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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

DRAFT CONCEPT

**ON THE STATE NATIONAL POLICY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Concept of the state national policy of the Republic of Moldova, further called as *Concept*, represents a totality of the priority principles, goals and objectives of unity and integration of the multinational people of the Republic of Moldova through harmonization of the national interests with interests of all ethnic and linguistic communities in the country.

The Concept is based upon provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, national legislation in force, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Pact on Civil and Political Rights, International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms, other international acts on human rights, ethnic and linguistic communities which the Republic of Moldova adhered to.

The elaboration and adoption of this Concept are determined by a necessity to establish a direction of the state national policy, which would correspond to the national interests, would ensure strengthening of the independence of the Moldovan state and establishing of the multinational civil society.

The Concept will serve as guidelines for public authorities of all levels to promote the economic, social and cultural policy, aiming their activity to strengthen the statality, unite the multinational people of Moldova and establish civil society.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Republic of Moldova is a political and legal continuity of the uninterrupted multiage process of the Moldovan people statality. The Moldovans as a titular nation along with the representatives of other nations – Ukrainians, Russians, Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Jews, Romanians, Belarussians, Gypsies (Romany), Polishes etc, – are the people of Moldova and have a common motherland – Republic of Moldova.

As a condition of political sovereignty and civil peace served tolerance and respect for languages, religions, ethnic, religious and cultural peculiarities of the representatives of con-living peoples, always showed by the multinational population of Moldova.

The State commits itself to take care of preservation, development and free expression of the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of all nationalities living in the country.

The Moldovan language, having an official language status, is used in all fields of political, economic, social and cultural life and by virtue of this fact, fulfils its function of language for interethnic communication. The study of the Moldovan language is one of the state priorities.

The Russian language, similar to the Moldovan language, has a status of interethnic communication and is used in all spheres of state and society activity. The Moldovan-Russian and Russian-Moldovan bilingualism that had been historically established in Moldova should be developed and improved in the present conditions.

The Gagauz, Moldovan and Russian languages have a status of official languages on the territory of Gagauzia. In Transdnistria Moldovan, Ukrainian and Russian function as official languages.

Besides the Moldovan national culture, in Moldova there are developed the culture of Gagauz people, cultures of other nationalities that make their considerable contribution to creation and

development of the common spiritual space in Moldova. Mutually interacting and enriching, various cultures create common cultural inheritance and property of the country. Ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity is the wealth of Moldova.

The further promotion of the state national policy, aimed to ensure civic conciliation, development of ethnic and linguistic communities, correct interethnic relationship, overcoming of consequences of the civil conflict in the late '80s – early '90s of the last century, implies the solution of the following key challenges:

- to eradicate multiple attempts of demoldovenization, negation of existence of the Moldovan nation and Moldovan statality, discrediting of the Moldovan history, ignoring of the ethnonym “Moldovans” and “Moldovan language”;
- to solve the problem of territorial integrity of the country;
- to create immediately necessary conditions to remove insufficient knowledge of the Moldovan language by a part of the population of the republic;
- to not admit the narrowing of the usage sphere of the Russian language in spite of provisions of the legislation in force.

II. PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE NATIONAL POLICY

The state national policy is based upon the following basic principles:

- priority of the state interests and values;
- unity of multinational people of the Republic of Moldova;
- equality in rights and freedoms of persons despite the ethnic origin, language and religion;
- respect, recognizing and guaranteeing rights for all citizens of the republic on preservation, development and expression of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity;
- non-admittance of the discrimination on ethnic origin, language, religion, non-admittance of restraint of the right on use of the mother tongue, choice of language for education and study;
- non-admittance of any assimilation and denationalization activities;
- keeping and continuous developing of the Moldovan language identity and Moldovan culture, taking into consideration their East Roman origin, the respect of history, culture, linguistic peculiarities, ethnic physiology of the Moldavians from Transdnistria;
- interethnic enhancing and integration on the basis of the Moldovan-Russian and Russian-Moldovan bilingual situation that had been established historically, as well as preservation of the linguistic variety.

