



**Educational visit of the representatives of the Republican Society the “Belarusian Union of Transport Workers” to the Republic of Moldova
April 9th – 14th, 2012**

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The objective of this visit was to study Moldova’s experience in the area of public transportation as a preparatory step in developing the concept for the “Harmonisation of legislation on passengers’ transportation by automobile transport in the Republic of Belarus”.

The visit was organised by the “Office for a democratic Belarus” (ODB, Brussels, Belgium) with technical and information assistance by the “Office for European Expertise and Communication” (Minsk, Belarus) and the “Union of transport and road workers of the Republic of Moldova” (Chisinau, Moldova) as the host side. The visit of the Belarusian experts on transportation and transit is part of the project [“EU and Belarus: Sharing Knowledge”](#) by the “Office for a democratic Belarus” carried out in cooperation with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies (Vilnius, Lithuania) and the “Belarusian Union of Transport Workers” (BUTW, Minsk, Belarus) with support of the European Commission and information and technical assistance of the “Office for European Expertise and Communication” (Minsk, Belarus).

According to the project plan, a representative of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, members of the BUTW, a representative from “Minsktrans” and an employee of the “Office for European Expertise and Communication” have visited Chisinau on April 9th – 14th, 2012.

List of activities during the visit

During the visit the following meetings and events took place:

1. Meeting at the International Association of Road Hauliers of Moldova “AITA”;
2. Visit to the Union of Transport and Road Workers of Moldova (UTWM);
3. Meeting with Mr. V. A. Flora, Director of the UTWM;
4. Signing of the Project Agreement on Cooperation between Belarusian and Moldovan Unions of Transport Workers;
5. Visits to private and state automotive transport parks in Chisinau, as well as private transport companies (bus parks);
6. Visit to the Moldovan Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure and a meeting with Deputy Minister of Transport and Road Infrastructure Boris Gerasim.

1. During the visit of the Belarusian guests to the International Association of Road Hauliers of Moldova “AITA” the leaders of this organisation shared their experiences in lobbying for the interests of the “AITA” members and explained the mechanism of the realisation of



transporters' interests. In particular, an example of the customs representative office located directly in the "AITA" building was demonstrated.

The delegation also visited the "AITA" education center that offers education and training courses for international passenger and freight transport managers and for transportation companies' employees. The importance and mandatory character of the training for staff and the unique nature of this centre in Moldova were stressed. The centre's management provided the Belarusian side with materials for further studying.

2. During the visit to the Union of Transport and Road Workers of Moldova (UTWM), management of the UTWM gave a tour of the organisation structure and the work of the transporters, a special attention was paid to the high level of coordination between the UTWM and "AITA".

3. Director of the UTWM Mr. V. A. Flora and the Belarusian participants talked about a number of questions regarding European integration within the "Eastern partnership" framework. In particular, such issues of priority conventions for Moldova in the transport area as unified control, ecological standards, compliance with the European transport standards etc. were discussed.

The "INTERBUS" and the "OMNIBUS" agreements developed for Moldova in regards with tourism transport were also mentioned. Service class levels (certification of compliance), passenger and luggage transport guidelines and star rating of the means of transportation for these agreements are developed and a commission is established. The mechanism for realisation was also reviewed – establishment of commissions with state institutions (IDIS is a non-governmental organisation), test analysis etc. Economic, political and social consequences of Republic of Moldova joining the European agreements and rules were voiced. A presentation of the bus star classification system by the International Union of Automotive Transport (IUAT) took place, including training and education of transporters (a transport pass program training takes place once in three years). This way, the introduction of the bus star classification system reduced the number of illegal transport units in Moldova. Representatives of the UTWM also introduced their Belarusian colleagues to the main legislative and normative acts regarding transportation that are being developed in the Republic of Moldova and gave them the necessary documents for the possible integration in Belarus.

4. A project agreement on cooperation between the "Belarusian Union of Transport Workers" and the "Union of transport and road workers of the Republic of Moldova" was signed during the educational visit in order to promote the realisation of the objectives and goals of these organisations.

5. As part of the introduction to the public automotive transport system of Moldova the Belarusian delegation visited a number of private and the only state automotive transport park in Chisinau, as well as private bus parks.

6. A meeting at the Moldovan Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure with Deputy Minister of Transport and Road Infrastructure Boris Gerasim was organised during the educational visit. At the meeting the questions of privatisation of organisations and companies, the cooperation with the European Union on transport, the changes brought to Moldova by the introduction of the European standards, joining the agreements and signing of



the conventions active in the EU were brought up. The results of the work of “AITA” in the Republic of Moldova were acknowledged. Also, questions of transport service prices liberalisation and the development of the new road regulations were raised.

Results of the Visit

The visit of the Belarusian transport and transit experts to Moldova is the first of the two educational tours envisioned as part of this project. Knowledge and the materials on the realisation of the transport policy in Moldova received during this visit will be used in the development of the concept of the “Harmonisation of legislation on passengers’ transportation by automobile transport” that will be the final document of the Permanent Working Group on Transport Issues which is created as part of the project “EU-Belarus: Sharing Knowledge”. The published document will be sent to the Ministry of transport and communication of the Republic of Belarus and other state institutions.

Another important result of the visit is the signing of the Project Agreement on Cooperation and joined activities between the BUTW and the UTWM, which directly corresponds to the aims of this project.