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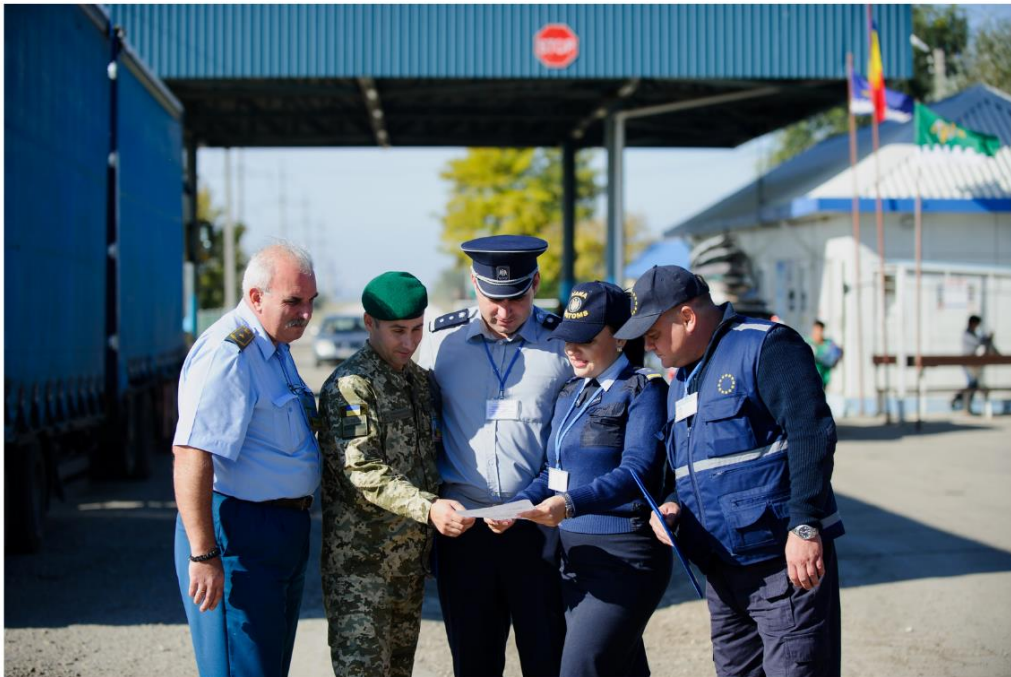
Delegations will find attached the monthly report (August 2021) by EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, as submitted by the EEAS.



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION
TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

MONTHLY REPORT

August 2021



EUBAM is fully funded
by the European Union



International Organization for Migration
is the implementing partner

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Highlights

By 31 August 2021, the EUBAM Field Offices Giurgulesti and Otaci completed their operations. Consequently, EUBAM has finished its daily presence and permanent monitoring as well advisory activities related to the Northern and Southern segments of the Moldova-Ukraine border. Therefore, the advisory support would be provided by a respective EUBAM Country Office, if relevant. That change resulted from the recommendation of the 2019 EUBAM mid-term external evaluation. Starting from 1 September 2021, EUBAM would maintain its permanent on the ground presence only at the central sector of the Moldova-Ukraine border.

Coordination meetings and visits

On 6 August, HoM held a working meeting with Ms Magdalena Rzeczkowska, Secretary of State, Head of the National Revenue Administration, Ministry of Finance of Poland.

On 13 August, HoM met with Mr Vladislav Kulminski, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova.

On the same day, HoM held a working meeting with Mr Rosian Vasiloï, newly appointed Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova.

On 18 August, HoM hosted a meeting with Mr Anh Nguyen, Chief of Mission for IOM Ukraine.

COVID-19 outbreak

In August, due to the increase of COVID-19 cases and risk of the spread of new virus strains, an orange hazard code has been introduced in the Republic of Moldova. The National Emergency Commission of Public Health approved a new list of anti-epidemic measures, including amended rules for entering the country, effective as of 16 August. Accordingly, travellers should present either a PCR or antigen test, or a vaccination certificate, or a certificate of recovery after COVID. Otherwise, it provided a two-week self-isolation. In Ukraine, the rules of entry to the country were updated as of 5 August with the same requirements as in the Republic of Moldova, additionally providing a mandatory health insurance for COVID-19 treatment. In case of failure, a traveller should keep a self-isolation supported with an application "Vdoma".

