



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

October 8, 2018

Chişinău

UM 2018/35334/CHIS

Mr Nicolae Eşanu
State Secretary
at the Ministry of Justice
of the Republic of Moldova

Dear Mr State Secretary,

Thank you for your letter nr 03/10173 of 5 September 2018. The Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau welcomes the Ministry of Justice's initiative to continue to consult with donors, civil society and relevant stakeholders regarding the future development of the justice sector reform. Sweden is supporting the Republic of Moldova in its efforts to fulfill its commitments according to the EU-RM Association Agreement and Council of Europe engagements.

The justice reform is an ongoing priority area for the Republic of Moldova in its suitable development. This is due to the fact that the main pillars to ensure the democracy are the rule of law and the independent justice but also the respect of human rights and the guarantee to an impartial and professional justice to every citizen. Therefore, Sweden shares the European Council's conclusions of 26 February 2018 and encourages the Ministry of Justice to address the recommendations formulated in there in the next justice policy document.

Sweden believes that the Strategy of Justice Sector Reform 2011-2016 and the Strategic Actions for Judiciary Reform 2018 are key to move the agenda forward and a good baseline for the efforts to continue the reforms. Thus, the Ministry of Justice is encouraged to undertake all necessary measures to secure the reforms started in 2011 will continue in line with the European practices and recommendations to guarantee equal access to justice, fight against corruption and respect of the rule of law.

The Embassy wishes to highlight the following reforms as the most urgent ones in order for the Republic of Moldova to advance rule of law and fight corruption: (1) the prosecution reform should continue according to integrity, accountability and transparency standards; (2) the National Integrity Agency, the National Anticorruption Centre and the Assets Recovery Office should be

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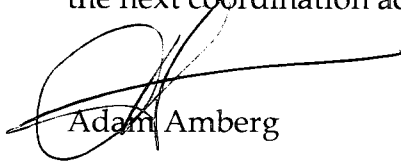
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strengthened and the independence of their activity must be ensured; (3) the new National Human Rights Action Plan should be implemented, including at the grass-roots level, according to the best European standards; (4) most of the substantial reforms started in judiciary have to be fully implemented in a sustainable manner; (5) the transparency and accountability of the appointment and promotion of judges and prosecutors should be secured; (6) a clear and efficient disciplinary liability system must function according to the best international practices; (7) the mechanism of random distribution of cases within courts should be enhanced; (8) the legal profession reform (including defense attorneys and the free legal aid mechanism) should continue to ensure accountability, ethics and professionalism, and (8) an efficient enforcement process should be functional and accessible.

The Embassy would like to stress the importance of involving in the implementation of reforms civil society, academia, representatives of judicial professions as well as the donor community to ensure inclusive representation and good coordination. The Ministry of Justice is advised to enhance the justice reform implementation, monitoring and evaluation systems through transparent, clear and measurable indicators and efficient communication.

Please be informed that Ms Daniela Vidaicu, National Programme Officer at the Embassy of Sweden (daniela.vidaicu@gov.se), is the Embassy's focal point for the process of justice sector reform coordination. The Embassy will highly appreciate to be involved in the next coordination activities.



Adam Amberg

Deputy Head of Mission/
Head of Development Cooperation