

Memorandum of Understanding
on mutual assistance in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance
between
the Consumer Protection Agency of the Republic of Moldova
and
the Consumer Rights Protection Centre of the Republic of Latvia
(hereinafter referred to as "Sides")

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 Sides 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 Sides – could strengthen the relationship between the Sides 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 Sides, and the intention of the Latvian Side 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 Moldovan Side,

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,

SIDES HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I

General goals of cooperation

- (1) The purpose of this Memorandum is the mutual cooperation of the Sides 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), Sides shall strengthen and develop their mutual professional relationship in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance through the exchange of experience and information.

Additionally, this Memorandum also aims at establishing a proper cooperation framework and contact channels between the Sides.

Article II

Exchange of information

Sides shall mutually inform each other about:

- passing and amendment of relevant national legislation;
- applied methods of consumer information and awareness raising;
- methods applied in the field of market surveillance, risk assessment, product testing methods and practices, legislation, enforcement measures and best practice in cooperation with other market surveillance authorities;
- international conferences and other professional events (workshops) organized by the Sides;
- projects and tenders aiming to provide financial contribution to joint work in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance.

Article III

European Union aspects

In order to promote and help Moldovan accession to the European Union – upon request of the Moldovan Side – the Latvian Side may offer its advice and help in the framework of exchange of information mentioned in Article II in the following fields:

- relevant EU legislation and harmonization requirements in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance;
- practical assistance during the implementation of harmonization measures;
- consultation in case the Moldovan Side wishes to join international organizations of market surveillance and consumer protection;
- EU projects, professional events and conferences in the field of consumer protection and market surveillance, which are opened for and may interest the Moldovan Side.

Article IV

Exchange of documents

(1) For a more effective exchange of information, Sides shall make available and inform each other on their publications and other information materials, may jointly elaborate other sources of information (e.g. reports, manuals, check-lists) in consumer protection and market surveillance matters, preferably in English, if it is available.

Sides may additionally make available: documentation of measures taken, description of risks (with test-reports and certificates, if available), and other information publicly available of unsafe products.

(3) Exchange of detailed documentation in cases related particularly to jurisdictions of the Sides.

Article V

Meetings and consultations

- (1) If required, Sides 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) Sides 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) Sides may agree on possible 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 Sides 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 Sides as indicated in Annex 1 of this Memorandum.

Article VII

Review

Sides 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 Sides from their own resources, unless otherwise agreed.

Article IX

Confidentiality

The exchange of information and cooperation shall be performed with respect to international and national privacy and data protection legal provisions.

Article X
Closing Provisions

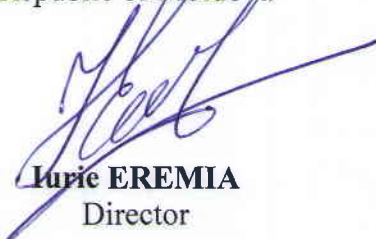
This Memorandum is to be concluded for an indefinite period and enters into force on the day of signing. It can be amended only by mutual consent of the Sides. Each Side may terminate this Memorandum by sending a written notice of termination to the other Side two months prior to the intended date of termination.

This Memorandum is drawn up and signed in two original copies, in English language.

The Memorandum is not subject to international public law.

Signed in ... *Riga*, *Latvia* ... *14.12.* ..., 2016

For
the Consumer Protection Agency of the
Republic of Moldova


Iurie EREMIA
Director

For
the Consumer Rights Protection Centre of the
Republic of Latvia


Baiba VITOLINA
Director