

January 2023

# INFOBULLETIN

**ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE RM**

The Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister is supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, funded by the UK Government's Good Governance Fund, and the International Finance Corporation's Investment Climate Reform Project funded by the Government of Sweden's International Development Agency.



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November 03, 2022

## PARLIAMENT

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Food may be subject to transfer as donation made by food operators either to a charity organization or to the consumer within the last 1/3 of the shelf life of the product. In case of food with a shelf life of less than 48 hours, food business operators may only donate it to final consumers.

At the same time, food operators, including public catering units, can donate up to 5 units of any food product daily to each final consumer, who requests it and in case of ready made food, the donation volume is determined by each operator individually.

The draft law, developed by the Ministry of Economy, with the support of the International Financial Corporation and the Secretariat of the Economic Council, will enter into force 6 months after its publication in the Official Gazette.



## ATA-online Digital Carnet service was launched

Entrepreneurs and individuals can submit applications for the issuance of ATA carnets online to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova.

The ATA Carnet is applicable for the following types of goods:

- products to be presented at fairs and exhibitions, fairgrounds, conferences or similar events;
- professional equipment (computers, television and broadcasting equipment, photography, musical instruments);
- objects of art, clothing and jewelry;
- goods imported for educational, scientific or cultural purposes;
- goods imported for humanitarian purposes;
- animals.

The new service became available after the implementation of a new module on the CCI platform [www.client.chamber.md](http://www.client.chamber.md) which was developed at the proposal of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister, with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## Parliament voted in first reading a set of legislative measures on e-commerce

At the initiative of the Ministry of Economy and Economic Council to the Prime Minister, a set of legislative measures was developed to update the legislation on e-commerce and consumer protection in the e-commerce process, which was voted by Parliament.

The document comes to address important issues regarding the initiation and carrying out of e-commerce activities:

- updating the regulatory framework on internal trade and supplementing it with the necessary provisions on electronic commerce;
- adjustment of the normative framework on information society services, with the extension of the scope including on non-resident service providers who conduct their activity in the Republic of Moldova;
- clarification of the evaluation procedure of the LPAs about which the commercial unit in electronic commerce shall be notified.
- increase consumer protection in e-commerce by establishing the place of exchange of goods;
- establishing the procedure for checking the age of the buyer when purchasing alcoholic beverages online, including by the personnel responsible for delivery;
- exemption of establishments practicing electronic trade in precious metals from the obligation to own the area of 12 square meters for online activity;
- the obligation to apply identical discounts, regardless of the means of payment preferred by the buyer (cash or non-cash), as well as informing buyers about the instruments / means of payment accepted;
- some aspects regarding the organization and the conduct of general meetings of associates/members of the LLC board by electronic means.

## The first legislative package of deregulation of entrepreneur activity was subject to public debate

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On the platform of the Economic Council within the Working Group "Advisory Council for SMEs", led by the minister of economy there were debates of the first legislative package for deregulation of the activity of entrepreneurs. It is proposed, among other things, the amendment of the Labor Code, which makes optional the daily record of working hours, the annual schedule of holidays, etc. the replacement of the medical record – the so-called blue medical passport in the field of public nutrition with the medical certificate of the family doctor. It is proposed to facilitate the development of telecommunications networks by excluding certain installations from the category of real estate that require complicated and unjustified permits. In case of businesses working for less than three years, the current rule that obliges the control bodies to carry out only advisory checks and not to apply sanctions if the violations are not very serious, was not clear and did not work. Thus, it is proposed to specify that in the framework of planned or unannounced checks sanctions are applied only in the case of serious repeated offences or infringements. In relation to all businesses the control body will be obliged to send to the economic agent the "checklists" through which the entrepreneur is informed about what exactly will be inspected. At the same time, the right to video and/or audio record the actions of inspectors shall be granted. The amendments developed by the Ministry of Economy, with the support of UNDP experts and the Secretariat of the Economic Council, are positively appreciated by the business community.





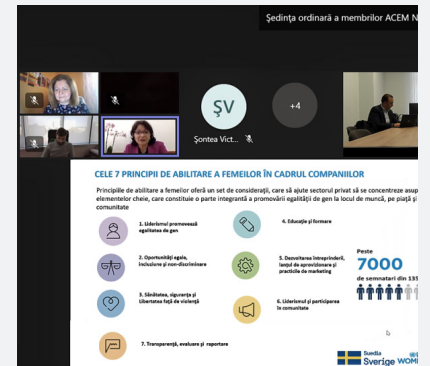
# The resident companies of the Industrial Park "Tracom" met to discuss the principles of women's empowerment

On December 8, the Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister together with UN Women organized an information session for the resident companies of the Industrial Park "Tracom" on the benefits of signing and implementing the principles of women's empowerment and their impact on ensuring gender equality, about equal pay for equal work of equal value without discrimination on the grounds of gender, and the synthesis of the most important policy initiatives for economic empowerment of women, such as setting up nurseries for the children of their own employees right at the workplace. Since the private sector is the engine that drives more than 70% of current jobs, addressing gender equality must be a priority for the business community, and alternative childcare solutions are a very important element that only stimulates the active role of women in economic activities, such were the conclusions reached

by the participants of the information session, the resident companies of the industrial park.



The campaign is an action of the roadmap on Economic Empowerment of women, developed by the Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of UN Women and the financial support of Sweden.