The vaccination process of the Mission's personnel continued in August, thus by the end of the month, 37 out of 43 international experts and 41 out of 70 national employees received vaccine, either the first or both doses.

Specific objective 1: Support in the development of Transnistria-related matters

Targeted Monitoring Action "Autumn" on Ban for TN-plated Vehicles

On 30 August, EUBAM launched its Targeted Monitoring Action (TMA) "Autumn" aimed at examining border procedures related to the ban on entering Ukraine by vehicles bearing number plates issued by Transnistrian region's structures coming into force on 1 September 2021. The decision on allowing Moldova-Ukraine border crossing to enter Ukraine only by vehicles from the Transnistrian region registered with regular or neutral design-number plates was widely publicised in Moldovan and Ukrainian media throughout the year. However, the Moldovan authorities requested the Ukrainian Government for the earlier mechanism extension, allowing entry of vehicles with Transnistrian number plates in Ukraine, until 10 January 2022. But the latter re-confirmed application of the ban as it was initially planned. The TMA operational phase was scheduled to complete on 6 September, resulting in a thorough assessment.

Export Duty for Cereals Introduced in Transnistrian Region

In August, EUBAM analysed the compliance of a Transnistrian regulation adopted in the late July 2021 imposing a customs duty on the export of certain goods (cereals) from the Transnistrian region with the requirements in the EU-MD Association Agreement (AA). It was noted that there were no exemptions for EU-oriented exports. According to article 150 ('Customs duties on exports') of EU-MD AA, the Party should neither adopt or maintain any duty or tax on or in connection with the export of goods to the territory of the other Party.

Re-registration of Cars in Vehicle Registration Offices (VROs)

On 10 August, a technical solution for the re-registration of vehicles at Tiraspol and Ribnita VROs based on a confirmation of ownership transfer due to an inheritance procedure started to be implemented in a testing mode. By that, one of the 15 challenges noted during October 2020 joint assessment visit to VROs was sorted out.

Resumption of Odesa - Chisinau - Odesa Passenger Train

On 28 August, Odesa - Chisinau - Odesa passenger train daily operation resumed, following up an agreement between the State Enterprise "Railway of Moldova" and the "Railway of Ukraine". The train crossed the Transnistrian region stopping at Bender and Tiraspol, thus widening the range of available transport means for Transnistrian residents. EUBAM monitored customs and border checks performed at Kuchurhan-Novosavitskoe rail border crossing point (BCP) by Ukrainian authorities and confirmed their correctness and timeliness.

Specific objective 2: Full implementation of Integrated Border Management

Operability of Border Crossing Points and Cross-Border Movement of People and Trade

57 out of 67 BCPs were operational along the Ukraine-Moldova border. Remaining 10 BCPs were local ones operating periodically upon written request of local authorities. In August 2021, 303,665 travellers crossed the border through seven busiest road BCPs at the Moldova-Ukraine border. That number grew by 186% compared to the number of border crossers registered in August 2020 (106,058). The commercial traffic flow at those seven BCPs grew by 24% to 35,490 trucks compared to August 2020 (28,734).

One-Stop-Shop Concept Launched at Tudora BCP

At the end of July, the Moldovan Border Police (MDBP) in cooperation with the Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) launched a pilot project on the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) concept at Tudora BCP. The OSS concept envisaged that a vehicle stops once for border and customs control procedures at the BCP, and travellers' documents related to the border crossing were handed over by one agency to the next one. The project aimed at the establishing synchronized control procedures to shorten passage through BCP. EUBAM welcomed that initiative, which would improve the interagency cooperation and offered its support in further implementation and evaluation of the OSS concept project at Tudora BCP.

