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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

## High-level Dialogue on eco-labelling in the Republic of Moldova

### DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, 30 September 2022  
09.30 – 12:00 (Chisinau, EEST)

Action implemented by:



## Background

In 2014, the Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) demonstrating its commitment and readiness to reform and harmonise different sectors' policies aligned with the EU approaches. Several Agreements' articles foresee the transformation towards Green Economy principles, more specifically, it calls for setting up the eco-labelling systems. Eco-labelling is also one of the sustainability criteria and tools for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) that the EU promotes in the Republic of Moldova.

Development of ecolabels contributes to meeting important requests of society:

- General increase of concern in the population on the sustainability attributes of their products.
- Coherence between SPP and ecolabeling as tools for SPP (in case SPP become mandatory in a country, companies would be strongly motivated to obtain eco-labels for their products).
- Increase of the EU market access sustainability-marketed products grew more than twice as fast as conventionally marketed products in the past 6 years (Centre for sustainable business, 2021).

The regulatory framework of the Republic of Moldova currently does not transpose the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EEC) of 25 November 2009 on EU Eco-label. At the same time, the national legislative basis includes a number of laws and policy documents that indirectly regulate the aspects of eco-labelling: Environmental Strategy for 2014–2023; Law on Ratification of the Association Agreement; Law on Labelling of Energy-Related Products; Law on Eco-design Requirements for Energy-Related Products; Law on Organic Agri-Food Production etc. The Republic of Moldova committed to implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by the end of 2030 (where ecolabels especially contribute to accomplishing the Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production). Finally, the numerous international treaties which the Republic of Moldova is a party to, formulate requirements on eco-labelling development and access to environmental information.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the five partner agencies implementing the EU-funded EU4 Environment (2019-2022) Action. This regional programme supports 6 countries, including the Republic of Moldova, in making policy planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative products and technologies, and raising awareness about the benefits of environmental action. More specifically, within EU4Environment's component on "circular economy and new growth opportunities", UNEP supports the Republic of Moldova to promote activities related to SPP issues and its complementary tools, such as eco-labelling.

UNEP in close cooperation with the PA EcoContact implements a set of activities on promotion of eco-labelling system development in the Republic of Moldova. In particular, a comprehensive assessment of the legal framework of Moldova was prepared, identifying the current state related to the eco labelling, and existing laws facilitating the regulation and later implementation of eco labelling in the country. The only existing and currently functioning system of environmental labelling in Moldova is on organic labelling in the agriculture sector.

In order to understand better the application of the EU eco-labelling system, the document provides an analysis of the EU ecolabel with its specific particularities and summarises key challenges; as well as the most suitable institution that could accredit and be responsible for the eco-labelling issuance. The assessment is available in [Romanian](#) and [English](#).

The Roadmap to align an eco-labelling system in Moldova was drafted to determine the objectives and measures to be taken to facilitate the transposition of the provisions set out in the EU Regulation on the Ecolabel (Regulation (EC) No 66/2010) in the Republic of Moldova. Largely, the roadmap is an action plan of successfully creating and implementing a voluntary national eco-labelling scheme. The Roadmap is available in [Romanian](#) and [English](#).

The most valuable progress is the elaboration of the Regulation on Eco-labelling by the transposition of the Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on EU Ecolabel and develop all supportive documents (Note, RIA, Draft of Governmental Decision, Regulation). The Regulation will be discussed at public hearings, and it will be sent out for comments and opinions to all relevant national institutions, such as Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice and other relevant and interconnected bodies, agencies etc.

At long last, the high-level event will raise awareness of governmental authorities, as well as the business sector, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business associations on the eco-labelling, followed by finalization of guideline and training materials on eco-labelling.

#### **Objectives of the high-level dialogue on eco-labelling**

- Leverage the discussion on eco-labelling in the governmental agenda to support draft Regulation on eco-labelling in the Republic of Moldova.
- Raise awareness of the Moldavian authority, business associations, national stakeholders on eco-labelling and plans on development of the national ecological label.
- Promote eco-labelling as an efficient tool on access of information to individuals, as well as a tool for SPP.
- Promote eco-labelling as a strategical tool to increase access to different markets (i.e., the EU market).
- Ensure awareness and full support of finalisation of the Regulation on eco-labelling and promote eco-labelling practices in the Republic of Moldova as an efficient way to meet commitments under the EU Association Agreement and numerous environmental multilateral agreements.