## The principles of women empowerment and equal pay for equal work

On October 27, an information session on good practices in the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work between women and men and the principles of women empowerment was held for the members of the Association of companies in the Electronic Industry of Moldova. This activity is part of the information campaign on the necessity and value of implementing the principle of equal pay for equal work, launched in August by the Economic Council in partnership with UN Women and with the financial support of Sweden. The event was attended by business founders, company directors, vocational schools and centres of excellence.

## Updated roadmap to overcome the most pressing challenges in women's economic empowerment

The development of the roadmap for economic empowerment of women is gaining momentum. 21 percent of the actions in this document are already implemented or in the process of implementation only four months after launch. This was announced at the meeting of the Working Group on economic empowerment of women within the Economic Council to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova. Attending the meeting, the chairwoman of the Working Group Stella Jemna, Chief of staff of the Prime Minister, welcomed the increased interest of all parties involved



in the process of implementing the principles of women's empowerment in Moldova and called on all actors to get involved in promoting them. " We are ready to provide all the necessary support in the implementation of the roadmap for economic empowerment of women," added Stella Jemna. The proposals raised at this meeting will be systematized by the Secretariat of the Economic Council, so that later, the most relevant actions can be found in the roadmap, which will be updated and published on the official page of the Economic Council.

## Moldova becomes the first country in the region to obtain mutual recognition of authorized economic agents with the EU

Starting with November 1, The Authorized Economic Operators in our country will be recognized by all 27 EU member states. That means faster border crossing times. The Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova communicated the benefits of this phenomenon to the manufacturing community during a meeting at the Economic Council. The status of an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) means a priority treatment when crossing the border – a special lane dedicated to them and a small number of checks. Transporters will no longer have to go through complicated customs clearance procedures, both in Moldova and in the 27 EU states. The process of obtaining the state as an Authorized Economic Operator was systematically discussed on the platform of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation the functions of which the Economic Council exercises. Moldova is the first country in the vicinity of the EU with which such an agreement was concluded and among the very few in the world to have such an agreement with the EU.





## Economic operators request revision of legal framework on collection of environmental pollution tax

The economic operators that ensure waste management may no longer pay the tax for environmental pollution in the near future.

But for this the Ministry of Environment must come up with an adjusted regulatory framework in this regard. The topic was addressed by representatives of the business community and state institutions at the Economic Council during the meeting of the Working Group facilitating cross-border trade led by Mariana Rufa, Executive Director of the European Business Association in Moldova. At present, the law obliges all economic operators in Moldova who place packaged products on the market to pay the tax for environmental pollution. However, some companies provide



individual or collective waste management, that is, collect them from consumers, store them, sell them or transmit them for processing to specialized companies. But they are still charged for environmental pollution, along with other economic operators that do not apply the so-called Extended Producer Responsibility (REP) principle. Entrepreneurs are calling for the abolition of this tax for companies that apply the principle of REP. Attending the meeting, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Vladimir Bolea said that in 2023 this tax will still be levied, but the subject is already in the sight of the relevant ministries in order to adjust the relevant legislation. The draft law will also be debated at the Economic Council. From the collection of the tax for environmental pollution, the state receives 200 million lei annually.



USAID experts will work on legislative changes related to inspections and business-related sanctions

The experts of the Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime minister of the Republic of Moldova gathered today in a first meeting with experts of the USAID institutional and structural reforms in Moldova (MISRA) program to launch the work of significantly reducing the burden and risks of state control and sanctions on enterprises.

Among the objectives of the activity are to increase transparency, awareness and accountability, at the level of state bodies and stakeholders, regarding state inspections and the sanctioning system. Another objective will be to improve the framework legislation on inspections and sanctions.

The third objective is to reduce the burden imposed by the areas of inspection / sanctions, including in terms of compliance requirements, powers of institutions, procedures and sanctions.

## Activity of the Secretariat of the Economic Council discussed with donors

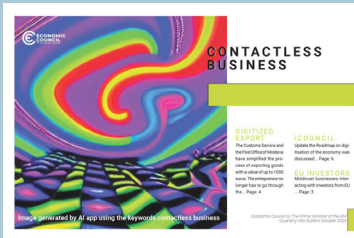
In 2022 the activity of the Secretariat of the Economic Council focused on supporting a series of reforms to improve the business environment in Moldova affected by the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The experts of the Secretariat of the Economic Council reviewed the results achieved in promoting reforms related to the digital economy, development of the roadmap on economic empowerment of women and the first legislative package on deregulation of entrepreneurial activity.

In turn, the donors mentioned that the Economic Council to the Prime Minister should continue to be a tool to ensure a constant communication between the business community of Moldova and state authorities.



## In the previous edition



- **The Customs Service and the Post Office of Moldova have simplified the process of exporting goods with a value of up to 1000euros.**
- **Moldovan businesses interacting with investors from EU countries welcome the recognition of electronic signatures from the EU.**
- **Natalia Gavrilita: “we are mobilizing all international support so that we can get out of the crises we are going through and help the population and business community.**



## Contact-US

022-250-373  
MD-2033, mun. Chişinău, Piaţa  
Marii Adunări Naţionale, 1  
consecon@gov.md

[www.consecon.gov.md](http://www.consecon.gov.md)  
Facebook: Consiliul  
Economic pe lângă PM

