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## **European integration guarantees diversity in Moldova**

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 3 July 2014 - On the sidelines of an official visit by a delegation from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the rapporteurs on local and regional democracy in the Republic of Moldova, Francis Lec (France, L, SOC), and Philippe Receveur (Switzerland, R, EPP-CCE), underlined "the efforts made by the Moldovan Government to speed up the country's European integration" and added that "the signature of the Association Agreement with the EU ties in with that policy".

In the view of the Congress, which has been monitoring the situation of local and regional democracy in the Republic of Moldova for several years in application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, European integration guarantees democratic values in the Republic of Moldova and also the diversity of the country, while ensuring respect for its territorial integrity.

The rapporteurs believe that the positive effects of decentralisation, the process of which has begun, will be of maximum benefit to the country's citizens. It is up to the Moldovan Government to continue with the commitments made in this area and implement the recommendations adopted by the Congress in 2012.

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.

It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Herwig Van Staa (Austria, EPP/DC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Regions: Nataliya Romanova (Ukraine, IDLG)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)