



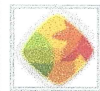
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Moldova signs Association Agreement with EU



Chisinau, 27 June /MOLDPRES/- The Moldova-EU Association Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Iurie Leanca, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels today.

Attending the event were heads of state and government from the 28 EU member states, who signed the document as well. Before the signing, Herman Van Rompuy said the agreement was a starting point that would strengthen Moldova's relations with EU.

Jose Manuel Barroso said the document was a solid commitment to back each step of the country in transformation into a democratic and prosperous state, and was the most ambitious project of EU of the recent times.

"European integration will make us stronger", Iurie Leanca said.

Parliament Speaker Igor Corman has previously said he would propose to ratify the Association Agreement in the parliament next week. The legislative bodies from 28 EU member states are to ratify the accord as well.

After the signing ceremony, Iurie Leanca will have separate meetings with more EU officials in Brussels, among whom European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and the candidate of the European Popular Party for the office of European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker.

The Association Agreement, which includes the agreement on creation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, was initialled in Vilnius in autumn 2013.

Georgia and Ukraine also signed association agreements with the EU in Brussels along with Moldova.

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