

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 745

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. OLSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for Moldova's territorial integrity.

Whereas the United States has enjoyed stable and positive relations with the Republic of Moldova for over 25 years;

Whereas since Moldova's independence in 1991, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the people of Moldova's efforts to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of the inaugural Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the United States and Moldova continue to broaden and deepen their partnership through advancing shared

interests in democracy, good governance, anti-corruption, energy independence, economic development, and security cooperation through the relaunching of the Strategic Dialogue on June 23, 2017;

Whereas Moldova has been urged to fight corruption and improve governance since its independence, particularly in the wake of a 2014 scandal involving the loss of over a billion dollars, and Moldova has moved forward with certain reforms seeking to address these issues;

Whereas efforts to improve governance and adopt domestic reforms are critical to Moldova's ability to secure loan packages from international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Union;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund has approved a three-year loan package premised on the continuation of reforms focused on strengthening the economy, bolstering economic development, and promoting trade and investment;

Whereas Moldova ratified an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union in 2014, and the Agreement became fully effective in July 2016;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas in a judgment in 2004, the European Court of Human Rights found that Transnistria was formed with the support of the Government of the Russian Federation and considered it "under the effective authority or at least decisive influence of Russia";

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and on that basis participates as an observer in the “5+2” negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria in Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine in 2013 and Moldovan meats and produce in 2014, and has threatened to ban Moldovan agricultural products, curtail the supply of energy resources to Moldova, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Transnistria region;

Whereas by September 2016, the Government of the Russian Federation had issued Russian passports to an estimated 180,000 residents of the Transnistria region;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Government of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from Moldovan territory;

Whereas in May 2017, the Constitutional Court of Moldova ruled that Moldova’s constitutional neutrality means that the presence of foreign troops in Moldova is unconstitutional;

Whereas in July 2017, the Moldovan Parliament adopted a declaration calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops from Moldova;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed by an overwhelming majority and the President signed into law Public Law 113–96, providing for a United States international broadcasting programming surge to counter disinformation from Russian-Government-supported news outlets and ensure that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information;

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic, Kosovo, and South Sudan;

Whereas Moldova cooperates with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through an Individual Partnership Action Plan to improve expertise, interoperability, peacekeeping capabilities, military education and training, and public sector reform; and

Whereas Moldova will hold parliamentary elections in 2018:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
3 States to support the sovereignty, independence, and
4 territorial integrity of Moldova and the inviolability
5 of its borders by other countries;

6 (2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means
7 to strengthen relations between Moldova and the
8 United States and enhance the democratic, eco-
9 nomic, governance, and security reforms already
10 being undertaken by Moldova;

1 (3) encourages the President, the Secretary of
2 State, and the Administrator of the United States
3 Agency for International Development, to enhance
4 United States partnerships with the Government,
5 private sector, and civil society of Moldova and to
6 focus United States assistance on supporting re-
7 forms that strengthen the justice sector, bolster
8 democratic institutions, promote an open and trans-
9 parent government, foster indigenous independent
10 media and an open information environment, diver-
11 sify energy supplies, increase energy security, and
12 promote inclusive economic growth by focusing on
13 the rural areas beyond the capital, enhancing invest-
14 ment opportunities, and increasing trade and job
15 creation;

16 (4) encourages Moldova to continue imple-
17 menting crucial reforms to ensure good governance,
18 increase the capacity of and trust in democratic in-
19 stitutions, and strengthen the justice sector through
20 anti-corruption efforts, transparency, tolerance, sup-
21 port for the rule of law, and maintaining open space
22 for civil society to operate;

23 (5) reaffirms the importance of and support for
24 free, fair, and transparent elections in Moldova;

1 (6) encourages the President to expedite the
2 implementation of Public Law 113–96, especially for
3 populations in Ukraine and Moldova;

4 (7) supports efforts to counter disinformation
5 campaigns in Eastern Europe in ways that are con-
6 sistent with democratic principles;

7 (8) affirms Moldova’s sovereign right to deter-
8 mine its own partnerships free of external coercion
9 and pressure, and affirms Moldova’s right to asso-
10 ciate with the European Union or any regional orga-
11 nization;

12 (9) calls upon the Government of the Russian
13 Federation to fulfill its commitments made at the
14 Istanbul summit of the Organization for Security
15 and Cooperation in Europe in 1999 and to withdraw
16 its military forces and munitions from within the
17 internationally recognized territory of Moldova;

18 (10) calls upon the Government of the Russian
19 Federation to refrain from issuing economic threats
20 or exerting pressure against Moldova and to cease
21 any and all actions that support separatist move-
22 ments within the territory of Moldova;

23 (11) supports a results-oriented “5+2” negotia-
24 tions process as the only channel for resolving the
25 territorial conflict between the Government of

1 Moldova and the leadership of the Transnistria re-
2 gion;

3 (12) supports efforts to resolve the Transnistria
4 issue through a comprehensive settlement that se-
5 cures Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity,
6 while providing a special status for the Transnistri-
7 an region within Moldova;

8 (13) urges all parties to refrain from unilateral
9 actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a
10 peaceful resolution or jeopardize agreements already
11 reached, and encourages leaders of the Transnistrian
12 region and the Moldovan Government to continue
13 negotiations toward a political settlement; and

14 (14) affirms that lasting stability and security
15 in Moldova is a key priority for the United States
16 and that these can only be achieved if the territorial
17 integrity and sovereignty of Moldova and all other
18 European countries is respected.

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