

UPDATE ON MOLDOVAN ACCESSION



MOLDOVAN ACCESSION

Background

Moldovan accession to the STCU was completed in December with the receipt of the European Council decision to approve Moldova's membership. Now there is a necessity to send our STCU Management representatives to Moldova to re-establish ties with the Moldova Government because of the recent reorganization process in the Moldova Government, especially with the previously named (but now reorganized) Supreme Council for Science and Technology.

Also we require re-establishing relations due to the rather long delay which has occurred since our last meetings back in 2003 and in February 2004. This is particularly important because there are new Moldovan officials that the STCU is anxious to engage, such as Mr. Gheorghe Duca, the President of the Academy of Sciences in Moldova. There also are upcoming parliamentary elections in February which could usher in new Moldovan officials throughout the Moldovan government, therefore several STCU visits will be necessary to establish relations with all of these new people.

Additionally, the Moldovan candidate for the STCU Regional Officer position decided to accept another job offer, and the proposed location for the Regional Office was lost due to the relocation of Supreme Council of S&T Development, which had agreed to host the STCU Regional Office. Therefore, the STCU has engaged in a new round of candidate selection for the Regional Officer position and a new search for suitable premises for the Regional Office. The planned trips by STCU management will settle these issues as well as all other issues necessary to begin STCU operations in Moldova.

I would like to note that almost every day we receive calls from Moldovan scientists willing to send their proposals to the STCU. At the moment we are only able to provide them with information on STCU activities. There are already a couple of unofficial "Short Form Proposals" received by the STCU from Moldovan scientists, but there is no clear indication that these proposals have received approval from the Moldovan government. Establishing what Moldovan agencies have authority to grant Host Government Concurrence on STCU proposals will be another task during the next few months.

The STCU is ready to start to move forward to establish the office in Moldova. Funds for that are budgeted in the STCU 2005 budget proposal including funds for establishing the office itself, office budget including training of new Regional Officer, travels needed, and Grant Writing Workshop for Moldovan scientists. Correspondence between Moldova and the STCU, as well as a draft schedule of tasks for establishing STCU operations in Moldova, is attached to this report.



ESTABLISHING STCU OPERATIONS IN MOLDOVA

SCHEDULE OF TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

TASKS/ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS
1. Approval of Republic of Moldova Request for Accession to STCU	STCU Governing Board	Completed (6.12.04)
2. Deposit of Moldovan Instrument of Accession	Government of Moldova	Completed (16.01.04)
3. Official Notification from Moldova to STCU identifying agencies with authority to provide Moldovan Host Government Concurrence to STCU project proposals	Government of Moldova	Open
4. Diplomatic Accreditation of STCU in Moldova	Government of Moldova, STCU Regional Officer (once hired)	Open
5. Establish STCU Regional Office in Moldova	STCU	Open (Pending Actions Cited Below)
<i>a. STCU Planning Visit to Chisinau</i>	DED-EU (E. Manninen), CAO (D. Cleave)	Visit to be scheduled for mid-February 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview prospective candidates for position of STCU Regional Officer. - Possible initial visits to potential vendors & suppliers for office furniture, supplies, etc. - Visit potential office site premises in Chisinau, as offered by Moldovan Government. - Meetings with Key Moldovan Officials (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Presidential Administration, Supreme Council for Science & Technology Development, Academy of Sciences, Relevant Parliament members) - Possible Meetings with STCU Party Embassy officials, local CRDF official 	DED-EU, CAO, Moldovan officials to be confirmed later	
<i>b. STCU Preparatory Visit to Chisinau</i>	CAO (D. Cleave)	Visit planned for poss. March or April, depending on progress