Sharing EU Experience on Job Profiles for Customs Officers Employed at Border Crossing Points

In August, upon request of MDCS, EUBAM drafted and shared a briefing paper on job profiles for customs officers employed at BCPs covering their specific functions within the customs control process. The document provided an overview on job profiles applied by MDCS and customs services of some EU countries. It could serve MDCS as a reference for improving job profiles according to its organisational needs and human resources strategy as well as facilitate the implementation of the respective recommendation of the 2019 JAE "DEMETRA" on verification of customs controls of passenger traffic performed by MDCS at BCPs at the Moldova-Ukraine border.

Joint Assistance Exercise "Stronger Together" on Verification Exercise of Control Procedures

In August, the second phase of the Joint Assistance Exercise "Stronger together" on verification exercise of control procedures on passenger and cargo traffic at six Jointly Operated Border Crossing Points (JOBCEPs) was completed. EUBAM teams in cooperation with the partner services assessed the control procedures at JOBCEPs against the existing Technological Schemes and the 2017 Agreement on Joint Control as well as interviewed travellers for their satisfaction with border control procedures and border crossing. EUBAM also verified whether the

OSS concept was enforced at those BCPs. The collected findings would facilitate the evaluation of the agreed sequence of control and the implementation of the joint control principles.

Specific objective 3: Greater effectiveness of efforts to combat cross-border crime

Controlled Delivery Exercise on Illicit Cocaine

In August, EUBAM, the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova, Security Service of Ukraine, Moldovan General Police Inspectorate, and Prosecutor General's Offices of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine carried out a practical exercise on controlled delivery of illicit cocaine. The exercise verified the implementation of full chain of actions required to implement the cross-border controlled delivery according to the adopted earlier scenario and proved the need to speed up the procedure for processing requests for international legal assistance. The latter would require some legislative amendments in Ukraine. The exercise also identified the necessity for improvement of the visual surveillance tactics.

Pre-operational Phase of the Joint Border Control Operation "SCORPION II"

In August, the pre-operational phase of the JBCO "SCORPION II" on combatting cigarette smuggling was implemented. In that connection, EUBAM facilitated an online training for the participating agencies from Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on usage of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS). All National Contact Points (NCPs) were provided with the access to the system. EUBAM also held meetings with law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to coordinate interagency cooperation related to communication, joint investigation and mobile teams.

Building Capacity through On-the-job Mentoring

Throughout August, EUBAM provided on-the-job mentoring sessions to Moldovan customs officers (12 – three females and nine males) on used concealment methods and modus operandi regarding cigarettes and drugs seized at the EU external borders. Also, upon request of Podilsk Customs Post, EUBAM expert provided on-the-job mentoring sessions and handouts to Ukrainian customs officers on the NCTS functioning.

Contextual developments

Republic of Moldova

New Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration

On 6 August 2021, the Parliament voted the new Gavrilita Government. Thus, Mr Vlad Kulminski, an expert in political analysis, strategic planning, good governance, and conflict resolution, was appointed to the post of the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration. Acting within the World Bank, he dealt with the reform of the public administration sector in Moldova, but also paid several visits to the left bank of the Nistru River on social or health issues. During the period when Moldova signed the Association Agreement with the European Union, Mr Kulminski became a senior adviser to the Prime Minister, leading the internal department of strategic planning. In 2019, he was invited to the Government led by Ms Maia Sandu, as an Adviser to the Prime Minister on foreign policy and strategic planning. He developed and implemented programs in the area of conflict resolution in the region, including programs of confidence-building measures, and worked as a political expert at the US and British Embassies in Moldova. *Source:* <https://gov.md/ro/content/vladislav-kulminski>

At its First Meeting, New Moldovan Government Changed Most of State Secretaries in Ministries

Already at its first working meeting held on 9 August, the new Government of Moldova changed the majority of State Secretaries in ministries. MP Rosian Vasiloï was appointed as a Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate. The member of ruling Party of Action and Solidarity Mr Vasiloï had already held that post before - in the Government of Premier Minister Maia Sandu in 2019. On 16 August, Minister of Interior Ana Revenco appointed Lilian Carabeț as an Acting Head of the Inspectorate General of Police (IGP). Prior to that, he held senior positions in the National Inspectorate of Investigations *Source: INFOTAG, 09 August*

