 November 2005 with two years mandate. The mandate of the Mission has been prolonged three times. The current mandate is extended until 30 November 2015. The Memorandum of Understanding defines the mandate of the Mission as well as other specific arrangements. The objectives of the Mission are formulated in the annex to the Memorandum of Understanding. EUBAM is a technical and advisory mission without executive power. EUBAM headquarters is located in Odessa, the Mission has six field offices on either sides of the Moldovan - Ukrainian border and a Liaison Office in Chisinau.

The EUBAM Phase 9, started on 1 December 2011, which for the first time is for 2 years, is being implemented according to the planning, and the Mission continues to provide technical advice and helps to build capacity in areas such as Integrated Border Management (IBM), joint border control and surveillance, joint patrolling, search and detection techniques, customs control and compliance, legislative reform, risk analysis, fighting corruption, border demarcation, implementation of the visa liberalisation action plans and assistance in preparation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) as part of the respective Association Agreement within areas of EUBAM expertise. Uniquely, EUBAM is operational in two states, so we are keenly aware that progress in all of these areas largely depends on effective internal and cross-border co-operation. The Mission has budgeted 221 staff in total, of which 95 are seconded and contracted international staff, and 126 are supporting staff from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Currently, 18 EU Member States are represented in the Mission by contracted and seconded experts.

It is worth highlighting that the leadership of EUBAM is paying particular attention to developing and maintaining effective partnerships at all levels in both countries, including the international partners and the representatives of civil society. In order to improve the efficiency of its work in 2012 the Mission has signed Joint Statements of Cooperation with Polish Central Bureau of Investigation of the Polish National Police (27 April 2012) and with Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs (18 September 2012) and soon will sign joint statements with Romanian Customs Authorities, Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service and Bavarian Criminal Police Office. Together with the Joint Statements of Cooperation with Polish Central Anticorruption Bureau and Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania they will become seven in total.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

The EUBAM/OSCE partnership is one of growing relevance. EUBAM hopes it can benefit from the OSCE's presence in the region; meanwhile, the OSCE can count on EUBAM's full cooperation in the areas of its expertise. The coordination of efforts with the OSCE is very important for the Mission.

Our approach is rooted in the idea that border agencies should dismantle the barriers and borders should unite and not divide the communities. This must be balanced, of course, with the need to enhance border security, support the rule of law and fight organised crime. In the long run, the twin prerogatives of regional security and economic development must be progressed by way of cooperation and partnership, which EUBAM strives to facilitate in all of its activities.

The EU's own security, of course, has come to hinge increasingly on the security of its immediate neighbours. We live in a smaller and quickly evolving global community, with much interdependence between nations whose security and socio-economic fates are intertwined. There is broad recognition that genuine multi-lateral international cooperation is needed to contain and prevent organised criminal activities such as weapons, drugs, cigarettes and alcohol smuggling, irregular migration, and Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) – phenomena which in today's world tend to know no borders.

2. Tackling international and cross-border crime

International organised crime is now transnational in nature, and therefore tackling it therefore requires a high degree of cooperation among EU, national and international law-enforcement agencies. For almost 7 years EUBAM has been assisting the border, customs and law-enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine to enhance their capacity to detect and prevent a range of cross-border criminal activities.

Efficient international law enforcement cooperation, based on mutual trust, is essential in fighting transnational organised crime. Following this approach EUBAM facilitates the international cooperation between the partner services and law enforcement agencies of EU member states as well as with relevant EU bodies and specialised international organisations. The Mission has been particularly successful in engaging with EU bodies and international organisations such as EUROPOL, OLAF, TAXUD, Frontex, SELEC and WCO RILO/ECE, customs and border guard/police services of EU Member States, and relevant Moldovan and Ukrainian services, for various joint projects. These include joint border control operations, common border security assessments, joint patrolling, joint working groups, and exchange of border and customs information.