#### **Participants**

The high-level representatives of the Moldavian governmental institutions, agencies, business associations, national stakeholders, as well as the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and UNEP.

#### **Practical information**

The high-level dialogue will be held on 30 September (9:30-12:00) in the conference room at the hotel Jolly Alon, 37 Maria Cebotari str., Chisinau.

English and Romanian are the languages of the dialogue. English-Romanian simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The event will be streamed online via [privesc.eu](http://privesc.eu) platform. Additionally, the event will be available on Facebook page of Ministry of Environment and PA EcoContact.

#### **Format and questions to the panellists**

The dialogue will be organised as the in-person panel discussion with the moderation of the questions.

The panellists will contribute to the discussion by answering the following questions:

Q1: What are the policy development priorities of the Republic of Moldova to create a favourable environment and conditions to promote and practice eco-labelling?

Q2: How can eco-labelling be better promoted at the highest national level so that to ensure support of the Republic of Moldova on its way of finalization of the draft Regulation on eco-labelling, as well as towards SDGs achievement, commitments under different agreements, including the EU Association Agreement are met?

Q3: What are the benefits for the Republic of Moldova to develop its eco-labelling infrastructure?

Q4: How do you see the role of international partners (for instance, UN Agencies), as well as international projects (for instance, EU4Environment) in promoting ecolabeling at national level?

Q5: How effective are eco-labels in scaling up sustainable consumption and production?

Q6: How would you evaluate the level of understanding and knowledge on eco-labelling by national stakeholders? What challenges in the implementation of the Regulation on eco-labelling and development of the ecological label in the Republic of Moldova do you see?

Q7: How to increase the attention of key stakeholders in the process of drafting the Regulation on eco-labelling and development of a national ecological label in the Republic of Moldova?

Q8: How the government together with business representatives can encourage the private sector to get certified under existing ecolabels? How SPP can be used as a tool to promote ecolabels?

#### **Panellists of the dialogue**

The panellists will be invited as followed (tbc):

- Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary of Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Vladimir Arachelov State Secretary Ministry of Finance
- Representative of MOLDAC
- Ms. Matilda Halling, Programme Officer, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova
- Ms. Veronika Safrankova, Head of UNEP Brussels Office
- Representative of Business Association
- Representatives of civil society and international organisations

Moderator of the dialogue: Natalia Guranda, Executive Director PA EcoContact

#### **About EU4Environment**

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The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: [EU4Environment@oecd.org](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org).

For more information, please visit our website: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org).

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## High-level Dialogue on eco-labelling in the Republic of Moldova, 30 September 2022

The event will be streamed online, via [privesc.eu](http://privesc.eu) and official social media accounts (Facebook) of Ministry of Environment and EcoContact

Moderator: Natalia GURANDA, Executive director PA EcoContact

Time	Item
9:30-10:00	Welcome coffee
10:00- 10:50	<p>Introduction by the Moderator</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Iordanca Rodica <b>IODANOV</b>, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Mr. Sergiu <b>GAIBU</b>, Minister of Economy</li> <li>• Mr. Vladimir <b>ARACHELOV</b>, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance</li> <li>• Ms. Matilda <b>HALLING</b>, Programme Officer of the EU Delegation to Moldova</li> <li>• Ms. Veronika <b>SAFRANKOVA</b>, Head of UNEP Brussels Office</li> </ul>
10:50-11:00	Q&A session
11:00-11:15	<p>Presentation of the draft Regulation on eco-labelling (transposition of EU Regulation 66/2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Irina <b>PUNGA</b>, Legal Consultant PA EcoContact</li> </ul>
11:15-11:45	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Aliona <b>GUTUL</b>, main specialist Directorate of Accreditation of Certification and Inspection Bodies MOLDAC [discussion focused on the accreditation procedure of certification bodies]</li> <li>• Mr. Andrei <b>ISAC</b>, National Coordinator EU4Environment</li> <li>• Business [tbc]</li> <li>• Environmental Agency [tbc]</li> </ul>
11:45-12:00	<p>Q&amp;A session</p> <p>Closure of the event</p>