Moldovan President Meets Dmitry Kozak

On 11 August, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Russia Dmitry Kozak arrived in Chisinau with an official visit. Kozak said that he discussed with Sandu the issues related to Transnistria and disposal of ammunition, duty-free trade and lifting restrictions, as well as the "gas problem". According to him, the conversation turned out to be "constructive and benevolent."
Source: NewsMaker, 11 August

Moldova Joins European System on Motor Vehicles and Driving Licenses

By a Government's decision taken on 12 August, the Republic of Moldova acceded to the European System of motor vehicles and driving licenses by joining a corresponding Agreement signed in Luxemburg in 2020. The Agreement stipulated an operative exchange of data on driving licenses and registered vehicles for preventing hijackings, thefts from cars and other crimes of such kind. *Source: INFOTAG, 12 August*

Goods of about 900,000 lei, Seized in a Joint Operation of Customs-SIS-POCOCSC

Officers of the Customs Service and employees of the Intelligence and Security Service arrested in flagrante delicto three people, in a case on smuggling of consumer goods, being jointly investigated with the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases. The goods worth approximately 900,000 lei came from the "7KM" market in Odesa (Ukraine). According to case materials, the seized goods were brought into the country through the Transnistrian region and stored at localities in the Security Zone. From here, the goods were taken over by other members of the group, who had a role of transporting them to the territory controlled by the constitutional authorities of Moldova, by avoiding the internal customs control posts. *Source: MDCS website, 20 August*

Alarming Situation in the Moldovan Border Police: 14 Employees Infected with Covid-19

Increase in Covid-19 cases was registered at the Border Police. Currently, 14 officers were tested positive, with a mild form of the disease having treatment at home. Half of the cases were reported in the Northern Regional Directorate. It was found that, like in the country, the individual protection measures were ignored within the institution, and many did not accept vaccination against COVID-19. With reference to the process of immunization at the Border Police, it was found out that 44.6% of the total number of employees got vaccinated. *Source: MDBP website, 20 August*

New Head of the TN Customs Structure Appointed

As of 23 August 2021, Mr Valentin Grabko was appointed as a new Head of the TN customs structure. *Source: <https://customs.gospmr.org/kadrovye-naznacheniya-v-gtk.html>*

Parliament of Moldova Adopts New Customs Code

On 24 August, the Parliament approved in a final reading the Republic of Moldova's new Customs Code by the votes of 56 PAS MPs in the 101-member legislative forum. The new Customs Code was called to simplify the regulation and interpretation of the rules concerned by uniting several profiled laws into one Code. The Code's novelties include a simplified procedure of submitting declarations, a possibility to present documents in a digital format, the right to reply to the actions of customs bodies, a longer period for submitting complaints, adjustment of instruments for the facilitation of trade according to international standards, and other. *Source: INFOTAG, 24 August*

Ukraine

2021-2022 Anti-Corruption Program of the State Customs Service of Ukraine Approved

The program identifies specific measures aimed at preventing and minimizing possible violations of anti-corruption legislation by customs officials. Information on the status of implementation of measures envisaged by the anti-corruption program was provided to the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption every six months and would be published on the web portal of the State Customs Service. *Source: UASCS website, 05 August*

Law Providing People with Disabilities a Right to 'Extraordinary' Pass through Border of Ukraine Came into Force

The Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning Increasing Social Guarantees of Persons with Disabilities and Children with Disabilities, which grants people with disabilities the right to an extraordinary (first-in-line) pass through the state border of Ukraine, came into force, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine reported. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 05 August*

In Odesa SBU Exposed Members of the Notorious "Ndrangheta" Criminal Organization that Oversaw Cocaine Smuggling to the EU