EUBAM was paying attention to issues related to trafficking of drugs and weapons, smuggling of goods and especially smuggling of cigarettes and alcohol, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. Operational meetings, organization of workshops, trainings and sharing of experience and knowledge with national and international organizations and agencies were organized. EUBAM also participated in international seminars and conferences related to these areas.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

In 2012 EUBAM assisted the partner services in investigation cases, such as smuggling of Italian stolen trucks, trafficking of new psychoactive substances and of hashish, cases of irregular migration with involvement of the Afghan and the Iranian citizens; trafficking of doping substances from Moldova to EU countries; THB and sexual exploitation of children.

During the reporting period EUBAM supported and/or organised operations such as the Targeted Assistance Action 'Moon Ray', focusing on anti-smuggling and anti-corruption issues across the UA-MD border; the exercise on drugs controlled delivery planned by Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC); the 'Green Valley' program on illegal cannabis cultivation; illegal use of vehicles with foreign license plates by Moldovan citizens on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, etc.

EUBAM has also created three permanent joint working groups with its partners in order to examine specific types of criminal activity. The first working group is devoted to the fight against THB and irregular migration; the second to counteracting weapons and drugs trafficking, smuggling and other customs fraud. On 24 October this year was created a new permanent working group on Protection of IPR. Within the first two permanent working groups were created sub groups and task forces to address specific issues such as combating smuggling of cigarettes, trafficking of weapons, etc.

Smuggling of cigarettes got particular attention and EUBAM organized meetings of the Sub-Working Group on Cigarettes. Representatives of the Customs Administrations of Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, Ukrainian State Border Guard Service (UASBGS), cigarettes producers - Imperial Tobacco, Philip Morris, Japan Tobacco International and British American Tobacco, as well as Europol, OLAF and the UK Embassy in Romania met to discuss and agree on further actions against this phenomenon. In October EUBAM supported Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) and Ukrainian State Customs Service (UASCS) in their joint operation codenamed 'ТАБАК – 2012'. The main objective of the Operation was to combat and prevent illegal movement of tobacco products across the MD-UA border.

Meanwhile, the Pre-Arrival Information Exchange System (PAIES), introduced by EUBAM in 2008 for the purposes of preventing customs fraud through information exchange between Moldovan and Ukrainian customs officers, continues to operate effectively on the common border. The PAIES is considered to be used as model for exchange of information at Ukrainian – Russian and Ukrainian – Belarusian borders. The development and implementation of the Operational Information Exchange between UASBGS and Moldovan Border Police Department (MDBPD) continued.

EUBAM continued to contribute to the analysis of the security between the border of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Common Border Security Assessment Reports mutually developed in cooperation with the partners are being produced on a regular basis and discussed at the monthly External Coordination Meetings with the partners. Other analytic reports such as flash reports and thematic reports were distributed among the partner services and other relevant institutions and organisations.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

The implementation of risk analysis remains of a high importance for the partner services. In this regards EUBAM experts had regular meetings with representatives of partner services to discuss issues related to risk analysis. EUBAM experts delivered trainings to the officers of customs and border guards/border police of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as well as to customs experts from right and left bank of Dniester River. EUBAM experts assisted the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs services in performing risk analysis of the pre-arrival information. EUBAM experts also contributed to the implementation of risk analysis activity at local level. The joint patrols are based on risk analysis. This year was organized a study visit to EU MS to exchange experience on risk analysis.

EUBAM supported MDCS in the implementation of the WCO-led Operation DEMETER II in the framework of illegal traffic of dangerous waste by providing information and assisting in risk analysis and in the SELEC Operations SHADOW V on monitoring of movement of tobacco consignments and GREEN PANDORA on environmental crimes. In the frame of the SELEC Operation "Lease Car" EUBAM supported the Moldovan and Ukrainian partner services in their information exchange and risk analysis. EUBAM supported the SELEC operation HERMET aimed at combating movement of Southwest Asian heroin and methamphetamine bound for Central and Western Europe by land touring vehicles (lorries, passenger cars and buses) along the Balkan Route through its various branches.

The importance of Joint Border Control Operations (JBCOs) lies not just in the quantity of goods seized. Information gathered during such operations may be subsequently used for the purposes of risk assessment and investigations, while the experience also serves to strengthen the intra and inter-agency cooperation and coordination that are prerequisites for tackling cross-border crime.

