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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine - Monthly report - October 2021

Delegations will find attached the monthly report (October 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

October 2021



EUBAM is fully funded
by the European Union



International Organization for Migration
is the implementing partner

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Coordination meetings and visits

On 5 October, in Chisinau, EUBAM met with Ms. Kerttu Auvinen, the Country Coordinator for the of Moldova at the Embassy of Finland in Bucharest.

On the same day, in Chisinau, EUBAM held a working meeting with Ms. Satu Seppanen, the EU High Republic Level Adviser on Justice and Prosecution.

On 6 October, at EUBAM HQ, HoM held an introductory meeting with H.E. Stanislav Kazecký, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Moldova,

On 8 October, EUBAM hosted a high-level visit of Mr Vladislav Kulminski, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova, accompanied by Mr Alin Gvidiani, the Head of the Bureau for Reintegration Policies, and Mr Ion Ciorniy, the General Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Odesa.

On 20 October EUBAM organized an online meeting with the Sub-regional Representative (Ukraine) of the USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth in Europe and Eurasia (EDGE).

On 26 October, EUBAM took part in the online Anti-drug Trafficking Conference organised by SELEC.

COVID-19 outbreak

In the Republic of Moldova, the state of emergency in public health sphere was extended until 30 November as per the decision taken by the National Emergency Public Health Commission. In Ukraine, as of 18 October, the "red" level of the epidemic danger of the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus infection was established in Zaporizhia, Odesa, Donetsk, and Dnipropetrovsk regions. From 21 October, interregional passenger transportation in regions with a "yellow," "orange" or "red" level of epidemic danger were allowed only if drivers, crew, and passengers possessed vaccination certificates or negative PCR tests.

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

Labelling of Tobacco Products Intended for Moldovan Duty-Free Shops

Following up on the EUBAM-organised workshop on enforcing tobacco health standards in the Republic of Moldova held in March 2021, the Mission analysed a set of amendments to the Moldovan Law 278/2007 on tobacco control that would become effective on 22 April 2022. Thus, tobacco products intended for sale in Duty-Free Shops (DFS) should be mandatorily labelled with a sticker "Only for sale in duty-free shops." The current waiver from the health labelling of tobacco products sold in DFS would be eliminated. Moreover, tobacco products sold in DFS would have to comply with provisions of the above-mentioned law regarding the exterior packaging that should not include words or symbols suggesting that some tobacco products were less harmful than others (e.g., words like lights, ultra, medium, etc). The sale of flavoured/fragranced cigarettes would also be prohibited in DFS.

Internal Trade between Chisinau and Tiraspol in 2020

Upon the inquiry made by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration about volumes of internal trade between Chisinau and Tiraspol, EUBAM shared its analysis based on the Transnistrian customs structure's statistics. In 2020, the overall internal deliveries of goods from Tiraspol to Chisinau totalled \$271.8 mln, where 59% was attributed to electricity. Internal deliveries of goods from Tiraspol to Chisinau excluding electricity stood at \$111.9 mln, while supplies of goods from Chisinau to Tiraspol made \$115.8 mln. Thus, internal deliveries of goods from Chisinau to Tiraspol were 3% bigger in terms of value than vice versa if the electricity supply from Tiraspol to Chisinau is left out. The most-traded goods from Chisinau to Tiraspol were metal products (51%), followed by agricultural products (13%).

Increased Demand for Neutral - Design Number Plates in Transnistrian Region

As a continuation of the Targeted Monitoring Action (TMA) "Autumn" EUBAM started to analyse the impact of the Ukraine's decision on non-admission of Transnistrian-plated vehicles as of 1 September 2021. Thus, according to the figures provided by Vehicle Registration Offices, the demand for neutral-design number plates has started to increase month after month since August, when the decision was announced by the UA authorities, onwards. Therefore, a 55% increase was noticed in August when 371 neutral - design number plates were issued, a 66% increase in September (618) and 58% in October (979). The continued upwards trend reflected by these figures, reaching an overall of 7,407 at the end of October, indicates that Ukraine's decision on non-admission of Transnistrian-plated vehicles significantly increased the demand for obtaining neutral - design number plates in the last three months.

