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Delegations will find attached the monthly report (October 2020) by EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, as submitted by the EEAS.

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EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

MONTHLY REPORT

October 2020











International Organization for Migration is the implementing partner

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Highlights

 On 21 October, following the European Commission's proposal, the Government of Ukraine agreed to extend the EUBAM's mandate for three more years. As a similar decision had been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in July, the Mission would continue to assist the border and customs authorities in both countries until 30 November 2023.

Coordination meetings and visits

On 22 and 28 October respectively, EUBAM met the representatives of the Odesa Customs
House of the State Customs Service of Ukraine (UASCS) and the Southern Regional
Directorate of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS), and discussed the
cooperation in combatting cross-border crime, border security situation in the light of COVID19 pandemic, as well as the joint key projects aimed at strengthening the border management
at the Moldova-Ukraine border.

COVID-19 outbreak

- In Ukraine, on 13 October, the Cabinet of Ministers approved extension of the adaptive quarantine restrictions until 31 December 2020. Starting from 2 November the quarantine zones were updated, and all districts were attributed to 'red' (112), 'orange' (489), 'yellow' (14) and 'green' (2) zones respectively. Thus, most districts in Ukraine, including Odesa city, were classified for the 'orange' zone.
- In the Republic of Moldova, since 1 October, a new system for assessing the epidemiological situation has been introduced, attributing 38 districts and municipalities to 'red' (26), 'orange' (11), 'yellow' (1) and 'green' (0) code accordingly. Then, on 13 October, the list was revised, and the 'red' code was attributed to 35 out of 38 districts and municipalities, including Chisinau city.
- The remaining EUBAM seconded personnel, except one, returned to their respective duty stations in October and continued their work according to the rotation shift modality either at home or at the office.

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

Road Transportation Expert (Working) Group Related Matters

Following up on the agreement reached during the last meeting of the Road Transportation Expert (Working) Group, on 7 October, representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol paid a joint visit to Vehicle Registration Offices (VROs) for assessment of their functioning. To support this exercise, EUBAM offered to the Reintegration Policies Bureau of the Republic of Moldova (MDRPB) its assistance in identifying solutions to improve the mechanism of vehicle registration. In this context, MDRPB invited the Mission for presenting its technical proposals on some issues being frequently discussed within the Working Group, such as elimination of the road tax levied by Transnistrian structures on Moldovan citizens (Transnistrian residents) driving vehicles with Moldovan number plates, harmonization of customs payments on both banks of the Nistru River and import of prohibited goods and vehicles older than 10 years into the region.

Analysis of Amendments to Transnistrian Customs Regulations

EUBAM scrutinised the compliance of specific amendments to the so-called Transnistrian Customs Code and Customs Tariff for goods imported to the left bank of the Nistru River from the EU in 2021 with commitments deriving from the EU-MD Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (EU-MD AA/DCFTA). The ongoing customs reform in the Transnistrian region has shown the determination to keep the pace with the technological progress, particularly in the IT sphere. The Mission noted that in the areas of customs fees, customs escort, inward processing procedure and customs valuation, the compliance with WCO international standards and the Union Customs Code is yet to be achieved. As regards the Tiraspol's commitment to abolish customs duties for certain products imported from the EU, the provisions of the so-called Transnistrian Customs Tariff mostly comply with the Annex XV-D of

AA/DCFTA. Thus, in 2021, there would be 50 tariff codes for goods of plant and animal origins for which customs duties would still apply in import to the Transnistrian region.

Specific objective 2: Full implementation of Integrated Border Management concept

Restrictive COVID-19 Related Measures on Cross-Border Traffic at the Moldova-Ukraine Border In Ukraine, foreigners were allowed to enter the country with an insurance certificate covering cost of COVID-19 treatment, and persons arrived from the 'red zone' listed countries were subject to self-isolation unless they presented a PCR test with a negative result. As of 2 November the list of 'red zone' countries included 50 countries, also accounting 18 EU Member States; the Republic of Moldova was excluded from the list, because the number of people infected with coronavirus per 100 thousand inhabitants was lower than in Ukraine.

In the Republic of Moldova, foreign citizens, with some exceptions, arriving from countries included in the 'red zone' list, were banned from entering Moldova, while Moldovan residents returning from those countries had to undergo a mandatory self-isolation. Ukraine was still included in the 'red zone' list. On 26 October, the list of 'red zone' countries was updated, consisting of 67 countries, including 26 EU Member States (all except Estonia).

Operability of BCPs and Cross-Border Movement of People and Trade

In October, altogether 10 road and 9 rail international border crossing points (BCPs) at the Moldova-Ukraine border remained operational. At Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne JOBCP the introduced restriction for cargo traffic was prolonged until 1 December 2020 due to ongoing road rehabilitation works in the vicinity of Palanca village. 91,017 travellers crossed the border through the 7 main road BCPs in October 2020, that was 84% less than in October 2019 (568,424 persons). The most significant decrease was registered at Palanca JOBCP (92% less). The commercial traffic flow was 17% lower compared to the same month in 2019, with the biggest decrease at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc BCP (44% less).

Support to the Project "EU 4 Border Security"

On 9 October, EUBAM hosted a meeting on the concept for BCP video control system, which would be procured as a part of the EU funded and IOM-led Project "EU 4 Border Security". Discussions were focused on the project goals, the system functionality, scope of works, budget availability as well as technical and legal aspects. EUBAM recommended and suggested to design the system for automated number plate recognition and joint operating by the Moldovan and Ukrainian agencies, thus involving the joint control expansion to the BCPs covered by the project.

Testing Full-fledged Joint Control at Kuchurhan Road BCP

On 13 October, EUBAM organized an online meeting on preparation for a test exercise on full-fledged joint control at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc BCP with participation of Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs services. During the meeting, its participants discussed the testing scenario for different types of traffic and sequence of control, based on the Concept paper proposed by the Mission. It was agreed to conduct a two-day test exercise in October 2020; however, later due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and a high infection rate in that area the test exercise was postponed.

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

Debriefing Session of the Practical Exercise on the Response to Radioactive Materials Trafficking On 6 October, EUBAM together with its Moldovan and Ukrainian partners from border, customs, and radiological regulatory agencies held a joint online debriefing session on the practical exercise on the response to trafficking of radioactive materials. The participants presented and discussed details of the exercise, which took place on 30 September and 1 October at Mamalyha and Criva BCPs respectively, as well as in the adjacent border area. In conclusion, the partners positively assessed the exercise implementation underlining the importance of such events for enhancing the law enforcement agencies' capability to detect and intercept the smuggling of radiological and nuclear materials across the border.

Practical Exercise on Controlled Delivery of Illicit Firearms

Within 5 and 15 October, EUBAM in cooperation with security, police, border and customs agencies and prosecutors from the General Prosecutors' Offices of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova as well as the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases of the Republic of Moldova implemented the Practical Exercise on Controlled Delivery of Illicit Firearms. The exercise verified the implementation of full chain of actions required to implement the cross-border controlled delivery according to the adopted earlier scenario. Following the practical phase, on 29 October, EUBAM held online a debriefing session for the participating agencies to assess the aspects of its implementation, and also presented a draft Manual on Controlled Delivery targeted at enhancing efforts of judicial and law enforcement authorities of both countries in their efficient response to cross-border criminal offences. The partners' contributions would be consolidated and accommodated into the final draft Manual before its releasing.

Kick-off Meeting of the CEPOL Project Against Organized Crime for the EaP Countries

On 29 October, EUBAM took part int the online kick-off meeting of the CEPOL Training and Operational Partnership Against Organized Crime (TOPCOP) Project, funded by the European Commission – EU Neighbourhood & Enlargement. The new project was intended for law enforcement and security sectors officers, including prosecutors, customs and immigration authorities, border guards and judiciary involved in the fight against organised crime in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The project duration is envisaged for 48 months. Against that backdrop, EUBAM shared insights on implementation of the activities set by the project and offered its contribution to the production of training needs assessments and identification of target groups able to participate in the Project activities.

Operational Phase of the Joint Operation 'ORION II' Completed

The operational phase of JO 'ORION II', facilitated by EUBAM and supported by the European Union's agencies such as Frontex and Europol, was completed on 30 October. The overall objective of the JO 'ORION II' was to support the Ukrainian and Moldovan law enforcement agencies in counteracting illicit firearms trafficking. The operation was a part of common efforts aimed to tackle the threats related to illicit firearms trafficking and covered the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The law enforcement agencies from the EU Member States, bordering Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova also participated in the Operation at the EU external borders. The initial results of the Operation would be presented and discussed at the 2nd Arms Working Group meeting scheduled for early November.

On-the-Job Mentoring Sessions on the Detection of Forged and Falsified Travel Documents

In October, EUBAM scaled up its assistance to MDBP and UASBGS in detection of forged and falsified travel documents via delivering a series of on-the-job mentoring sessions for the border police/guard officers at the Chisinau International Airport and Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc JOBCP. That was in line with the recently announced by Frontex outbreak of fake documents at the borders, caused by pandemic restrictions, where travellers were often requested to submit additional supporting documents that led to an increased number of fake ones. In that regard, EUBAM emphasised the need to support the first line officers with providing them access to risk profiles covering a range of frequently used counterfeit documents.

Contextual developments

Traceability of Tobacco and Alcohol Products Intended for Transnistrian region

On 5 October, the Moldovan Ministry of Finance posted for public consultations "Fiscal and Customs Policy Measures for 2021". The document does not enclose specific actions or legislative amendments, but rather policy vectors for the next year. *Inter alia*, the document suggests: "With the view to ensure the traceability of tobacco products and alcohol beverages imported to the left bank region, it is proposed to implement a mechanism of distinctive labelling of such aiming at enhancement of surveillance and control of excisable goods intended for usage on Transnistrian territory." *Source: website of the Ministry of Finance the Republic of Moldova*

Abolishment of Age Threshold for Vehicles Imported to the Republic of Moldova

Inter alia, the Fiscal and Customs Policy Measures for 2021 posted on the website of the Ministry of Finance suggests the abolishment of the age threshold for vehicles, buses, minivans and tractors, but also the elimination of interdiction to import used spare parts for the vehicles into the Republic of Moldova. Instead, a significant increase in the excise duties proportionally with the vehicle exploitation age is proposed. Source: website of the Ministry of Finance the Republic of Moldova

Vehicle Registration Centers in Tiraspol and Rybnitsa Resume Work

On 1 October, the motor vehicle registration stations in Tiraspol and Rybnitsa cities are resuming their work after a month-long break. At the initial stage, the stations will be functioning half-strength. But in case of a substantial demand for the issuance of vehicle registration certificates and of neutral-design license plates for Transnistrian motor vehicles, the number of the sides' employees in the offices will be increased up to their official norm stipulated in the Protocol of April 24, 2018. Source: Infotag

UA Cabinet Appoints Boryspil Airport Director Head of Customs Service

On 28 October, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed Pavlo Riabikin, the director general of Boryspil International Airport (Kyiv), as the head of the Ukrainian State Customs Service. *Source: Interfax*

Ukraine's Energoatom Starts Supplying Electricity to Moldova

Ukraine's National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Energoatom will supply 14 GWh of electricity to Moldova in October, which is about 4% of the country's monthly consumption. The purchase price is 26.5% lower than that offered by Transdniestrian Cuciurgan power plant operated by the RU state-owned electricity giant Inter RAO. A press release issued by Energoatom on 5 October says that "Moldova has become a new and promising export destination. This first step is to establish a long-term cooperation, which will contribute to reliable power supplies to the neighboring countries south-westwards." *Source: Infotag*

Moldovan Government Approves Amendments to Agreement on Free Trade with Ukraine

The Government approved on October 21 amendments to the free trade agreement with Ukraine. The changes imply a revision of the rules for accounting for the origin of goods used in bilateral trade. The MD producers might import raw materials and components coming from Ukraine and subsequently, processing them in Moldova and exporting the finished good to the European Union; they are to be accompanied by certificates of Moldovan origin, without the payment of customs duty. Source: Infotag

More than 45,600,000 pcs of Smuggled Cigarettes Seized in Odesa Port

The State Border Guard Service continues to take effective measures to combat the illegal movement of tobacco products. On 4 October, more than 2,28 million packs of smuggled cigarettes, worth 80 million UAH, was seized in Odesa Port, after checking 4 containers. The cigarettes were transported in transit from Belarus and were intended to reach EU by see. Source: UASBGS website

A "Submarine" and Pipelines Designed for Smuggling Activities Found in Kuchurhan Lake

On 8 October, while examining the bottom of the Kuchurgan Lake, Ukrainian border guards found a "submarine", most probably designed for smuggling activities. It had sandbags on board to make it even better to dive under the water and was submerged by a cart 30 meters from the shore. Later, on 14 and 24 October, in the same lake, UASBGS dismantled two pipelines installed in the water, most probably planned for the illegal movement of alcohol or other liquids across the border. Source: UASBGS website

Counterfeiting of Disinfectants, in Large Proportions, Annihilated in Chisinau

On 13 October, MDBP reported on their website that its investigating officers in cooperation with the criminal investigation officers from the Chisinau Police Department, under the leadership of the Chisinau Prosecutor's Office, conducted searches and other procedural measures to a clandestine laboratory in Chisinau. The inspections led to the discovery and counteracting of the activity of a large chain of counterfeiting of disinfectant and other chemicals, ending the exposure on the market of a huge amount of counterfeit products. *Source: MDBP website*

MDCS Signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation with British American Tobacco

On 13 October, the Director of the Moldovan Customs Service had a meeting with the representatives of the British American Tobacco - Moldova. The parties have signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation that will strengthen the MDCS's capacity to combat smuggling and illicit trade in tobacco products. They also discussed the current situation in the field of combating illegal cigarette trafficking, in the context of the pandemic. The latest data from the research company Novel Research reveals that, in the first 9 months of 2020, the share of tobacco products from the MD in the illegal trade in RO decreased by over 18 pp, reaching 9.7%. Source: MDCS website

Ukraine Blocks Shipment of Drugs for IS Militants

On 20 October, in Odesa, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) seized 750 kg of captagon, a psychotropic substance known as Islamic State "combat drug". Its value on the black market is over 30m dollars. "Two men from Odesa and Lviv ordered the batch in Syria from where it arrived in the Yuzhnyy Port. The drugs were hidden in a container with Turkish delight and cookies. Then the drug dealers hid the psychotropic pills in bags with corn starch and sent them in two containers to the Odesa Port for their further transportation to one of the countries of the Persian Gulf". Source: Interfax

Four Israelis held in Ukraine with 120 kg of Cocaine

On 24 October, four Israeli nationals who trafficked cocaine from Peru have been arrested in Odesa. "An investigative team has arrested four Israeli nationals with 120 kg of cocaine at a warehouse in the Odesa seaport. The investigation established that the foreigners were involved in the trafficking of drugs from Peru to Ukraine," the State Border Service stated. The contraband cocaine is worth around 40m dollars on the black market. On 27 October, a court in Odesa has arrested the four suspects. *Sources: Interfax*

Over 50 kg of Cocaine Found in a Container with Bananas from Ecuador

On 29 October, a consignment with over 50 kg of drugs was found in the "Southern" Odesa seaport. Its value on the black market is over \$ 10,000,000. Source: UASBGS website

Annex to item 'Support in the development of Transnistria-related matters'

Transnistria external trade activity

In January-October 2020, exports from Transnistria made \$349.2mln or €309mln, demonstrating a decrease by 20% both in USD and by 21% in Euro against \$437.7mln and €390.4mln in comparison with the same period of 2019.

\$500

October exports and imports figures along with month-on-month and year-on-year (2020/2019) comparisons are given in Table 1 below.

Fig.1- Markets for Transnistrian exports,
%, mln USD

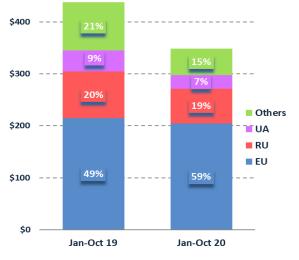
Table1. Exports from and imports to Transnistria (under Moldovan Customs Service exceptionally), October 2020

	Exports		
Currency	Value, month Mo	nth on month	Year-on-vear
	•		
MDL	789,061,215	41%	4%
Euro	39,474,772	39%	1%
USD	46,460,186	39%	8%

Currency	Value, month Mon	th-on-month	Year-on-year
MDL	1,005,308,785	17%	11%
Euro	50,293,100	15%	7%
LISD	50 102 015	15%	14%

Imports

Source: Moldovan Customs Service



Source: Customs Service of The Republic of Moldova

Metal products (49%), textiles, clothes and leather (16%), agricultural and food industry products

(16%), equipment and instruments (9%), footwear (6%) and other different products (5%) formed the structure of Transnistrian exports in USD value in October 2020. Year-on-year, an increase in exports of metal products, articles and waste by 66%, of footwear - by 38% and of textiles - by 21% produced an 8%-growth of overall exports in October 2020. Yet, exports of agricultural products dropped nearly two-fold year-on-year, continuing to decrease for the eighth month in 2020. Overall Transnistrian merchandise exports in USD value grew by 39% month-on-month.