Since its launch, the Mission has facilitated 10 JBCOs having as primary the objective to strengthen inter-agency and international cooperation, which is requirement for the effective prevention and fight against cross border crime.

This summer has brought the most significant sports event to Ukraine, The European Football Championship – UEFA EURO 2012 was jointly hosted by Ukraine and Poland, which lasted for 23 days.

As in the year 2012 new challenges have emerged for the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies on border security, the Mission expressed its full support on initiation and implementation of JBCO in order to enhance security of the Championship EURO 2012 along the common border with the Republic of Moldova. The main objectives of the JBCO were following: to ensure security and prevent possible illegal actions during the Championship along the common MD-UA border with particular emphasis at the key locations; to enhance intra-service, inter-agency and international co-operation; to increase effectiveness of border checks at BCPs and extend intelligence capabilities; to strengthen border control measures related to the football games.

The supporting partners of the JBCO were INTERPOL NCB Kiev, EUROPOL, Frontex, SELEC, RILO ECE/WCO, Moldovan, Romanian, German and Polish law enforcement agencies.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

Simultaneously with the JBCO 'EURO 2012' Frontex conducted its Joint Operation "Eurocup 2012" and the RILO ECE/WCO its 'Monitoring Project on trafficking of counterfeiting products in relation to the European Football Championship EURO 2012'.

The key success factor in JBCO 'EURO 2012' was a good planning process and detailed risk assessment carried out by the joint analytical team of Partners and EUBAM prior to the operation. As a result, all objectives of the JBCO 'EURO 2012' were successfully accomplished.

There were no major security incidents at the border, no terrorists' attacks at the host cities of the Championship, or smuggled weapons or illegal substances which could put in danger visitors of EURO 2012.

Indisputably, within all additional measures taken in the course of the Championship to address security threats, JBCO 'EURO 2012' holds an important role.

3. Building Capacity and sustainability

The Mission's priority is to ensure sustainability and continuity in capacity-building efforts, with training playing a crucial role. The main purpose of EUBAM training is to make long-term, sustainable improvement, build capacity and promote collaborative approach. There is a particular emphasis on the 'train the trainers' approach and the development of partnerships with the training academies of the border-guard and customs services in both Moldova and Ukraine. This will help to ensure a cascading or multiplying effect, it is being envisaged that officers will benefit from our expertise long after the Mission would completed its work.

From 1 December 2005 until 30 October 2012, 6930 border-guard, customs and law-enforcement officers from Moldova and Ukraine received training in pertinent areas such as risk analysis, vehicle-search techniques, car trafficking and forged documents detection, trade facilitation, methods of modern customs controls and determination of customs value, classification of goods, rules of origin under future DCFTA, post-clearance control and audit, fight against corruption, social and cultural competencies and conflict resolution, leadership and management, training for language trainers and public communication.

Training is conducted at both HQ and field office level, and often takes the form of a seminar or workshop, as well as 'on-the-job' training. EUBAM expects that the partnerships with the training academies will lead to significant and positive changes in the curricula of those institutions.

EUBAM developed the following training manuals and handed over to the partner services: EU Vehicles Registration Training Manual; Lithuanian Vehicle Registration and Powers of Attorney Training Manual; Joint Patrolling Training Manual; and Effective Management Instrument Training Manual. It can be highlighted that EUBAM is also providing assistance and delivering trainings jointly with trainers and experts of its partners and trainers and experts of EU institutions, EU Member States and international organisations.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

EUBAM contributed towards the development of the customs codes of Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. The Mission provided advice in drafting the Law on Border Police of the Republic of Moldova.

EUBAM has also stepped up its support for anti-corruption and good governance initiatives. We are acutely aware of corruption's destructive influence, and that it presents a serious impediment to the modernization of border-management procedures. The fight against corruption is a step-by-step process requiring a long-term commitment by state institutions, civil society, and international organisations. The main areas of assistance EUBAM provides in this regard are related to regulatory framework, transparency and openness, audit and investigation, code of conduct, human-recourse management, and raising of awareness and training.

In order to identify the main corruption vulnerability areas and create sustainable anticorruption mechanisms for diminishing corruption levels, Integrity risk assessment have been conducted in MD Customs Service and 47 recommendations have been made. Currently similar assessment at the MD Border Police Department is underway. The assessments aim at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of anticorruption efforts at strategic level, thus supporting the DCFTA and visa liberalisation negotiations.

Parallel to this, corruption risk assessment at the level of Border Crossing Points was launched in the autumn with the objective to evaluate specific corruption risks at particular BCPs thus facilitating the provision of good and corruption free services and trade facilitation.

Activities related to the 'Excellent Border Crossing Point' pilot project at two BCPs in the Mission's Area of Responsibility have been extended. Assistance was also provided to partners in improving transparency at the border with better public information for travellers and economic operators.

EUBAM continued to provide support to MDCS in its efforts to improve HR Management System. The Mission contributed to the analysis of the results of MDCS Internal HR Survey and facilitated the development of a new Training Strategy and Policy of MDCS and its implementation plan.

In order to ensure high levels of integrity within the Partner services, EUBAM initiated the establishment of common approach in anticorruption training provision. The establishment of training programmes and adoption of ethical codes on anticorruption, specifically tailored for border guards, customs and any other officials involved in border management are among the areas targeted in the second bloc of Visa Liberalisation negotiations: Irregular immigration, including readmission. In this regard, a project for elaboration of unified anticorruption training programme for EUBAM Partner Services was initiated. The initiative was supported by six Partner Services and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department. Currently the Working Group is finalizing the draft joint anticorruption curricula and is in the process of elaborating of the supporting training materials. The programme is aimed at specialised customs and border guard academies and at the training centres of 6 Partner Services in Moldova and Ukraine.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

Meanwhile EUBAM is addressing the anticorruption educational needs of Partner Services by provision of continuous anticorruption training for practitioners at regional and local levels. In addition, the Mission has so far carried out seven 'Youth against Corruption' schools with the support of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the National Anticorruption Centre of the Republic of Moldova¹ as well as in close cooperation with Polish Central Anticorruption Bureau and the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania. By way of further raising public intolerance towards corruption, presentations on anti-corruption given at EUBAM partner universities during 2012 were attended by more than 150 students.

The cooperation with the Polish Central Anticorruption Bureau and Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania as well as with Transnational Threats Department, Border Unit at OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, has been further extended.

In 2011/12, EUBAM instigated a series of anti-corruption advocacy presentations in schools in both Moldova and Ukraine – many of them delivered by 'Youth against Corruption' graduates but also by EUBAM Field Office staff. Approximately 1,300 pupils from 15 towns and villages in Moldova and Ukraine had attended the presentations by August 2012.

The Mission started dealing with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region last year. Within its mandate, the contribution is mainly to the pillar about strengthening the Danube Region to step up institution capacity and cooperation, and to work together to promote security and tackle organized and serious crime'.

In the frame of the cooperation with the Euroregion 'Dniester' EUBAM facilitated in June and September the 'Community Oriented Project to Improve the Process of Crossing the Border in the Area of Euroregion Dniester'. Proposals to improve the border related issues were formulated by the project members.

EUBAM also maintains a strong partnership with the public-relations departments of our main partners, who benefitted from media and PR training, and took part in study visits to EU Member States to gain experience from PR best practice.

4. IBM, border demarcation, visa liberalization

Monitoring the implementation of national IBM action plans has been one of the key activities for EUBAM during 2012. During the reporting period EUBAM continued assistance in IBM and Visa Liberalisation matters. In May EUBAM drafted a comprehensive opinion on the new version of the regulation on National Coordination Centre (NCC) to MDBPD. EUBAM expert participated at the TAIEX Conference on the Moldovan IBM NCC and took part in the 6th Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Panel meeting organized by the EU in Riga, Latvia where a presentation was made on the joint achievements regarding the pilot

¹ Following changed of the Moldovan legislation CCECC is transformed into National Anti-corruption Centre of the Republic of Moldova.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

project JOBCP 'Rossoshany-Briceni' and on the possible replication of the project to other BCPs.