Specific objective 2: Full implementation of Integrated Border Management

Moldovan 2021-2023 IBM Action Plan Approved

On 6 October, the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted the decision approving the 2021-2023 IBM Action Plan for the implementation of the National IBM Strategy. The newly approved action plan reflected majority of EUBAM proposals submitted in May 2020, upon request of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, regarding the establishment of the Advanced Passenger Information exchange system; border checks relaxation procedure, expanding joint control along the Moldova – Ukraine border, optimization of the existing BCP network and enhancing certain tools for combatting cross-border crime among others.

Consultations under the "EU for Border Security" (EU4BS) Project

On 7-8 October, EUBAM attended another round of technical consultations under the Project "EU 4 Border Security" organised by IOM Moldova with participation of representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova, IOM Ukraine as well as Ukrainian and Moldovan customs services. The participants discussed the installation of equipment to enable 24/7 joint video monitoring and ANPR system (automatic number-plate recognition) at Tudora-Starokozache and Otaci-Mohyliv-Podilskyi border crossing points (BCPs). The meeting revealed that still further efforts were needed to identify workable and agreeable solution in that regard. In the course of the meeting, the participants reached an agreement on the budget and co-financing of the implementation of project components at Palanca and Criva-Mamalyha BCPs.

Coordination Meeting on Further Development of the Common Contact Point Palanca

On 13 October, EUBAM facilitated a coordination meeting with the Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies on the Common Contact Point Palanca (CCP Palanca). The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation feasibility of the Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) for CCP Palanca. The border agencies acknowledged the requirements for the future SIENA's implementation and proposals for further actions outlined in the EUBAM's Analysis. Following recommendations deriving from the CCP Palanca evaluation, EUBAM also presented drafts of the Joint Statistical Data Report and Model Questionnaire for the annual self-evaluation. The participants agreed to continue consultations on those documents at the next meeting in November 2021.

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

Approved Controlled Delivery Guidebook

The Guidebook on Controlled Delivery developed by EUBAM in the course of a series of consultations held with the Ukrainian and Moldovan law enforcement agencies was finally endorsed by the authorised representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine and the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Moldova at the meeting on 19 October 2021. Consequently, EUBAM circulated that document, and requested its Partners to cascade it within their institutions to the respective units mandated for carrying out the controlled deliveries. The Guidebook would contribute to a more effective use of that method for combatting cross-border crime both in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

8.5 mln of Cigarettes Seized during the Joint Border Control Operation “SCORPION II”

In total, 8,544,780 pieces of cigarettes were seized by the Moldovan, Ukrainian, and Romanian law enforcement agencies during the Joint Border Control Operation (JBCO) codenamed “SCORPION II”, coordinated by EUBAM in cooperation with the European Union law enforcement agency (OLAF). JBCO “SCORPION II” on combatting cigarette smuggling was carried out in three operational phases, from August till October 2021. Overall, 3,231,400 pcs of cigarettes were seized near the Transnistrian region, which remained a hot spot for cigarette smuggling. Another trend observed was a significant share of seized cigarettes with duty-free inscriptions (3,864,920 pcs), most of them detected and seized at the Romania-Ukraine border.

