

BULLETIN
No. 639, October the 6th, 2006

The European Commission will start negotiations with the Republic of Moldova in view of facilitating the visa regime for, and concluding an agreement on the readmission of, the Moldovan citizens illegally residing in the EU area

The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, participated in the reunion of the EU Council of Justice and Home Affairs, where there was adopted, among others, the decision to give the Commission the mandate to start these negotiations.

The European Union has already concluded an agreement with Russia on facilitating the visa regime, and it started negotiations with Ukraine in this area. Also, negotiations are unfolding with the Western Balkans states.

An agreement on facilitating the visa regime would not offer Moldovan citizens the possibility of free movement in the EU area, but it could include facilities such as: exempting them from paying some taxes for certain types of visas, multi-entry visas, and less documents for proving the purpose of their travels.

The issue of exempting from paying some taxes is extremely important to the Moldovan citizens, as the new tax for processing visas, amounting to 60 euros, represents in Moldova the equivalent of approximately one monthly salary or two-pension amount, Moldova being one of the poorest countries in Europe.

In these circumstances, the visa fee for the Moldovan citizens could decrease to 35 euros.

In turn, the Republic of Moldova should assume some strict obligations regarding the readmission of its own citizens, should achieve some progress in the area of justice and home affairs: border control, documents security, migration and asylum, fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption. The necessity of a firmer attitude of Chisinau against illegal migration was emphasised by all the representatives of the EU member states delivering a speech in the Council's reunion, as well as by the vice-president of the European Commission, Franco Frattini.

The final provisions of the agreement on facilitating the visa regime depend on the mandate that the Council has given to the European Commission, and on the negotiations with the Moldovan authorities.

Starting with January the 1st, 2007, Romania will introduce the visa-requirement for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, according to the commitments assumed before the European Commission.

The Romanian Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, announced yesterday that Romania intends to offer the Moldovan citizens the same facilities regarding the travel conditions which states like Hungary and Greece offered to the Hungarian and, respectively, Greek minorities abroad.

The European Commission also suggested that the member states should set up a common centre for granting visas in Chisinau, considering the fact that in the Republic of Moldova there are few consular facilities, which makes the Moldovan citizens travel to Bucharest, Moscow or Kiev in order to obtain a visa.

BULLETIN
No. 637, the 5th of October 2006

The Ministry of Administration and Interior was congratulated by O.H.R.D. on the occasion of the Monitoring Report issued in September

The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, was congratulated by the Organisation for Human Rights Defence (O.H.R.D.), on the occasion of the Monitoring Report issued on the 26th of September 2006, on the way it accomplished its commitments in view of Romania's accession to the European Union.

“On the occasion of the issuance of the latest European Commission's Monitoring Report, which confirms the date of January the 1st 2007 as the moment when Romania joins the European Union, I take the opportunity to send, on behalf of the over 6,000 members of the Organisation for Human Rights Defence - Romania, our warmest congratulations to you”, stated the president of the Organisation, prof. PhD Florentin SCALETCHI, in his letter to Minister Vasile Blaga.

At the same time, the non-governmental organisation highly appreciated the measures taken by our institution in the field of transparency towards the general public, as well as in the area of the ensuring the citizens' rights and

freedoms; this is the conclusion that the organisation's members reached after having monitored 38 counties of Romania.

The Ministry of Administration and Interior and its subordinate units co-operate with the Organisation for Human Rights Defence for reaching a common goal, namely, to obey and promote the Human Rights, to notify - according to the law - the abuses and infringements in this field, as well as to protect the Human Rights, especially the one of free movement.

These actions will be continued in view of raising the level of the ensuring of human rights and freedoms to European standards, as well as in view of speeding up the process of Romania's full integration to the European Union, after its accession on January the 1st 2007.