EUBAM also provided information for the European Commission on the implementation of the visa liberalization action plan related to the EU Impact Assessment on visa liberalization with the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

As for visa liberalization, the ultimate goal is for Ukrainian and Moldovan citizens to enjoy visa-free travel when travelling to the European Union for short-term stays. But before that can happen, both countries need to fulfil certain criteria, and make progress in areas such as tackling irregular migration, integrated border management, biometric passports, security and fundamental rights. At present EUBAM is assisting both countries in implementing visa liberalisation action plans.

EUBAM re-introduced to the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration the EUBAM White Paper in order to enhance the control over the migratory flows across Transnistria.

In August the 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Possible Migratory and Security Impacts of Future Visa Liberalisation for the Republic of Moldova on the European Union' was published. The contributions to the Report were made by EUBAM, FRONTEX and EUROPOL following the request by the European Commission. Among the recommendations, it is mentioned that the Republic of Moldova should continue cooperation with EUBAM in the area of IBM, fight against organized crime, and on the Transnistrian issue.

EUBAM provided an overview on supporting Mobility Partnership in the Republic of Moldova, in particular with focus on activities related to effective border management objective and implementation of National Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

Jointly Operated Border Crossing Points

A significant progress was made in the implementation of the concept of Jointly Operated Border Crossing Points (JOBCP), a project that had been running since 2008. At the 24th Working Group meeting on JOBCP Rossoshany-Briceni in Rossoshany, Ukraine a final evaluation report on the six months period of the implementation of the project was signed by all partner services. As this project is considered one of the successful stories in the cooperation between Ukrainian and Moldovan authorities, it is agreed to be taken the further steps for replication at other BCPs at the common border.

Joint Border Patrolling

After the signature in December 2011 of the 'Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on joint patrolling on the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border', on 06 June 2012 at Palanca-Mayaki-Udobnoe BCP, the Heads of the Border Guard Services of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine signed the Protocol on organizing joint patrolling at the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border. The protocol provisions came into force on 29 June. Since July partner services have been planning the first



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

joint patrols and EUBAM experts continued assisting them in the implementation of the agreed joint patrols.

Border Demarcation

Demarcation of the Moldova-Ukraine border, 1,222 km in length and including 453.4 km the Central (Transnistrian) segment, has continued through the work of the Joint Ukrainian-Moldovan Commission on Border Demarcation (JUMCBD), to which EUBAM has provided technical support, advice and equipment.

EUBAM representatives attended four meetings of JUMCBD that were held since December 2011 as well as two meetings of the Joint Working Group on the elaboration of the final border. On 23-25 October 2012 in Kiev the 47th sitting of JUMCBD was held. On the invitation of the Heads of JUMCBD Delegations the representatives from Transnistria attended the meeting and presented their proposals for tracing the border line at 12 segments of the Central sector of the state border. All the Parties jointly discussed possible mechanisms on solving of the non-coordinated demarcation segments.

Remaining issues on the Central Sector:

As an outcome of the 47th sitting of JUMCBD the number of the non-coordinated demarcation segments was increased from 3 to 7 for the total length of 10.9 Km. The non-consolidated segments have been put into one package.

To date, 118.6 km still remain to be demarcated.

Remaining issues on the Northern and Southern sectors:

In the North, there is a need to demarcate the state border line on the dam of the Hydropower station Dniestrovsk.

In the South, 300 meters of the state border line need to be demarcated including the installation of two border pillars. The hydrographical work will have to also be conducted on 60 km of the River Dniester.

From 06 till 11 May 2012 a study trip for the Heads of the JUMCBD to the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania was organised by EUBAM.

On 21 – 22 June this year, upon request of JUMCBD, EUBAM facilitated the participation of the Heads of JUMCBD at the International Conference 'Boundary Commissions: Roles, Functions and Challenges', organised by OSCE in Vienna.

