

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS
DERIVING FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – EUROPEAN UNION
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT**

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Abstract

*The Association Agreement signed between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, having the DCFTA¹ component, provides a new opening (opportunity) for strengthening economic relations between the parties ensuring an effective platform for transforming the Republic of Moldova into a modern European country integrated into the community economic area. This ambitious objective calls for consequent carrying out of multiple economic, political and priority reforms, harmonization of national legislation to the *acquis communautaire* aiming facilitation of mutual trade and, in particular, large access of national products on the European market. Although the importance of this strategic document is largely advertized, its contents, advantages and actions to be taken are less known within business as well as academic environment.*

This paper examines Agreement provisions regarding trade development, basic elements of DCFTA and opportunities it offers to entrepreneurs, national economy, society as well as benefits deriving from its implementation.

Keywords: trade relations, DCFTA, european integration, community market.

1. Introduction

Economic and social development of the Republic of Moldova is largely determined by trade relations carried out by our country both domestically and mainly externally. Among the many trade relations the European Community countries have an important part. Bilateral trade between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova is steadily rising in recent years due to EU decision (2008) to open up its market unilaterally to the Republic of Moldova in the framework of Autonomous Trade Preferences. As a result, the European Union has become the most important trading partner for the Republic of Moldova in terms of both import and export and currently its share is about 47% [1, p. 423] of the annual external trade of our country.

Thus, bilateral trade between the EU and the Republic of Moldova is an important factor for economic and social consolidation of the country.

¹ DCFTA - Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement

With the signing of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova on the one hand, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand (hereinafter RM-EU Association Agreement) ²[4], providing the creation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the Republic of Moldova has entered a new stage of trade relations development. Economic and social development of our country both in the short and in the long term will depend on the implementation of this Agreement, on the progress in this area. This requires, on one side, knowledge of priorities and regulations set out in the Agreement, identification of its opportunities and actions to be done in order to exploit these opportunities, on the other side.

2. Current investigation stage of the problem, purpose of research

Analysis and development of trade relations between the Republic of Moldova and other partners based on various cooperation agreements and trade regimes, is broadly analyzed and addressed in the literature. RM-EU Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), is unique because no neighboring partner of the EU has also benefited from such trade preferences as those granted to Moldova. For exploration of the opportunities offered by DCFTA, first of all, one must have knowledge and awareness, must establish an agenda for action to be taken as well as must fully include in the implementation of the Agreement provisions all involved stakeholders: authorities, business and society as a whole.

The purpose of this study (research) is to highlight main aspects related to the development of trade between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union in accordance with (in terms of) the DCFTA provisions, to examine access conditions for domestic products to the Community market as well as access conditions of European products to Moldovan market, to assess DCFTA implementation impact (economic, legal, social).

3. Methods and materials used

The research was conducted using a comprehensive set of research tools containing quantitative and qualitative research methods, including analysis, synthesis, comparative study, document analysis, deduction, observation, economic modeling, forecasting methods etc.

The research was based on the analysis of RM-EU Association Agreement, in particular of the DCFTA, of retrospective and perspective of Moldovan trade relations, in particular EU trade relations, of the legislation and Community rules (EU), of Moldovan legislation regarding development of trade relations, of Moldovan socio-economic development priorities, as well as on an estimation of the implementation impact of this agreement on strengthening country's economy and on populations's quality of life.

² The Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand, was signed on June 27, 2014 in Brussels, Belgium. The Agreement was ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on July 2, 2014 (Law no. 112 of July 2, 2014, promulgated by Presidential Decree no. 1237 of July 8, 2014) and by the European Parliament on November 13, 2014.

4. Analysis of opportunities for the development of trade relations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union in the context of (in the light of) RM-EU Association Agreement and DCFTA

The Association Agreement signed between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union provides a new opening for the development of trade relations on a new level, an increased trade, a new legal framework for Moldova-EU cooperation, strengthening of political and economic relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, integration of the country into the EU economic area. The Agreement entered into force on September 1, 2014³. Prior to entry into force of RM-EU Association Agreement, the relations between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova have been regulated by Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) (1998).