III. STATE NATIONAL POLICY GOALS

The State National Policy has the following main goals:

- to enhance multinational civil society as a condition for consolidation of political, legal, historical and cultural basis of the Moldovan state;
- to strengthen the political, legal, historical and cultural basis of the Republic of Moldova territorial integrity;
- to intensify ethnic consolidation process of the Moldovans and interethnic integration by enhancing trust of citizens of different nationalities in their common homeland – Republic of Moldova;

- to keep historical memory of the Moldovan people, to further affirm and develop its national and cultural identity;
- to preserve and develop culture and languages of all national communities from Moldova.

IV. STATE NATIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

Starting from the suggested goals, the promotion of state national policy supposes the implementation of the following main objectives:

1. In political, state and legal area:

- to affirm the system of state values on the basis of civic patriotism and spirit, to comprehend by citizens of all nationalities their belonging to the unique nation of the Republic of Moldova;
- to develop legislation that would regulate state national policy in order to insure entire realization of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, to improve the legal framework of staff and regional policy, which will take into consideration the interests of ethnic cohabiting communities;
- to apply continuously the international standards to national and linguistic problems solving;
- to ensure the effective legal protection of citizens, despite their ethnic belonging, inevitability of their liability for instigation to national discord, propagandising of the ideas of national superiority, instigation to the violent acts and their committing, citizens' rights offencing on ethnic and linguistic grounds;
- to respect professionalism, competence and devoting criteria for the homeland while promoting state policy in the staff area;
- to unify public authorities of all levels, social and political organizations, mass-media for civic conciliation and establishment of civic society;
- the establishment of a central, regional and local public authorities actions coordination system in order to promote national state policy.

2. In social and economic area:

- to unify the whole society in order to develop state economic potential;
- to provide all citizens with equal conditions for social promoting, despite their ethnic belonging;
- to re-establish the unique social and economic space on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova;
- to create equal conditions for social and economic development of all Republic of Moldova regions.

3. In humanitarian area:

- to form a unique system of values on the basis of the respect for the state, human rights and freedoms;
- to cultivate patriotism in citizens of the Republic of Moldova;
- to educate and train the growing generation in the spirit of respect for Moldovan language, culture and history as national spiritual values of their common country;
- to educate and train young generation in the spirit of respect for the history, culture and languages of ethnic cohabiting communities, for common spiritual values;

- to provide effective development of Moldovan national culture, Moldovan language and history study as a basis for Moldovan national identity and for civic self-consciousness of all representatives of ethnic communities from Moldova;
- to ensure conditions for the keeping and continuous development of the Russian language official functions;
- to uphold from the state the development of Ukrainian, Gagauz, Bulgarian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Romany and other languages of national minorities that are living on the territory of the republic.

4. In the foreign policy sphere:

- to affirm image of the Republic of Moldova as an European state, as a member of the international community which is aimed to the general known standards in the sphere of protection of human rights and freedoms of the ethnic and linguistic communities;
- to develop relations with the states which represent the ethno-historical homeland of the national minorities from the Republic of Moldova;
- to extend agreements with Moldavian Diaspora;
- to strengthen the cooperation with foreign states, international organizations regarding the security of the national and cultural rights and freedoms of a person;

V. STATE NATIONAL POLICY SECURITY

The state national policy is promoted by public authorities of all levels through developing of specific activities aimed to the achieve goals and objectives specified in the Concept.

In order to implement the Concept provisions, the Government will elaborate in this regard a complex program of measures, which will connect the national policy actions with the priorities of economic and political reforms, which are carried out in the country. The complex program should be approved by the Parliament.

The successful realization of the Concept implies an efficient dialogue between public authorities and civil society, including the political parties, non-governmental organizations, the mass media etc.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova will coordinate the ministry and department activities regarding the implementation of the state national policy Concept.