5. Contributing to confidence-building initiatives

Since March 2006 EUBAM has been monitoring and advising on the implementation of the Joint Declaration signed by the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the customs regime concerning the trade activities of economic operators based in Transnistria. Under the terms of the Joint Declaration these operators can benefit from EU trade preferences by registering at the customs authorities in Chisinau. The most recent figures show 821



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

economic operators in Transnistria now registered in Chisinau, of which 216 were on a permanent basis and 605 on a temporary basis.

According to its mandate, during the reporting period EUBAM continued to provide Chisinau and Tiraspol with assistance and technical expertise.

Positive developments in the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict were witnessed during this year. On 28 March in Chisinau EUBAM presented its updated version of the technical proposal for the resumption of the rail freight traffic through Transnistria at the OSCE Confidence Building Meeting with the participation of political representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol in the 5+2 format.

In May EUBAM experts conducted the five-day training seminar on 'Building customs capacity towards modernization' in the MDCS Training Centre in Chisinau. The event brought together customs experts from right and left bank of the Dniester River for the first time since 2001.

In June EUBAM participated at the High Level Conference 'Developing Confidence Building Measures in the Transdniestria Conflict Settlement Process', funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and organised by OSCE in Rottach-Egern, Germany. EUBAM presented its technical opinion on improvement economic cooperation between the two banks of Dniester River, to promote trans-boundary trade and to uplift the foreign trade of Transnistria-based companies on the international markets by way of cooperation between Chisinau and Tiraspol in the customs area. A proposal was presented as regards the resumption of the road freight traffic across Transnistria. The proposal is based on a mechanism of joint customs control under the principle of 'one-stop-shop' and 'single window' at the BCPs, risk selectivity, and exchange of customs information. Opportunities are also foreseen for those economic operators, who are not registered in Chisinau, to perform foreign trade activity.

In July EUBAM expert participated at an 'experts dialogue' meeting, organised by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), a Finnish non-profit organization, with the participation of experts from Chisinau, Tiraspol, the EU, UNDP, Kiev and Moscow, in Odessa. The participants emphasised on the results achieved in the resumption of the rail freight traffic through Transnistria, customs cooperation between Chisinau and Tiraspol sides, and the Mission assistance in the implementation of the customs agreement between the two parties.

EUBAM developed a technical opinion on the Transnistrian registration plate which was discussed at the 5+2 talks on the settlement of the Transnistrian issues concluded in Vienna on 13 September 2012, where it was agreed to further discuss the EUBAM initiative without setting any strict deadlines for taking a decision.

In October at the premises of OSCE office in Bender, EUBAM expert attended the meetings of expert (working) groups on "Railway Transportation and Communication", and "Auto Transportation and Road Infrastructure" which were held in the framework of confidence building initiatives. At the meeting EUBAM proposed the following initiatives:



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

- A study visit for the participants from both banks of the Dniester River to the jointly operated BCP at the Albanian-Montenegro border;
- Organisation of the second training event for Chisinau and Tiraspol Customs experts;
- Anti smuggling joint customs action.

The study visit will be organized in close cooperation with OSCE in the Republic of Moldova.

6. Engaging the civil society and public outreach

A strong civil society represents one of the fundamental building blocks for any democracy. It helps to strengthen good governance, democratic dialogue, citizenry participation, and accountability. In line with EU Stockholm Programme and the European Neighbourhood Policy, EUBAM has increasingly engaged with civil society in Moldova and Ukraine. Building on the achievements of its predecessors the Tampere and Hague programmes, the Stockholm Programme aims to meet future challenges and further strengthen the area of justice, freedom and security with actions focusing on the interests and needs of citizens.

Hopes for the future of both countries rest to a large extent with the younger generation, therefore EUBAM has placed particular emphasis on establishing relationship with academic community. By the mid-point of Phase 9 the Mission had signed Joint Statements of Cooperation with 11 universities in both countries. The range of activities EUBAM now lies with students from these universities and has been extended to 'Border of Europe' schools, 'Youth against Corruption' schools, lectures at universities, study visits to EU member states, EUBAM open days and visits to border crossing points.