The SBU blocked a smuggling channel for the transit of wholesale consignments of drugs from one of the Latin American countries to the European Union. As a result of a special operation, three people - citizens of Ukraine, Romania, and Albania, who organized the supply of drugs, were detained. Almost 60 kg of cocaine worth 10 million USD at black market, was seized from the perpetrators. According to Interpol, the detainees were involved in Ndrangheta's activities, one of the world's notorious and powerful criminal organizations. *Source: SBU website, 09 August*

Ukraine Begins Preparatory Works to Building New Bridge across the Dniester River

Preparatory works to building a new bridge across the Dniester River were started in Ukraine near Yampol town, as the Embassy of Ukraine to Moldova announced in social networks. Ukraine was repairing an approach road to the would-be object in the Vinnytsia Oblast [region]. The bridge project presupposed the construction of two approach roads - from the Ukrainian side (1068 meters long) and from the Moldovan side (5 km). The total viaduct would be 668 meters long and length of the bridge proper - 641 meters. The bridge would be standing on 21 pillars 8 to 40 meters high. *Source: INFOTAG, 18 August*

Zelensky Puts into Effect NSDC Decision on Implementation of State Policy on State Border Protection

The decision noted that the Cabinet of Ministers should provide funding in 2021-2022 for measures related to the redemption or expropriation with the aim of further transferring land plots for permanent use to military units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and real estate objects located there, owned by legal entities and individuals and located within land plots with a width of 30-50 meters along the state border on land, along banks of border river, lake or other water in the Ukrainian part. In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers should also complete the legal formalization of the state border and its arrangement, installation of border signs, border glades, construction of engineering and technical and fortifications, fences, communications of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, as well as to strengthen banks of border waters in the Ukrainian part. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 19 August*

Ukrainian Government Elected Head of State Fiscal Service as Director of Bureau of Economic Security

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine appointed the current Head of the State Fiscal Service, Vadym Melnyk as Director of the Bureau of Economic Security (BES). Colonel of the tax police, 49-year-old Vadym Melnyk headed the investigation department of UA SFS in 2014-2016, and earlier held various positions in the Tax Police structure. He headed UA SFS since the end of 2020. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 21 August*

Government Amended Rules for Border Regime and Regime Restrictions in Areas Adjacent to Administrative Border and Demarcation Line

The Government amended some resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regulating the issue of the border regime in controlled border areas. The list of cities and districts in the border-controlled territory, was updated. The width of the border was changed; it would be 5 kilometres along the entire land border. Previously, the width of the border strip was larger and was established within territories of town and village councils adjacent to the state border. *Source: UASBGS website, 25 August*

SBU Stopped Activity of Malefactors who Made and Sold Excisable Tobacco Products in Mass through Channels in Telegram

SBU exposed another channel of large-scale production and sale of counterfeit excisable products. A hidden shop to produce counterfeit tobacco products was discovered in Odesa. During the searches of the criminals, the following items were found: products prepared for sale

without excise tax stamps for more than UAH 3.5 million; more than 3 tons of raw materials for the manufacture of tobacco products. Dealers sold wholesale consignments of counterfeit to various regions of Ukraine under the guise of products of well-known foreign brands. They searched for their clients through specially created platforms in the social network "Instagram" and messenger "Telegram". *Source: SBU website, 29 August*

Ukraine Joins COE's Drug Policy Cooperation Platform the POMPIDOU Group

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba delivered a letter to the Council of Europe (CoE) Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić informing her of his country's decision to join the Pompidou Group as of January 2022. The participation of Ukrainian experts in the work of the Group would facilitate the creation and implementation of programmes for treatment of addictions, the care and rehabilitation of people with substance use disorders, as well as the exchange of information on trends related to drug trafficking and drug use, the press service of the Council of Europe said on Tuesday. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 31 August*

Annex to item ‘Support in the development of Transnistrian region’s-related matters’

Transnistria external trade activity

Export

In January-August 2021, exports from Transnistrian region made \$433mln or €361.8mln, demonstrating an increase by 61% in USD and by 50% in Euro against \$269.2mln and €241.2mln in comparison with the same period of 2020.