Tackling Heroin Trafficking on Route Asia - the EU

On 6-7 October at its headquarters in Odesa, EUBAM hosted a two-day operational meeting with representatives of the National Investigations Inspectorate and Office of General Prosecutor of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the Security Service and General Prosecutor’s Office of Ukraine. The law enforcers discussed and exchanged information on activity of the organized crime group involved in international drug trafficking on route Asia - the EU transiting the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. As a result of the meeting, the establishment of a joint investigation team was agreed. The participants took an opportunity to exchange views and assess, in broad terms, the operational situation in drug trafficking in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

EUBAM Supports the Operation “Joint Action Day Finestra”

Between 27 September - 8 October, Frontex and Romanian authorities led an international operation to crack down on serious transnational crime at the EU’s eastern land borders. The operation “Joint Action Day Finestra” focused on excisable goods and other illegal commodities smuggling, migrant smuggling, and associated document frauds. It brought together officers from 13 countries and 7 European agencies and international organisations. Within its mandate EUBAM supported the preparatory arrangements and facilitated cooperation with law enforcement institutions in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Building Capacity through On-the-job Mentoring

Throughout October, EUBAM further provided on-the-job mentoring sessions to the partner agencies’ personnel at the local level. Controls based on effective risk analysis, concealment methods and search technics for potential hidden places in passenger vehicles, physical inspection of cargo trucks, verification of the vehicle registration certificates, combatting smuggling of animals and plants protected by CITES Convention, shipments of illegal wastes were among the topics discussed. Finally, EUBAM experts provided on the job mentoring on how to handle diplomats while crossing state borders.

Contextual developments

Republic of Moldova

Government Decision No 792/2004 on the Movement of Goods across Customs Control Posts at the Administrative Boundary Line Amended

To facilitate the issue of farmers from Dubasari region who own plots of land in the territory not controlled by Chisinau authorities, GD 792/2004 on the movement of goods across internal customs control posts (ICCP) was amended. Subsequently, the farmers’ production moved through ICCP was exempted from VAT, provided the submission of the original certificate of ownership of land plots was provided. The amendment came in force as of 8 October 2021.

Source: <http://www.lex.md/>

1+1 Meeting

The meeting of Political Representatives was held on 19 October at the OSCE premises in Chisinau. The meeting targeted road transportation issues, prospects of the next 5+2 round, and also the resumption of sectorial working groups’ activity. It was acknowledged an increase in the number of issued neutral number plates in Vehicle Registration Offices (VROs). Thus, in September 2021, 618 number plates were issued, while in August– 371, and in July – 239. The potential that VROs could reach amounts 1000 number plates monthly. Chisinau reiterated its

intention to extend the range of services provided within VROs, but also to proceed to the accelerated neutral registration (within 3-5 working days). *Source MD govt website*

On 26 October 2021, the 1+1 meeting was held at the OSCE premises in Bender. The agenda central topic was the Ukrainian decision on non-admission of Transnistrian plated vehicles and possible solutions. The sides did not find a common understanding. The registration of cargo and passenger carriers in VROs was conditioned by Chisinau with fiscal payments to Moldovan budget. The functioning of VROs was also touched upon during the meeting. *Source MD govt website*

Four Odesa Residents Arrested in Chisinau for Trade of Synthetic Drugs

In Chisinau, four residents of Odesa were detained for organizing the trade in synthetic drugs and marijuana on especially large scale. The criminal community was led by a 35-year-old man, and the others were his female assistants. According to the investigation, the attackers imported into the Republic of Moldova over 35 kg of PVP preparations, 20 kg of high-quality marijuana, over 10,000 ecstasy tablets and over a kilogram of hallucinogenic mushrooms. During the arrest, drugs were seized for 1.9 million lei at black market prices. *Source: INFOTAG, 7 October*

Prime Minister of Moldova and Leader of Transnistria Discussed Problems between Two Banks of the Nistru

During a telephone conversation on 19 October, Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita and Transnistrian leader Vadim Krasnoselsky discussed the current problems between the two banks of the Nistru. The matter concerned the implementation by the parties of measures stipulated in the Berlin + package - regarding the functioning of schools with teaching in Romanian based on Latin script, telecommunications, agricultural land in the Dubasari region, apostille of diplomas of Transnistrian universities, neutral license plates for Transnistrian cars. *Source: Infotag, 19 October*

Two Moldovan and One Iraqi National Detained for Organization of Illegal Migration