Throughout the year the students from EUBAM partner universities can attend lectures delivered by EUBAM experts on topics which lie within EUBAM area of expertise such as: Schengen system; IBM concept; EU best practices in fighting organised crime and corruption; risk analysis; Customs in the 21st century; EU anti-drug trafficking techniques; good governance and anti-corruption, etc. During Phase 9, approximately 500 students attended university lectures given by EUBAM experts.

Last year EUBAM started unique initiative in Odessa, Joint Study Course 'Borders of Europe'. This course brought together 29 students from six Odessa universities in 2011/2012 for 12 lectures about legal, economic and security issues in the European Union delivering by five professors from different partner universities and EUBAM experts. In the framework of the course the students visited EUBAM HQ, Kuchurgan Field Office and Road BCP.

The Mission will continue with the Joint Study Course 'Borders of Europe' programme during 2012/13 academic year and the course will start on 21st of November.

"Borders of Europe" summer school is an interdisciplinary project aimed to sharing knowledge about European Union, EU values and current EU developments in particular in the area of border management, for students from partner universities in Moldova and Ukraine.

'Youth against Corruption' schools and camps



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

EUBAM considers engagement with youth of Moldova and Ukraine a particularly vital part of the anti-corruption efforts, so the increasing part of the Mission's energy is devoted to outreach activities, with the first 'Youth against Corruption' schools taking place in 2010.

In July 2012, for the first time EUBAM undertook a study visit to Brussels for Moldovan and Ukrainian students, selected as some of the highest performers during the Mission's previous activities with partner universities. The study trip was organised in order to allow students to learn more about the functioning of EU institutions and international organisations, to observe in person activities undertaken and procedures applied in order to gain knowledge and skills necessary for their future careers. In the framework of the study visit students visited European External Action Service, European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, World Customs Organization, NATO, UNDP and the Mission of Ukraine to the EU.

EUBAM Internship programme

As a further measure of engagement with the academic community, in 2011 EUBAM hosted five interns at headquarters in Odessa. At the beginning of 2012, EUBAM launched an Internship programme and selected 11 students, both national (Moldovan/Ukrainian) and international, to work for between 1 - 3 months with the Mission. The interns assisted work in EUBAM's Capacity Building Unit, Analytical and Operational Support Unit, Strategy, Planning and Performance Office, and Communications Office.

During 2012, the Communications Office also organised 'open days' at EUBAM headquarters, and five study visits to Kuchurgan Road BCP. Since 2011 three 'My Europe' drawing competitions for children, two in Ukraine and one in Moldova were carried out.

Looking forward

EUBAM does not take lightly the responsibility entrusted upon it, as ambassadors of the European Union in Odessa, Chisinau, and on the Moldovan - Ukrainian border. The Mission has developed proactive working relationships with its partners in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and believes it is well placed to meet ongoing challenges such as tackling international organised crime, irregular migration, supporting the rule of law, and enhancing transparency over trading activities. EUBAM will continue to support the process of confidence building on both sides of Dniester River.

In so far as the European Union should be protected as an area of justice, freedom and security, the interdependence between internal and external security has been acknowledged. Proper cooperation and coordination with the EU's neighbours, in order to safeguard security for both parties, is vital.

Now with a four-year mandate until the end of November 2015, the Mission will continue to provide technical expertise as its partners approximate their procedures to EU laws and standards, with particular focus on the visa liberalisation process and the implementation of IBM action plans. EUBAM will also strive to improve its capacity-building support through sustainable and innovative approaches to training. Head of EUBAM participated in meetings of



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE (EUBAM)

the Council of the European Union Political and Security Committee (PSC) and Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) and he reported regularly to these two EU bodies about the implementation of the Action Plan, the ongoing activities and the way forward.

In undertaking its tasks, EUBAM will adhere not just to the values of the European Union, but to its own set of core values: neutrality, partnership, reliability, results, service, and transparency. Ultimately, its goal, stipulated in the Mission's statement, will remain unchanged: to make a sustainable contribution to the development of border-management procedures that meet EU standards and serve the legitimate needs of Moldovan and Ukrainian citizens, travellers, and trade, which in turn enhances regional security and supports economic development.