January-August exports and imports figures along with month-on-month and year-on-year (2021/2020) comparisons are given in Table 1 below.

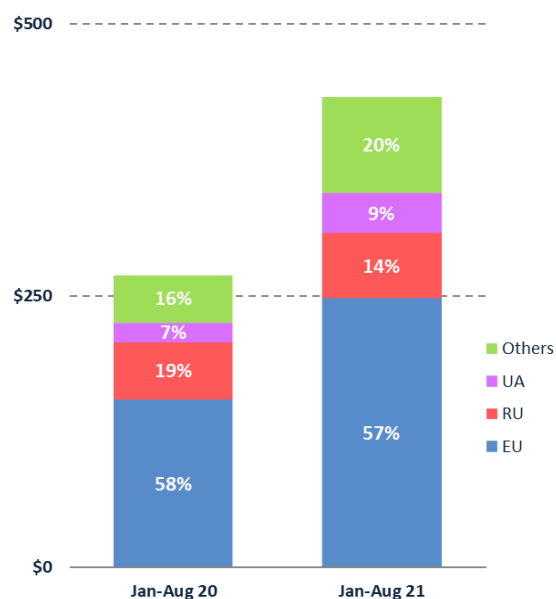
Table1. Exports from and imports to Transnistrian region (under

Currency	Exports		
	Value, month	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
MDL	1,282,859,895	10%	144%
Euro	61,455,249	12%	130%
USD	72,332,070	12%	129%

Currency	Imports		
	Value, month	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
MDL	1,348,455,940	-5%	42%
Euro	64,597,620	-3%	34%
USD	76,030,602	-4%	33%

Source: Moldovan Customs Service

Fig.1- Markets for Transnistrian exports, in % of value (mln USD)



Source: Customs Service of The Republic of Moldova

Moldovan Customs Service exceptionally), August 2021

Metal products (50%), textiles, clothes and leather (28%), agricultural and food industry products (10%), equipment and instruments (6%), footwear (3%) and other different products (3%) formed the structure of Transnistrian region’s exports in USD value in August 2021. An increase spanned exports of all key categories of export goods. Year-on-year, in USD value the overall Transnistrian region’s export over doubled, having been triggered by a six-fold increase in exports of agricultural products and doubled exports of metal products from the Transnistrian region, with the latter mainly linked to the EU, Ukraine, Belarus, Kenya, Serbia, Uzbekistan and the North Macedonia. A year-on-year increase also spanned exports of equipment and instruments - by 64%, of footwear – by 27% and of textiles - by 25% in USD value.

In August 2021, in USD value, year-on-year exports of rapeseeds grew seven-fold, of barley resumed, while exports of wheat grew multi-fold. Transnistrian region's commodity exports, ranged into key export markets, are shown in the figure 2.

The EU claimed 51% of Transnistrian region's exports in August 2021. In USD value, Transnistrian region's exports to the EU over doubled year-on-year and edged down by 1% month-on-month. Such a year-on-year growth was mainly linked to the over trebled export of metal products and doubled export of agricultural products. Exports of footwear grew by 29%, exports of textiles increased by 31%, while exports of equipment and instruments dropped by 52%. In August 2021, 81% of metal products, 67% of footwear, 56% of textiles, clothes and leather, 7% of equipment and instruments, 5% of agricultural and food products and 38% of other various products were shares of the EU in Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.2) In August 2021, exports of articles of bedding, Portland cement and plastic film to the EU collectively made 2% of overall Transnistrian region's exports to the EU.

Transnistrian region's exports to Ukraine in USD value grew by 87% year-on-year and by 9% month-on-month. Ukraine claimed 9% of overall Transnistrian export in August 2021. Year-on-year, in USD value, a growth was linked to the resumed export of wheat and to the increased by 34% export of bars and rods of iron. In August 2021, export of wheat to Ukraine reached 23% of overall exports of Transnistrian region to Ukraine in USD value. Steel bars and rods continued as the main products of Transnistrian region's exports to Ukraine, being 56% of all Transnistrian region's exports to Ukraine in USD value.

