



“The EU wants Moldova to progress in implementing its judicial reforms, continuing the reform of the Ministry of Home Affairs and intensifying the fight against corruption.”



**Dirk Schuebel,**  
chief of the EU delegation to the Republic of Moldova, ambassador

## THE REFORM IN BRIEF

### Chiefs of Court Secretariats will be Trained in Three Steps

50 chiefs of court secretariats in Moldova will receive initial training at the National Institute of Justice in the period of March 25 through June 25, 2013. The training will have three stages: during the first stage (two weeks) and the third stage (four weeks), the trainees will attend various courses and seminars on profession-specific subjects. The second stage (6 weeks) will be internship. The position of chief of court secretariat was established last year, through July 2012 amendments to Article 47 of Law No. 514-XIII of July 6, 1995, “On the Judicial Organization.”

### Moldovan Prosecutors Study European Investigation Practices



The workshop « Practical Aspects of the Work in Joint Investigation Teams »

Chisinau—On July 8 and 9, 2013, Moldovan prosecutors participated in a workshop with the topic “Practical Aspects of the Work in Joint Investigation Teams,” which described European practices applied in criminal prosecution of cases involving organized cross-border crime. Training experts Camelia Storina and Olga Vrinceanu from the Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism of Romania (DIICOT), Thomas Lamiroy and Ariane Lambrigts, Federal Prosecutor’s Office of Belgium, and Anna Baldan, Eurojust (European Union Judicial Cooperation Unit), said that joint investigation teams are faster in solving criminal cases on criminal activity carried out in more countries. The event organizer was the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with DIICOT Romania, Federal Prosecutor’s Office of the Kingdom of Belgium and Eurojust.

According to the Superior Council of Magistracy, in 2012, trial courts tried

**10574**

criminal cases, or  
by 547 cases more  
than in 2011.



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# Judges’ Salaries in Moldova Could Increase to MDL 10,000 or MDL 17,000

**This will happen if the Parliament passes a bill on judges’ salaries developed by the President’s Office of the Republic of Moldova. The bill provides for gradually increasing judges’ salaries in the period of 2013 through 2015, depending on the category of the court they work in and their seniority. However, experts say that the salary increase should be linked to the increase in the judges’ responsibility for the quality of justice delivery.**

Currently, judges’ salaries are governed by Law No. 355-XVI of December 23, 2005, “On the Remuneration System in the Public Sector.” According to this law, the monthly salary of judges in the Supreme Court of Justice is MDL 6,000, that of judges in appellate courts is MDL 5,200 and that of judges in other courts is MDL 4,200. According to the press service of the President’s Office of the Republic of Moldova, the current remuneration does not correspond to the judges’ status and large monthly workload.

Increasing salaries and applying precise salary calculation criteria will contribute to maintaining the integrity of judges.

### Pay Rises for Certain Judges

The bill of the President’s Office proposes to increase judges’ monthly salaries to between 3 and 5 average salaries paid in Moldova (according to the National Bureau of Statistics, the average salary in Moldova in 2012 was MDL 3,477.7). Moreover, judges with executive duties in the judiciary could benefit of up to 20% pay rises on top of their basic salary. The judges’ salary will depend on the level of the court they work in. Thus, the monthly salaries of judges in the Supreme Court of Justice and in the Constitutional Court will amount to between 4.8 and 5 average salaries; those of judges in appellate courts and judicial assistants from the Constitutional Court will amount to 4 or 4.3 average salaries. The salary for judges in other courts will amount to 3 or 3.5 average

salaries. The president of the Supreme Court of Justice, the president of the Constitutional Court and the president of the Superior Council of Magistracy will have a 20% pay rise in addition to their basic salaries. The pay rises of presidents of appellate courts and the vice president of the Supreme Court of Justice will account to 15% of their basic salaries. Presidents of trial courts and vice presidents of appellate courts could benefit of 10% pay rises and vice presidents of trial courts could have 5% pay rises.

### Increased Salaries Should be Deserved

The bill on the judges’ salary increase is now examined in the Parliament, following the endorsement by the Superior Council of Magistracy and the Supreme Court of Justice. Sergiu Sarbu, vice president of the Parliamentary Commission for legal matters, appointments and immunities, says that the Commission has not examined this bill yet. “Perhaps, judges will have

to wait a little because the bill should contain the endorsement of the Government to be voted in the first reading,” Mr. Sarbu explains.

Lilia Carasciuc, executive director of Transparency International—Moldova and president of the Anti-corruption Alliance, welcomes the salary increase for judges, but says that the judicial system should first be cleansed of all corrupt judges. “Of course, a judge needs decent life conditions but to deserve the increased salary, he must observe all relevant norms of ethics, integrity and professionalism. If a judge does not comply with these principles, he must be excluded from the system,” Lilia Carasciuc says.

According to the Superior Council of Magistracy, in 2012, the average monthly number of cases examined per judge for the country as a whole was 52.7. This number in trial courts was 61.4, in appellate courts 42.7, in the Supreme Court of Justice 23.1, in District Commercial Court 12.4, and in the Military Court 4.3.

# Sittings in Judges’ Chambers

**Many Moldovan courts have the problem of lack of rooms for dispensing justice. For that reason, court sittings are carried out in judges’ chambers instead of courtrooms. According to the Assessment Report of Courts of Law in the Republic of Moldova, the interior is in very good condition in 12 courts, in good condition in 3 courts, in satisfactory condition in 17, and in unsatisfactory condition in other 12.**

On April 9, 2013, Buiucani Court, Chisinau, had 15 scheduled court sittings. None of them took place in a courtroom and the participants waited at judges’ doors to be invited in. All 15 hearings were carried out in judges’ chambers. The president of this court, Oleg Sternioala, says that the entity has just one courtroom and anyway it is not properly fitted out. “Buiucani Court has 22 judges. This requires at least 5 courtrooms. The space challenge is enormous in our court and I do not know whether it’s going to be solved,” Mr. Sternioala says.

### Courthouses Designed in Line with Soviet Standards

Many courts in the country are in the same situation as Buiucani Court. According to the Assessment Report of Courts of Law in the Republic of Moldova,



Trial participants waiting by the doors of judges’ offices where hearings are held, in Buiucani Court

developed by the USAID Rule of Law Institutional Strengthening Program, courthouses can usually be categorized in two types: old buildings constructed according to old Soviet design standards of 1970’s and buildings that were not constructed as courthouses but that later were given to courts. The study shows



Renovated courtroom at Comrat Court

that out of 49 assessed Moldovan courts only in 12 the interior is in very good condition (courtrooms fitted out with the necessary equipment, judges’ chambers renovated, separate spaces for the public, judges, and detainees). These are courts of appeals of Bender and Comrat, and trial courts of Bender, Basarabasca, Cantemir, Ceadir-Lunga, Donduseni, Leova, Nisporeni, Reznina, Straseni and Telenesti. On the opposite side, the 12 courts with the interior in unsatisfactory condition are Ciocana in Chisinau, Taraclia, Soldanesti, Orhei, Floresti, Falesti, Drochia, Briceni, Cimislia, Stefan Voda, the Military Court and the District Commercial Court.

Constantin Bragoi, the director of the Department of Judicial Administration (DJA), admits that the lack of space is a problem for many courts in the country and says that it cannot be solved quickly. “Every year, several courts are planned for renovation. This year we approved MDL 29,649,000, including MDL 22,649,000 to implement the Justice Sector Reform Strategy. These funds will be used to repair administrative buildings, including courtrooms in 19 courthouses,” the director of the DJA said.

Signed: Lilia Zaharia