

Memorandum of understanding
on mutual assistance in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance
between
the Consumer Protection Board of Estonia,
and
the Consumer Protection Agency of Republic of Moldova
(hereinafter referred to as "Parties ")

Considering that consumer protection and market surveillance in the area of non-food consumer products are matters of public interest and issues of high priority,

Recognizing that mutual exchange of experiences and information in consumer protection and market surveillance matters has significant benefits for both Parties and may contribute to a safer area for European consumers,

Believing that mutual technical cooperation in the area of non-food consumer product safety, in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance – despite the differences in organizational structures and functions of the Parties – could strengthen the relationship between the Parties and result in significant outcomes,

Bearing in mind that the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union is a common interest of the Parties, and the intention of the Estonian Party is to provide assistance to the duties of legal harmonization in consumer protection and market surveillance matters in the course of the accession process of the Moldavian Party,

Desiring to foster the exploration of new solutions and possibilities in cross-border enforcement,

Recognizing that mutual communication is essential to reach the proposed objectives, to strengthen good relationship, and to render cooperation more effectively,

PARTIES HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I

General goals of cooperation

- (1) The purpose of this Memorandum is the mutual cooperation of the Parties in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance, especially in the area of non-food consumer products, in order to contribute to the effective operation of consumer protection and market surveillance system, and uphold a safe and consumer-oriented market of products and services in both countries.
- (2) To achieve and fulfill the goals defined in paragraph (1), Parties shall strengthen and develop their mutual professional relationship in the field of consumer protection and

(2) Parties may additionally make available: documentation of measures taken, description of risks (with test-reports and certificates, if available), and detailed documentation of unsafe products.

Article V

Meetings and consultations

- (1) If required, Parties may carry out ad hoc consultation about their activities in the frame of international relations and market surveillance, and in cases requiring urgent actions.
- (2) Parties may decide to organize regular bilateral consultations on an annual or semi-annual basis, as well as study visits, trainings and informal expert meetings in order to enhance knowledge, coordination, and decision-making in market surveillance and consumer protection issues.
- (3) Parties shall mutually offer the possibility of study visits, in order to gain knowledge about procedures, coordination, planning of activities, decision-making processes, and development of manuals, check-lists and other inspection documentations.

Article VI

Communication and contact points

- (1) Communication and exchange of information between the Parties shall be carried out via electronic means of communication (e-mail, web seminars and conference calls), and in the course of personal meetings.
- (2) In order to ensure efficient communication and the rapid flow of information, contact points are designated by the Parties as indicated in Annex 1 of this Memorandum.

Article VII

Review

Parties shall monitor the state of cooperation continuously, shall review it annually, and perform mutually agreed amendments, if required.

Article VIII

Financial questions

Financial expenses arising from mutual cooperation in the course of the practical enforcement of this Memorandum shall be covered by the Parties from their own resources, unless otherwise agreed.

Annex 1.: Contact information

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