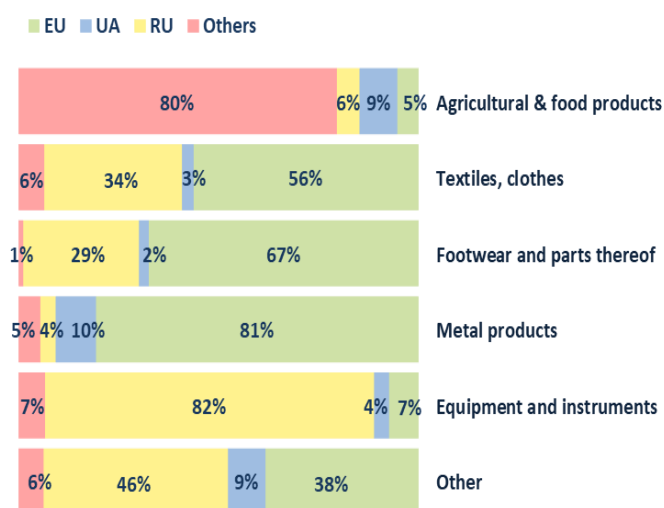
The Russian Federation claimed 14% in overall Transnistrian region's export in August 2021. Exports to the Russian Federation grew by 45% year-on-year and by 9% month-on-month in USD value. In August 2021, exports of equipment and instruments nearly doubled year-on-year, mainly linked to electric motors and parts of aircrafts, which collectively made one third of overall Transnistrian region's exports to the Russian Federation in USD value. Additionally, exports to the Russian Federation of metal products grew by 91%, of footwear – by 33%, of textiles – by 30% in USD value. Export of agricultural products to the Russian Federation decreased by 29% year-on-year. In August 2021, in USD value, 82% of equipment and instruments, 34% of textiles and clothes, 29% of footwear, 6% of agricultural products, 4% of metal products were shares of the Russian Federation in overall Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.2) In August 2021, exports of plastic films and glass fibre to the Russian Federation made 9% of overall Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation.

In August 2021, Kenya and Belarus were the third and fourth biggest consumers of metal products, following the EU and Ukraine.

Import

Overall USD value of Transnistrian region's merchandise imports grew by 33% year-on-year while dropped by 3% month-on-month. Steel scrap and metal articles (36%, where scrap metal makes 29% and products of various metals – 8%), machinery, equipment and instruments (24%), chemicals, plastics and rubber (12%), agricultural products and food (10%), petroleum oils, gases and coal (6%), textiles, leather and footwear parts (5%) and other goods (6%) made a structure of Transnistrian region's merchandise imports in August 2021. Year-on-year, a growth was impacted mainly by trebled import of steel scrap, over doubled imports of petroleum fuels, increased by 35% imports of machinery, equipment and instruments and by 13% import of articles of various metals. In USD value, imports of textiles, leather and footwear parts dropped by 13%, of chemical, plastic and rubber products - by 4%, of agricultural and food products - by 34%, year-on-year. Imports of agricultural products by the Transnistrian region decreased from all key

Fig. 2 -EXPORT



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

supplying markets but the Russian Federation. The key categories of Transnistrian region's imports ranged into key import markets are shown in the figure 3.

In August 2021, the EU claimed 50% of Transnistrian region's imports in USD value. Imports from the EU grew by 62% year-on-year and by 3% month-on-month. Import of steel scrap and petroleum fuels from the EU trebled, year-on-year in USD value. Transnistrian region increased imports of chemicals, plastics and rubber by 28% and of products of various metals - by 41%, while decreased imports of machinery, equipment and instruments – by 11%, of agricultural and food products – by 31% and of textiles, leather and footwear parts - by 14%, year-on-year in USD value. In August 2021, in USD value, 96% of steel scrap, 68% of textiles, clothes, footwear parts, 49% of petroleum oils, gases and coal, 32% of agricultural and food products, 31% of chemicals, plastic and rubber products, 25% of machinery, instruments and equipment, 19% of products of various metals and 25% of other various products imported by the Transnistrian region fell within the EU. (fig.3)

