



4 NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION IN TRADE AND TRANSIT

The Customs Service is defined as a central public administration body. Its role and work are prescribed in a number of laws passed during 1997-2002. In furtherance of its mission the Customs Service operates eight Customs houses three on the Romanian border, one on the Ukrainian one and four in major urban centres. (see Figure 2 below).

The Customs service has introduced significant changes (EDI and e-declarations). There is a 'traffic light' risk management system in place; clearance times are reasonable; and operational meetings between the Customs Service and private operators' representatives ensure that any problems are dealt with quickly.

However a special report by Transparency International indicates that corruption is widespread and frequent, albeit at a level bearable by the Trade.

Figure 2: Location of Moldovan Customs Houses



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova website



Key documents regulating **trade and transit operations** in Moldova include:

- The Customs Code (dated of July 20th 2000);
- The Law “On State Regulation of the Foreign Trade Activity” (dated of June 8th 2000);
- The Regulation “On the Rules for Transit System Application at the Territory of the Republic of Moldova” (dated of December 20th 2005).

According to private operators, the Customs Service fulfils its mission well. Electronic data interchange (EDI) is in place. In 2008 Moldova introduced a “single window” system (Regulation No 1073 dated of September 19th 2008), which allowed to save passing through the sanitary-veterinary and phytosanitary controls. Besides, in 2005, Moldova adopted a risk-management based approach to Customs checks (Regulation No 1144 dated of November 3rd 2005).

Many of the above mentioned initiatives have been implemented within the frames of EU-Moldova Action Plan, the effective version of which was adopted in 2005. Also in 2005 the EU launched the Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). The objective of EUBAM is to improve the cooperation between Moldavian and Ukrainian Customs and border-crossing agencies and bring them in line with standards and procedures applied in the EU. Thanks to EUBAM, since April 2008 Customs authorities of Moldova and Ukraine share a single Pre-Arrival Information Exchange System (PAIES). PAIES allows both countries to exchange and coordinate import and export operations, speed up the border-crossing formalities, but also fight smuggling and fraud.

In complement to this, the EU also targeted the implementation of an integrated approach to border management. For this purpose, in 2009-2011 it supported the purchase of special fixed and mobile communication equipment to improve communication between the border guard and Customs services of Moldova.