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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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HOME AFFAIRS

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Ms Joanna Fomina
Coalition for the European Continent
Undivided by Visa Barriers
Sapieżyńska 10a
00-215 Warsaw
Poland

Dear Ms Fomina,

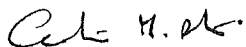
Thank you for your letter of 21 June 2012, which we have read with great interest.

Your letter was very timely. As you may know, the European Commission adopted on 22 June its report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation by the Republic of Moldova of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation (this report has been published on the website of the Commission's Directorate General for Home Affairs). It concludes that the Commission considers that the Republic of Moldova has eventually met all benchmarks of the first phase of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation and that the assessment of the benchmarks under the second phase of the Action Plan can therefore be launched.

Like you, we have duly appreciated the efforts of the Moldovan authorities to adopt important and difficult pieces of legislation such as, lastly, the Law on ensuring equality or the Law on the national anti-corruption centre. We realise as well that the implementation of all pieces of legislation adopted in the first phase of the Action Plan is a daunting task for the Republic of Moldova. You will be glad to learn in that context that the Moldovan government has already started the implementation which pertains to the second phase of the Action Plan. The EU is supporting it with substantial technical and financial assistance. Let us also reassure you that we fully stand by the principles enshrined in the Eastern Partnership Warsaw Summit declaration, including the 'merits-based approach' and the 'more for more' principle. These principles were reaffirmed at the Eastern Partnership Ministerial on 23 July, which also offered a good opportunity to take stock of the good progress made by the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, you may already know that on 27 June, the Republic of Moldova became one of the main beneficiaries of the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation programme.

We should be grateful if you could convey the content of this letter to all the members of the Visa-free Europe Coalition.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine ASHTON



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM