

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 478

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2014

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity.

Whereas the United States has enjoyed good relations with the Republic of Moldova since the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1991;

Whereas, since the Republic of Moldova's independence, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the efforts of the people of the Republic of Moldova to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of a Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova is due to sign an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union on June 27, 2014;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Moldova made extraordinary efforts to comply with the criteria for an Association Agreement with the European Union, including significant legislative reforms to improve the rule of law and curtail corruption;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and, on that basis, participates as an observer in the “5+2” negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria within the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine in 2013 and has threatened to ban Moldovan agricultural products, curtail the supply of energy resources to the Republic of Moldova, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan region of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of Russia has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of the Transnistria region in the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Government of the Republic of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas authorities in the Republic of Moldova's Transnistria region have restricted the access of OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors to the Transnistria region, thereby preventing the Mission from providing impartial reporting on the security situation in the region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed, by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law the Act relating to "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions", approved April 3, 2014 (Public Law 113-96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), providing for a United States international broadcast programming surge to counter misinformation from Russian-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information; and

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Georgia, and Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
3 States Government to support the sovereignty, inde-
4 pendence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of
5 Moldova and the inviolability of its borders;

1 (2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means
2 to strengthen relations between the Republic of
3 Moldova and the United States and to enhance the
4 democratic, economic, and security reforms already
5 being implemented by the Republic of Moldova;

6 (3) encourages the President and the Secretary
7 of State to enhance United States cooperation with
8 the Government of the Republic of Moldova and civil
9 society organizations and to focus assistance on rule
10 of law, anti-corruption efforts, energy security, and
11 promoting trade and investment opportunities;

12 (4) supports increased educational exchanges
13 between the United States and the Republic of
14 Moldova;

15 (5) encourages the President to expedite the
16 implementation of the Act relating to “United States
17 International Programming to Ukraine and Neigh-
18 boring Regions”, approved April 3, 2014 (Public
19 Law 113–96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), especially be-
20 cause it relates to populations in Ukraine and the
21 Republic of Moldova;

22 (6) affirms the Republic of Moldova’s sovereign
23 right to determine its own partnerships free of exter-
24 nal coercion and pressure, and affirms the Republic

1 of Moldova's right to associate with the European
2 Union and any other regional organization;

3 (7) urges the European Union to continue to
4 work for greater political, economic, and social inte-
5 gration with the Republic of Moldova;

6 (8) calls on the Government of the Russian
7 Federation to fulfill its commitments made at the
8 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Eu-
9 rope (OSCE) 1999 summit in Istanbul to withdraw
10 its military forces and munitions from within the
11 internationally recognized territory of the Republic
12 of Moldova;

13 (9) calls on the Government of the Russian
14 Federation to refrain from economic coercion
15 against the Republic of Moldova and to cease sup-
16 port for separatist movements on the territory of the
17 Republic of Moldova;

18 (10) supports constructive engagement and con-
19 fidence-building measures between the Government
20 of the Republic of Moldova and the authorities in
21 the Transnistria region in order to secure a peaceful,
22 comprehensive resolution to the conflict that respects
23 the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial
24 integrity;

1 (11) urges officials in the Transnistrian region
2 to allow OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors unre-
3 stricted access to that region;

4 (12) urges all parties to refrain from unilateral
5 actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a
6 peaceful resolution, as well as the agreements al-
7 ready reached, and encourages leaders of the
8 Transnistrian region to resume negotiations toward
9 a political settlement; and

10 (13) affirms that lasting stability and security
11 in Europe is a key priority for the United States
12 Government which can only be achieved if the terri-
13 torial integrity and sovereignty of all European
14 countries is respected.

○