Overall decrease in exports of agricultural and food industry products from Transnistria to a greater extend resulted from a ban imposed there on export of some agricultural and food

Fig. 2 -EXPORT

products (namely, those under the headings 1001,1003,1005 of commodity nomenclature of foreign economic activity) starting from April and extended until 31 December 2020. However, export of products covered by the ban can be allowed in certain quantities upon a decision of the special permissive commission in Transnistria. In October 2020, exports of vegetables, fruits and ethyl alcohol decreased, exports of rape seeds and wheat minimized, exports of maize ceased. Transnistrian commodity exports, ranged into key export markets, are shown in the figure 2.

The EU claimed 66% of Transnistrian exports in October 2020. In USD value, Transnistrian exports to the EU increased by 40% year-on-year and by 55% month-

■ EU ■ UA ■ RU ■ Others 34% 1% 33% Agricultural & food products Textiles, clothes 26% 66% 2%19% 3% 77% Footwear and parts thereof 3%5% 14% 78% Metal products, articles and waste 3% 41% 50% **Equipment and instruments** Other 67%

Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

on-month. (Transnistrian exports to the UK geographically is counted under the category 'Other'.) Such a year-on-year increase was linked mainly to the metal products, which exports to the EU grew by 79%, as well as to exports of footwear - grown by 39%, of textiles - grown by 19% and trebled exports of equipment and instruments. In USD value, exports of metal products (MMZ products) to the EU reached 76% of overall Transnistrian exports of metal products. In October 2020, 78% of metal products, articles and waste, 77% of footwear, 66% of textiles, clothes and leather, 50% of equipment and instruments, 33% of agricultural and food products and 67% of other various products were exports of Transnistria to the EU. (fig.2) Despite quite a steep increase in the overall Transnistrian exports in USD value, a year-on-year exports of agricultural and food products to the EU in USD value dropped nearly two-fold. In October 2020, notable was the export of the copper waste from Transnistria to the EU, which share made 6% of the overall Transnistrian exports to the EU in USD value. Additionally, the EU was vastly buying the articles of bedding and automatic data-processing machines and units thereof.

Transnistrian exports to Ukraine in USD value decreased by 5% year-on-year while grew by 22% month-on-month. Ukraine claimed 8% of overall Transnistrian export in October 2020. Year-on-year, a decrease in exports to Ukraine was mainly caused by multi-fold drop in exports of agricultural products and food. Exports of steel bars and rods (MMZ products) to Ukraine increased by 17% and made 81% of overall Transnistrian exports to Ukraine.

The Russian Federation claimed 18% of overall Transnistrian export in October 2020. Exports to the Russian Federation dropped by 30% year-on-year while grew by 32% month-on-month in USD value. Transnistrian exports of equipment and instruments dropped over two-fold, of agricultural products – by 34%, mainly linked to fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables, while exports of textile grew by 49%, of metal products - by 31% in October 2020. In USD value, 41% of equipment and instruments, 32% of agricultural and food products, 26% of textiles, 19% of footwear and 5% of metal products were shares in overall exports from Transnistria to the Russian Federation. (*fig.* 2).

In October 2020, the UK continued as the first largest consumer of Transnistrian sunflower seeds.

Overall USD value of Transnistrian merchandise imports grew by 14% year-on-year by 15% month-on-month. Equipment and instruments (21%), agricultural products and food (21%, including cigarettes being 10% of this share in USD value), steel scrap and metal articles (24%, where scrap metal made 16% and metal products – 8%), chemicals, plastics and rubber (16%), textiles, leather and footwear parts (7%), mineral fuels and petroleum oils (4%) and other goods (8%) made a structure of Transnistrian merchandise imports in October 2020Transnistria increased overall import of steel scrap by 60%, by growing import of this raw material from the EU by 60% and doubling it from the Russian Federation. Imports of agricultural products grew by 30%, mainly attributable to sugar, oilcake, meat, live bovines and imports of medicaments grew by 33%, mainly from the EU and Ukraine. Imports of fuel by Transnistria dropped two-fold in USD

Fig.3 IMPORTS

value, linked to the EU and Belarus. The key categories of Transnistrian imports ranged into key import markets are presented in the figure 3.