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign Labor Contract with new appointed STCU Regional Officer. - Sign lease contract for new office premises. - Meet with building contractors for office refurbishment – Could be pre/post tender process. - Visit and choose potential vendors for supply of Office furniture, PC IT, & Office equipment, as well as for general procurement information gathering & issues. - Meet with the Moldavian Customs Authority to discuss Customs clearance procedures. - Meet with Tax Authority to discuss VAT and Tax issues (i.e., reimbursement & exemption). 	<p>CAO, Moldovan Regional Officer (RO), and Moldovan government officials (to be confirmed)</p>	
<p><i>c. Opening Ceremony for STCU Regional Office – Chisinau</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with Moldovan government officials responsible for STCU issues in Moldova, to introduce the Exec. Director and to discuss STCU operational issues in Moldova - Hold an Opening Ceremony/Ribbon-Cutting event at STCU Regional Office premises - Obtain Diplomatic Cards for STCU management staff - Possible meetings with Party diplomatic missions and CRDF office - Visit 1 or 2 Moldovan institutes - Final negotiations on agreements to open STCU Bank Account(s) with a Bank in Chisinau (to be done after STCU has received Diplomatic Accreditation) 	<p>Executive Director (A. Hood), DED-EU (E. Manninen), CFO (C. Bjelajac)</p>	<p>Visit to be scheduled once Diplomatic Accreditation is granted</p>

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CENTER IN UKRAINE

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Moldova
Mr. Andrew Stratan
80, str. 31 August, Chisinau, MD-2012

Dear Mr. Minister:

December 7, 2004

I am pleased to inform your government of the final and full accession of the Government of Moldova to the Agreement to Establish the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU). On 22 November 2004, the STCU received notice from our representatives of the European Union that the European Council had adopted the recommendation to approval Moldova's accession as a beneficiary Party to the STCU. This was the final step necessary to complete the process of approval by the STCU Governing Board.

The STCU has in its possession an instrument of ratification dated 16 January 2004. With the final approval of the STCU Governing Board and this instrument of ratification, the Republic of Moldova has completed all the necessary steps for full participation in STCU projects and activities.

The next step is to establish an STCU regional office in Chisinau and complete the formalities to allow the STCU to operate in Moldova according to the requirements in our STCU Establishing Agreement and Statute. These formalities include establishing diplomatic accreditation for the STCU regional office and STCU executive staff, establishing legal status for tax exemption and customs duty exemptions for STCU financial and procurement transactions, and establishing agreements with Moldovan banks to conduct STCU financial transactions inside Moldova.

The STCU staff will begin immediately to work with the appropriate Moldovan officials to establish STCU operations in your country.

On behalf of the STCU and its Governing Board, I wish to express my congratulations on Moldovan accession to the STCU. We all look forward to working with the Moldovan scientific community and the Moldovan government to develop excellent science projects, expand the network of cooperative science work with the international science community, and establish advanced, self-sustainable S&T research capabilities for former weapons scientists and their institutes in Moldova.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Hood
Executive Director

CC: Mr. Mark Tkaciuc, Counsellor to President on Home Policy
Academician Gheorghe Duca, President, Academy of Sciences of Moldova
Mr. Lenoid Culiuc, Member of Parliament
Dr. Lidia Romanciuc, Director, Moldovan Research and Development Association

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In. 12.04 nr. 05-25-904
La nr _____ din _____ 2004

Andrew A. Hood
Executive Director
Science & Technology Center
in Ukraine

Dear Mr. Hood,

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2004.

I am very glad to learn about the final and full accession of the Government of Moldova to the Agreement to Establish the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU).

I would like to inform you, that according to the LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, Code of the Republic of Moldova on Science and Innovation, No 259-XV dated 15.07.2004, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova is the unique public institution of national interest in the area of science and innovation, the plenipotentiary coordinator of scientific and innovation activities, is the highest scientific forum of the country and scientific consultant of public authorities.

This code regulates legal relations, connected with elaboration and implementation of the state policy in the field of science and innovations, activity in the field of scientific researches, innovations and transfer of technologies, scientific-technological information, accreditation of organizations in the field of science and innovations, attestation of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel of highest qualification, protection of intellectual property, legal status of entities in the field of science and innovations.

The Government enters with the Academy of Sciences into Partnership agreement, on the basis of which the Academy of Sciences is delegated the powers to carry out the state policy in the field of science and innovations and to determine the strategy of development of science and innovation activity.

Taking in consideration the above mentioned, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova is very interested in the opening of a STCU Office in Moldova.

I would be very grateful to you, if you keep informing me of all the steps taken in this matter.

Using this opportunity, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Academician Gheorghe Duca,
President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova