The Association Agreement including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area provides for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) and has created constantly growing trade between the partners. The EU's assistance has been providing tangible and visible benefits to Moldovan citizens.

**STRONGER ECONOMY**

- The EU is Moldova’s largest trading partner and biggest investor in the country. In 2018, it accounted for 70% of its total exports and 56% of its total trade.
- The Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area with the EU is compatible with all of Moldova’s other free trade agreements. Domestic reforms, for instance, the alignment of health and safety standards to those of the EU, will open further opportunities for trade with the EU. The EU also facilitates access to finance for Moldovan SMEs.
- The EU actively supports growth and job creation in Moldova. Overall, the EU estimates that its cooperation projects have provided support for 6,000 enterprises in Moldova and helped to create around 3,000 new jobs. 10 business incubators have been set up with EU support.
- Reforms in the financial sector continued, including with EU Support. The International Monetary Fund approved on 20 September the completion of the combined 4th and 5th reviews of its programme with Moldova.

**STRONGER GOVERNANCE**

- The EU continues to attach great importance to strengthening democratic standards, the rule of law and efforts to end high-level corruption in Moldova. In 2018, as a consequence of the backsliding in democratic principles and the rule of law, the EU recalibrated its assistance to Moldova. Parliamentary elections were held in February 2019 and a peaceful transition of power took place in June 2019.
- Since then, the government has focused on reforms in key areas, including the justice sector, on democratic principles and anti-corruption. Based on these initial, positive steps, the EU resumed payments under budget support programmes in July 2019. The EU also mobilised EU High Level Advisors to provide quick advice to the government, and organised a high-level workshop on justice reform in September 2019 drawing on EU Member States’ expertise. Now, continuing progress in key areas is essential, including, in particular, judicial reform and compliance with the rule of law and democratic standards.
- The EU continues to actively support civil society in Moldova, including by creating links between civil society organisations on both banks of the Nistru River, through its confidence building measures.

**STRONGER CONNECTIVITY**

- A road bypass around Ungheni, fully funded by the EU, was opened on 3 August 2018. Around 700 kilometres of roads are rehabilitated or will be rehabilitated in the Republic of Moldova thanks to EU support.
- Public transport has been improved in Chişinău and Bălţi with modern trolley buses.
- Biomass heating systems have been installed in more than 225 schools, kindergartens, community centres and village halls, making heating cheaper and diversifying the country’s energy sources. 47 of these sites were also equipped with solar hot water systems. 35 new biomass businesses were set up and over 400 new jobs have been created.
- New drinking water supply infrastructure was built with EU support. As a result, approximately 15,700 people have access to sufficient and safe drinking water.
- The EU has also supported the gas interconnector between Moldova (Ungheni) and the EU (Iași in Romania). This project is aimed at enhancing the energy security of Moldova and the competitiveness on the Moldovan energy market. The EU is also co-financing a permanent interconnection between the electrical networks of Moldova and Romania.

**STRONGER SOCIETY**

- Since 28 April 2014, Moldovan citizens with a biometric passport can travel to the Schengen area without a visa. More than 2 million Moldovan citizens have benefitted from the visa-free regime so far.
- In the years 2015-19, nearly 2,500 students and academic staff have benefitted from Erasmus+ academic mobility between Moldova and the EU.
- Over 3,000 young people from Moldova took part in EU funded non-formal education projects which organise short exchanges, trainings, common events and provide volunteering opportunities.
**TRANSNISTRIA**

The EU participates as an observer in the 5+2 negotiation process on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. It continues to support a comprehensive, peaceful settlement based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria.

The EU supports confidence building measures designed to facilitate the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict by increasing confidence between Chişinău and Tiraspol through joint initiatives involving stakeholders from both sides. Confidence building measures have allowed 70 people from both sides of the Nistru River to set up businesses and create 350 jobs. The EU also supports confidence building measures designed to foster regional development in Gagauzia.

**SECURING MOLDOVA’S BORDERS**

The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine was launched in 2005. The aim of EUBAM is to support Moldova’s and Ukraine’s efforts to effectively manage their common border and actively support concrete measures contributing to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

**COOPERATION IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS**

Moldova is one of the non-EU states that participate in the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. Moldovan experts take part in the EU Training Mission in Mali and have also contributed to the EU Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic. The EU continues to provide security sector reform-related advisory support to Moldova.

**IN FIGURES**

- **15,700** people have access to safe and sufficient drinking water thanks to new water supply infrastructures funded by the EU.

- **EU imports from Moldova have grown by 62% between 2014 and 2018.**

- **350** Moldovans from the diaspora received EU assistance in order to set up their own companies when returning to their home country.

**EU imports from Moldova have grown by 62% between 2014 and 2018.**