On 26 October, following several investigations and operative actions, the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova (MDBP) detained in Chisinau one Moldovan and one Iraqi citizens on criminal charges of organizing illegal migration channel from Ukraine via Moldova to Romania. The third person involved along with five Syrian nationals were detained at the Moldova - Romania border a week before in the frame of a joint operation of the Moldovan and Romanian Border Polices. *Source: MDBP website, 27 October*

Ukraine

In the Odesa region, SSU Blocked a Cigarette Smuggling Channel from Unrecognized 'Transnistria'

Operatives of the special service revealed that a resident of the Kodyma raion, the Odesa region, had established regular illegal deliveries of cigarettes from unrecognized Transnistria. The man transported tobacco products in his own car in small batches through the "green corridor". Law enforcers detained the perpetrator's car on the highway, not far from the state border of Ukraine. 5,000 packs of foreign-made cigarettes without excise stamps were found in the vehicle luggage compartment. *Source: SBU telegram channel, 1 October*

Border Guards Exposed Criminals Who Produced Toys Filled with Methamphetamine and Sold them out of Ukraine and Even in Australia

Operative officers of the Odesa BG Detachment exposed and stopped activities of a criminal group that manufactured and sold methamphetamine in Ukraine and abroad. Residents of the Odesa region, in one of their own households, set up a laboratory to produce a potent psychotropic. Audacious businessmen sent parcels with "goods" under the guise of children's water-based toys through logistics companies. Operatives of the State Border Guard Service managed to document the fact of smuggling of more than 1 kg of methamphetamine in children's toys to Australia. *Source: UASBGS website, 2 October*

In the Odesa Region, SBU Blocked a Corruption Mechanism that Cleared through Customs up to 8,000 Cars a Month

SBU blocked a corruption scheme at the Odesa Customs. The corrupt officials demanded bribes for "accelerated" and unimpeded customs clearance of cars from South Korea and the United States. Preliminary estimates suggest that criminals "earned" more than 200,000 USD a month. *Source: SBU website, 05 October*

In the Odesa Region, Border Guards Detained a Minibus Full of Cigarettes of Unknown Origin

A resident of Rozdilna carried 38,890 packs of cigarettes with inscriptions in Ukrainian, Belarusian, Romanian without and with excise stamps. The minibus transporting the excisable goods was detained upon receiving operational information. The vehicle was stopped by border guards of the Podilsk BG Detachment during a joint operation with representatives of SBU and Odesa Customs. Next similar detention was made on 29 October, when Border Guards detained a carload of about 42,000 packs of cigarettes without excise stamps. The driver had no documents for the cargo. The total price of the assessed was 850,000 UAH. *Source: UASBGS website, 12 October and 29 October*

Odesa Border Guards Found a Consignment of Contraband Cigarettes in Container from India

Border guards found the contraband in one of the containers that arrived in the Odesa Port from India. Cigarettes were hidden from customs control under the guise of bicycle tires. In total, law enforcement officers found more than 1,000 boxes of cigarettes without excise stamps. According to preliminary estimates, the cost of tobacco products was more than 13 million hryvnias (approx. 500 thousand USD). *Source: UASBGS website, 13 October*

SBU Blocked an Attempt to Smuggle Cigarettes in the Odesa Region

Operatives of the special service received information that the attackers planned to transport a large consignment of counterfeit cigarettes through one of the customs posts of Odesa. The "goods" should have been sent by barge to Hungary, cigarettes were hidden in bags with "cooking salt". During a search of a warehouse in the customs control zone (Izmail), law enforcement officers found almost 1,5 million packs of cigarettes without excise stamps and any information about their manufacturer, their estimated cost was 27 million hryvnias (approx. 1 mln. USD). *Source: SBU website, 13 October*

Zelensky Instructed to Consider Issue of Increasing Prison Term for Smugglers up to 20 years – Danilov

During a regular meeting of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) on Friday, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky ordered to consider increasing the prison term for smugglers up to 20 years, NSDC Secretary Oleksiy Danilov reported. He also said the issue of smugglers was under the control of the President. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 16 October*

More than 2 km of Pipeline was Detected at the Border with Moldova

Border guards of the Podilsk BG Detachment together with SBU representatives found a polyethylene pipe with a diameter of 32 mm in the shallow waters of the Kuchurhan reservoir. As the border guards established, the pipeline ran from the state border underwater and underground and went to a private household in the village of Pavlivka, Rozdilna district. *Source: UASBGS website, 20 October*

SBU Liquidates International Smuggling Channel to the EU

SBU continued to systematically combat large-scale smuggling, which threatens Ukraine's national security. An international transit channel for the illegal shipment of wholesale consignments of tobacco products to the European Union was liquidated in Odesa. The value of the seized contraband goods made almost 13 million UAH. According to preliminary information, the perpetrators planned to use part of the "profits" to finance the so-called "L/DPR" militants. *Source: SBU website, 22 October*

Ukraine, Moldova to Form Negotiating Mechanism to Resolve Problematic Issues – Kuleba

Ukraine and Moldova would form a negotiating mechanism to resolve problematic issues, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said. His Moldovan counterpart drew attention to the fact that there were issues in relations between Ukraine and Moldova that could not have been sorted out for three decades. "But we want to make some progress to resolve them, and in the coming weeks and months there will be several meetings where we will try to eliminate some of

problems that have accumulated on our bilateral agenda: regarding the Dniester River, the settlement of property rights, management and demarcation of the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border," he explained. *Source: Interfax-Ukraine, 22 October*

Ukrainian Border Guards Found a Group of Illegal Migrants in Trucks Arriving from Turkey by Sea

Migrants tried to cross the state border illegally according to a scheme well known to border guards. 25 October, 7 foreigners arrived in the Chornomorsk Sea Port from Turkey by ferry, hiding in advance in three trucks. All migrants were Syrian citizens, carrying their internal passports. The perpetrators were very young, the youngest was only 10 years old, and the oldest - 21. In that illegal way, they planned to get to Germany. For the organization of their "tour", they had to pay \$ 3,000 each, upon arrival at the destination. *Source: UASBGS website, 25 October*

More than 300, Probably Precious, Gemstones were Detected at the Border with Moldova

Hidden gemstones at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border were discovered by border guards of the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi BG Detachment together with customs officers. A Moldovan citizen tried to take them out of Ukraine through the Palanca checkpoint. During the inspection of the car the inspection team found 326 gemstones, which are most likely precious. They were hidden among the foreigner's personal belongings in the luggage compartment of a car. *Source: UASBGS website, 26 October*

Ukrainian and Moldovan Border Guards Discussed Cooperation on Readmission

On October 26, a meeting of representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and Border Police of the Republic of Moldova took place. The event was held in Odesa in the framework of the Plan for the development of cooperation between the border agencies of both countries for 2020-2021. The parties agreed to ensure the unconditional abandoning of outdated approaches to the reception and transfer of persons and to initiate amendments to the Implementation Protocol to the Agreement on the reception of border guards of both countries for all citizens detained for violating migration laws within controlled border areas. *Source: UASBGS website, 26 October*

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

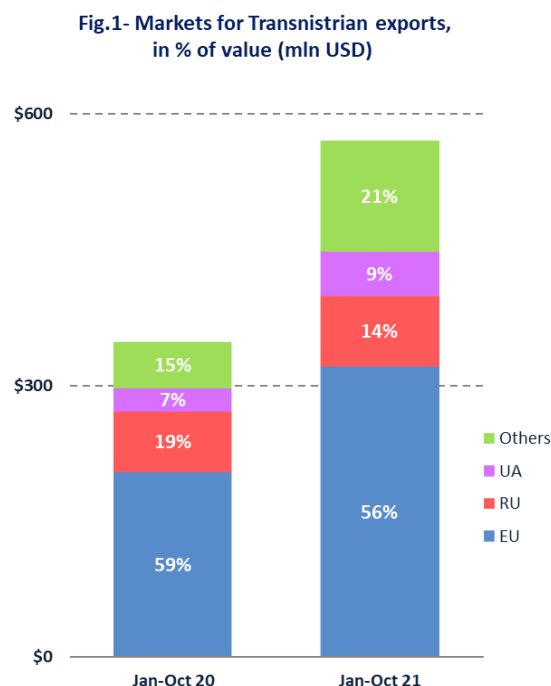
Transnistria external trade activity

Export

In January-October 2021, exports from Transnistrian region made \$570.5mln or €479.3mln, demonstrating an increase by 63% in USD and by 55% in Euro against \$349mln and €309mln in comparison with the same period of 2020.

January-October 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 Moldovan Customs Service exceptionally), October 2021



Source: Customs Service of The Republic of Moldova

Exports

Currency	Value, month	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
MDL	1,110,341,882	-15%	41%
Euro	54,859,873	-12%	39%
USD	63,594,192	-14%	37%

Imports

Currency	Value, month	Month-on-month	Year-on-year
MDL	1,313,474,281	-14%	31%
Euro	64,896,257	-12%	29%
USD	75,228,484	-13%	27%

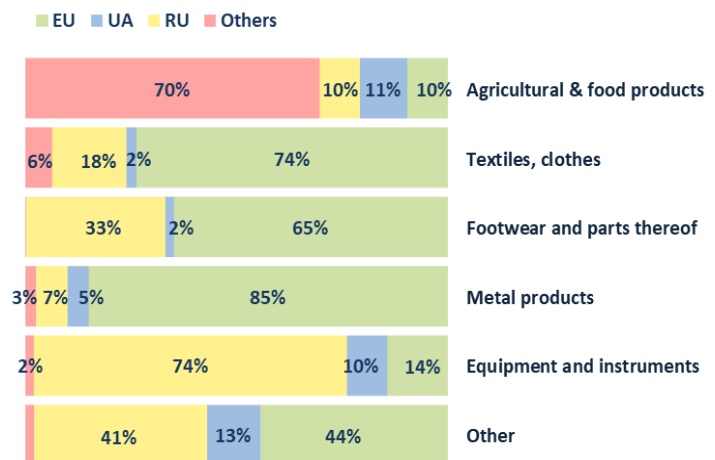
Source: Moldovan Customs Service

Metal products (39%), agricultural and food industry products (37%), textiles, clothes and leather (11%), equipment and instruments (5%), footwear (4%) and other different products (4%) formed the structure of Transnistrian region's exports in USD value in October 2021. Month-on-month, in USD value the overall Transnistrian region's export dropped by 14%, while year-on-year, its export grew by 37%, having spanned exports of agricultural and food products, footwear and metal products. Thus, export of agricultural and food products trebled in USD value, mainly associated with exports of wheat to Ukraine, Indonesia and Turkey, of barley to the UAE, maize to Egypt, rapeseeds to Bangladesh and sunflower seeds to the UAE, Turkey and the EU. The moderately grown exports of metal products from the Transnistrian region in USD value mainly links to the EU and the Russian Federation. A year-on-year decrease covered exports of equipment and instruments by 16% and of textiles - by 2% in USD value.

In October 2021, in USD value, year-on-year exports of sunflowers nearly trebled, of rapeseeds, barley and maize 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 50% of Transnistrian region's exports in October 2021. In USD value, Transnistrian region's exports to the EU edged up by 4% year-on-year while dropped by 23% month-on-month. The year-on-year modest growth spanned exports of metal products - by 18% and textiles - by 9%. Metal products continued as the major export to the EU, making 66% of overall exports from the Transnistrian region to the EU. Exports of equipment and instruments dropped by 76%, of footwear - by 11%, of agricultural products - by 10% year-on-year in USD value. In October 2021, 85% of metal products, 74% of textiles, clothes and leather, 65% of footwear, 14% of equipment and instruments, 10% of agricultural and food products and 44% of other various products were shares of the EU in Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.2) Additionally, in October 2021, exports of articles of bedding and plastic films to the EU collectively made 3% of overall Transnistrian region's exports to the EU.

Fig. 2 -EXPORT



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Transnistrian region's exports to Ukraine in USD value grew by 23%, year-on-year, while dropped by 31% month-on-month. Ukraine claimed 7% of overall Transnistrian export in October 2021. Year-on-year, in USD value, a growth was linked to the resumed export of wheat and barley, which collectively made around 50% of overall exports from Transnistrian region to Ukraine in USD value. Having dropped by 60% in October 2021, steel bars and rods claimed 26% of Transnistrian region's exports to Ukraine.

The Russian Federation claimed 15% in overall Transnistrian region's export in October 2021. Exports to the Russian Federation grew by 17% year-on-year and by 4% month-on-month in

USD value. In October 2021, a major increase extended to exports of equipment and instruments - by 56%, year-on-year in USD value. An increase was mainly linked to spare parts to aircrafts, electric motors and insulated wire, which collectively made around 25% of overall Transnistrian region's exports to the Russian Federation in USD value. Additionally, exports to the Russian Federation of footwear grew by 82%, of metal products – by 51%, while of agricultural products dropped by 9% and of textiles - by 34%, year-on-year in USD value. In October 2021, in USD value, 74% of equipment and instruments, 33% of footwear, 18% of textiles and clothes, 10% of agricultural products, 7% of metal products were shares of the Russian Federation in overall Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.2) In October 2021, exports of plastic films and glass fibre to the Russian Federation made 8% of overall Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation in USD value.

In October 2021, Ukraine and Serbia were the second and third biggest consumers of metal products, following the EU, Serbia ranked third, consuming the cotton woven fabrics, while Egypt was vastly buying maize, the UAE and Turkey were two key export destinations for the sunflower seeds, Bangladesh – for barley, Indonesia, was the second biggest importers of wheat from Transnistrian region.

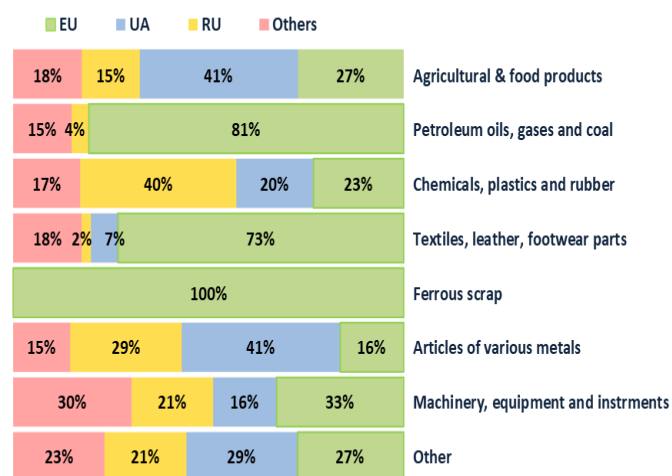
Import

Overall USD value of Transnistrian region's merchandise imports grew by 27% year-on-year, while dropped by 13% month-on-month. Machinery, equipment and instruments (24%), agricultural products and food (17%), chemicals, plastics and rubber (16%), steel scrap (11%), petroleum oils, gases and coal (11%), metal articles (9%), textiles, leather and footwear parts (5%) and other goods (7%) made a structure of Transnistrian region's merchandise imports in October 2021.

Year-on-year in USD value, a growth was impacted mainly by over trebled import of petroleum oils, being linked to imports from the EU and Belarus, by imports of machinery, equipment and instruments, which grew by 50%, of chemicals, by imports of plastics and rubber grown by 33% and of products of various metals – by 31%. In October 2021, imports of scrap metal dropped by 14% and of agricultural products edged down by 2%. The key categories of Transnistrian region's imports ranged into key import markets are shown in the figure 3.