Import from Ukraine grew by 6% year-on-year and dropped by 26% month-on-month. In USD value, Ukraine claimed 15% of overall Transnistrian region's imports in August 2021. Year-on-year in USD value, a year-on-year increase was mainly linked to import of machinery, instruments and equipment, of furniture, textile, articles of asphalt and unglazed ceramic flags and carboys, while import of agricultural and food products, products of various metals and chemicals, plastic and rubber products dropped. In USD value, 41% of agricultural and food products, 26% of products of various metals, 21% of chemicals, plastic and rubber products, 18% of equipment and instruments and 35% of other products imported by Transnistrian region fell within Ukraine. (fig.3) No import of steel scrap resumed by Transnistria in August 2021.

Transnistrian import from the Russian Federation edged up by 0.2% year-on-year while dropped by 14% month-on-month. The Russian Federation claimed 15% in overall Transnistrian imports in USD value. Year-on-year, in USD value, a growth spanned imports of agricultural and food products and petroleum fuels. The Russian Federation's share in Transnistrian region's imports of steel scrap made 4% in August 2021. Year-on-year in USD value, imports of food products from the Russian Federation grew by 8% and of petroleum fuels by 166%. Imports of chemicals, rubber and plastic products decreased by 14%, of articles of various metals – by 14%. Import of medicaments and mineral fertilisers collectively made 16% of overall Transnistrian region's imports from the Russian Federation in USD value. Thus, in USD value, the Russian Federation claimed 32% of chemicals and plastics and rubber (with medicaments and fertilisers collectively being 50% of this share), 28% of products of various metals, 13% of agricultural and food products, 9% of machinery, equipment and instruments imported by Transnistrian region in August 2021. (fig.3)

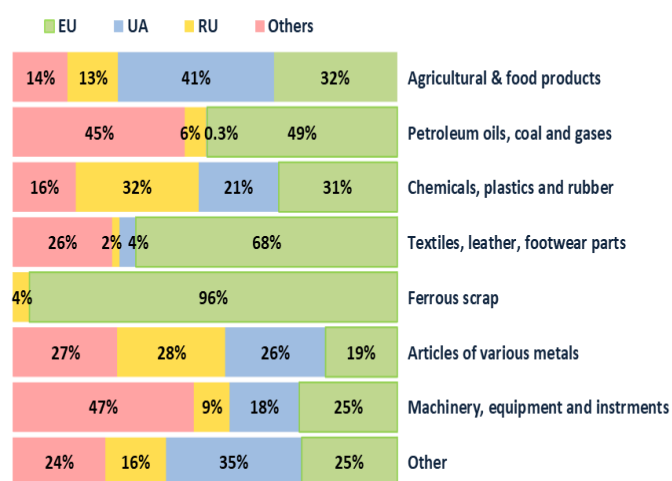
Additionally, Transnistria vastly imported insecticides from India and China, cotton and wadding from Uzbekistan, pig iron from Serbia, ferro-alloys from India, flat-rolled products of iron from China, South Korea and Turkey, automatic data-processing machines from Hong Kong and China, medicaments from Turkey, motor cars from USA, Switzerland and South Korea, mobile telephones from Hong Kong, Arabia Saudi and USA.

In August 2021, 52% of petroleum fuels in USD value were imported from the EU, 44% - from Belarus; the rest 6% were shared between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Imports of petroleum fuels grew by 156% year-on-year.

Movement of people across the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border

In August 2021, the number of persons crossing the Moldova-Ukraine border in both directions via BCPs of Transnistrian segment, under though improved but continuous pandemic circumstances, grew by 7%, month-on-month and seven-fold year-on-year, posting 156,991.

Fig.3 IMPORTS



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Citizens of Moldova made 47%, of Ukraine - 37% and of the Russian Federation – 13% of overall border crossers at this border segment. In August 2021, 528 citizens of Moldova, 330 citizens of the Russian Federation were refused entry into Ukraine at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border for their failure to meet entry requirements.