In October 2020, the EU claimed 45% of Transnistrian imports in USD value. Transnistrian imports form the EU grew by 8% year-on-year by 17% month-onmonth. Import of steel scrap from the EU grew by 60% year-on-year in USD value. Transnistria increased imports medicaments from the EU over two-fold, of agricultural and food products - by 10%, of products of various metals- by 11%, year-on-year. In USD value, 93% of steel scrap, 70% of mineral fuels, 69% of textiles, clothes, leather and footwear parts, 23% of agricultural and food products, 40% of machinery instruments, 34% of chemicals, plastic

■ EU UA RU Others 21%* 16%* 39% 23% Agricultural & food products, cigarettes 26% 4% 1% 70% Mineral fuels, petroleum oils, coal 17% 23% 26% 34% Chemicals, plastics and rubber 25% 2% 4% 69% Textiles, leather, footwear parts 7% 93% Ferrous scrap 15% 44% 20% 21% Articles of various metals 16% 16% 40% 28% Machinery, equipment and instrments 16% 41% 26% 17% Other

Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova *including imports of cigarettes by the officially liscensed economic operator

and rubber products, 21% of various metal products and 26% of other products imported by Transnistria fell within the EU. (fig.3)

In USD value, Ukraine claimed 21% of overall Transnistrian imports. Import from Ukraine grew by 48% year-on-year and by 0.4% month-on-month. Year-on-year in USD value, an increase spanned imports of all key products categories to Ukraine, but petroleum fuels. Import of agricultural and food products from Ukraine grew by 35%, mainly linked to sugar, oilcake, sunflower seeds. Transnistria doubled imports of equipment and instruments from Ukraine, mainly triggered by grown imports of insulated wire, carbon electrodes. Imports of products of various metals from Ukraine grew by 83%, of chemicals, plastics and rubber – by 37%, while imports of petroleum fuels dropped by 42%. In October 2020, 39% of agricultural and food products, 26% of chemicals and plastics, 20% of products of various metals, 16% of machinery, equipment and instruments and 41% of various other products, imported by Transnistria, fell within Ukraine. (fig.3) No steel scrap imports resumed from Ukraine in October 2020. Transnistria

Transnistrian import from the Russian Federation increased by 17% year-on-year and by 21% month-on-month. The Russian Federation claimed 16% in overall Transnistrian import in USD value. Year-on-year, in USD value, import from the Russian Federation of various metal products grew by 94%, of steel scrap – by 73%, equipment and instruments by 38%, of agricultural products - by 18%, while imports of chemical, plastic and rubber dropped by 31%. Thus, in USD value, the Russian Federation claimed 44% of various metal products, 23% of chemicals and plastics and rubber (with medicaments and mineral fertilisers cumulatively being 52% of this share), 16% of equipment and instruments, 16% of agricultural and food products imported by Transnistria goods in October 2020. (*fig.3*) Import of medicaments from the Russian Federation made 33% of overall import of medicines, having decreased by 22% year-on-year in October 2020.

In October 2020, 72% of petroleum fuels in USD value were imported from the EU and 23% - from Belarus. Transnistria imported the motor cars from USA and continued to vastly buy cellular telephones from Hong Kong and China.

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

Upon lifted by Ukraine tight restrictions on entering the country by foreigners which were effective between 28 August and 28 September 2020, the number of persons that crossed the Moldova-Ukraine border in both directions via BCPs of Transnistrian segment grew by 41% month-onmonth to 19 962. Citizens of Moldova made 40%, of Ukraine - 36% and of the Russian Federation – 17% of overall border crossers at this border segment. In October 2020, 39 citizens of Moldova, 43 citizens of the Russian Federation and 14 citizens of other (non-EU) states were refused entry into Ukraine at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border for their failure to meet entry requirements.