In October 2021, the EU claimed 43% of Transnistrian region's imports in USD value. The Transnistrian region increased imports from the EU by 23% year-on-year, while decreased it by 16% month-on-month. Imports of petroleum fuels from the EU quadrupled, of equipment and instruments grew by 23%, while imports of steel scrap dropped by 14%, of chemicals, plastics and rubber - by 9%, year-on-year in USD value. In October 2021, in USD value, 100% of steel scrap, 81% of petroleum oils, gases and coal, 73% of textiles, clothes, footwear parts, 33% of machinery, instruments and equipment, 27% of agricultural and food products, 23% of chemicals, plastic and rubber products, 16% of products of various metals and 23% of other various products imported by the Transnistrian region fell within the EU. (fig.3)

Fig.3 IMPORTS



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Import from Ukraine grew by 22% year-on-year and dropped by 12% month-on-month. In USD value, Ukraine claimed 20% of overall Transnistrian region's imports in October 2021. Year-on-year in USD value, a growth was mainly linked to the trebled imports of products of various metals, with flat-rolled products of iron being 60% of this share. Imports of machinery, instruments and equipment from Ukraine grew by 51%, having spanned telephones, carbon electrodes, sunflower seeds, mechanical appliances for dispersing liquids, electric equipment. Additionally, a growth extended to Transnistrian region's imports of ferro-alloys, milk products, medicaments, plastic films and packings, monofilament, leather, furniture and unglazed ceramic flags. In USD value, 41% of agricultural and food products, 41% of products of various metals,

20% of chemicals, plastic and rubber products, 16% of equipment and instruments and 29% of other products imported by Transnistrian region in the reporting period fell within Ukraine. (fig.3) No import of steel scrap resumed by Transnistria in October 2021.

Transnistrian import from the Russian Federation grew by 44% year-on-year, while dropped by 23% month-on-month. The Russian Federation claimed 19% in overall Transnistrian imports in USD value. Year-on-year, in USD value, imports of equipment and instruments, chemicals, plastics and rubber doubled, while import of products of various metals dropped by 15% and of agricultural and food products - by 5%, year-on-year in USD value. Import of medicaments and mineral fertilisers collectively made 23% of overall Transnistrian region's imports from the Russian Federation in USD value. The share of equipment and instruments reached 27% in imports of Transnistrian region from the Russian Federation, out of which electrical equipment, agricultural machinery, central heating, household appliances, telephones, monitors, medical instruments, collectively made 72% in USD value. Thus, in USD value, the Russian Federation claimed 40% of chemicals and plastics and rubber (with medicaments and fertilisers collectively being 66% of this share), 29% of products of various metals, 21% of machinery, equipment and instruments, 15% of agricultural and food products, 4% of petroleum oils imported by Transnistrian region in October 2021. (fig.3)

Additionally, Transnistria vastly imported new pneumatic tyres of rubber, flat-rolled products of iron and refractory bricks from China, medicaments from Turkey and India, insecticides from the USA, wadding of textile from Uzbekistan, flat-rolled products of iron from South Korea, aluminium wire from Switzerland, loading machinery from Turkey, automatic data-processing machines from Hong Kong and China, motor cars from the USA, mobile telephones from Hong Kong, the USA, China and Arabia Saudi and meat from Brazil.

In October 2021, 85% of petroleum oils were imported from the EU, 13% - from Belarus; the rest was shared between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

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

In October 2021, the number of persons crossing the Moldova-Ukraine border in both directions via BCPs of Transnistrian segment, under continuous pandemic circumstances, edged down by 1% month-on-month, while grew five-fold year-on-year, posting 103,355. Citizens of Moldova made 46%, of Ukraine - 46% and of the Russian Federation – 5% of overall border crossers at this border segment. In October 2021, 192 persons were refused entry to Ukraine at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border for their failure to meet entry requirements, out of which 55% were citizens of Moldova, 25% - citizens of the Russian Federation, 8% - citizens of the EU.