This Agreement represents a new generation of Association Agreements⁴, containing ambitious and innovative provisions, based on a comprehensive and thorough approach. The Agreement is a definite way to boost Moldova-EU relations and focuses on:

- carrying out key reforms,
- economic growth and development,
- governance and cooperation in energy, transport, environmental protection, industry areas,
- development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- social protection, equal rights,
- consumer protection,
- education, research and innovation,
- cultural cooperation, etc.

This document is also especially important because it includes the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), which provisions require the creation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the Republic of Moldova and the EU⁵. DCFTA aims mutual opening of markets for trade with goods and services, reduction of barriers to bilateral trade, which has an impact on the growth of our country's economy.

In fact, DCFTA is beyond classical arrangements referring to free trade because it provides not only a mutual opening of markets for most goods and services, but compels to gradual harmonization with EU norms and standards for trade, gradual transition to progressive European standards and standards governing the quality of products and services (standards and rules for conformity assessment, sanitary and phytosanitary rules, intellectual property rights, trade

³ RM-EU Association Agreement would enter into force after ratification by all signatory parties (the Republic of Moldova, the European Parliament and the 28 EU Member States) - on the first day of the second month after submitting the last ratification instrument at the General Secretariat of EU Council. However, the Republic of Moldova and the European Union have decided the provisional application of parts of the Agreement beginning with September 1, 2014 (EU Council Decision 2014/492/EU of June 16, 2014 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Moldova, on the other hand).

⁴ According to official EU definition, an Association Agreement with the European Union is an international treaty between the European Union (EU) and a country outside the EU, in our case - the Republic of Moldova.

⁵ The negotiations on the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the EU were launched in early 2010 and discussions on establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, as part of the Agreement have started only in 2012, when the Republic of Moldova has shown substantial progress in preparation for these negotiations.

facilitation, public tendering and competition; strict regulations related to energy products trade, including investment, transit and transmission, etc.).

Thus, the RM-EU Association Agreement has a strategic importance for the development of EU-RM relations, offering both political association and wide possibilities of economic integration through gradual liberalization (up to 10 years after signing) of trade in goods and services, reduction of customs duties, of technical and non-tariff barriers, harmonization of national legislation with the EU *acquis*, free movement of labor.

Given the European aspirations of the Republic of Moldova, the RM-EU Association Agreement represents a schedule with an ambitious program for multidimensional reforming of the country oriented toward the development of market economy and sustainable democracy.

Based on an innovative and ambitious approach, the RM-EU Association Agreement has a complex structure [4] and establishes a new legal framework for the advancement of relations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union.

A separate chapter (Title IV) of the RM-EU Association Agreement relates to economic and sectoral cooperation and aims at economic dialogue, company law, accounting and auditing as well as corporate governance, employment, social policy, public finance management, financial control, taxation, fiscal policy and cooperation, corporate governance, consumer protection, ways for our country's participation in community programs and other issues.

Title V "Trade and aspects of trade (DCFTA)" is of particular importance, aiming at market access for goods, elimination of customs duties, fees and other charges, non-tariff measures, trade defense measures, safeguard measures, antidumping and countervailing measures, technical barriers to trade, standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, customs regime and trade facilitation, trade in services and electronic trade, standards for intellectual property rights, etc. This particular title states that economic integration will be achieved through the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

DCFTA has an innovative character, offers a new perspective to the development of trade relations of the Republic of Moldova with the EU, but as it appears, it is less known both in business and academic environments, therefore we shall further analyze the basic elements of DCFTA and the opportunities they offer as well as the benefits derived from its implementation.

The main DCFTA components are shown in Figure 1.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area seeks a preferential trade relationship based on better market access under mutually advantageous conditions compared to those offered to other partners [8]. FTAs established by EU under relationships with its trading partners are beyond regular trade and are based on a comprehensive approach towards trade. This approach provides that trade can not be disconnected from internal policies regarding procurement, competition, intellectual property and sustainable development.

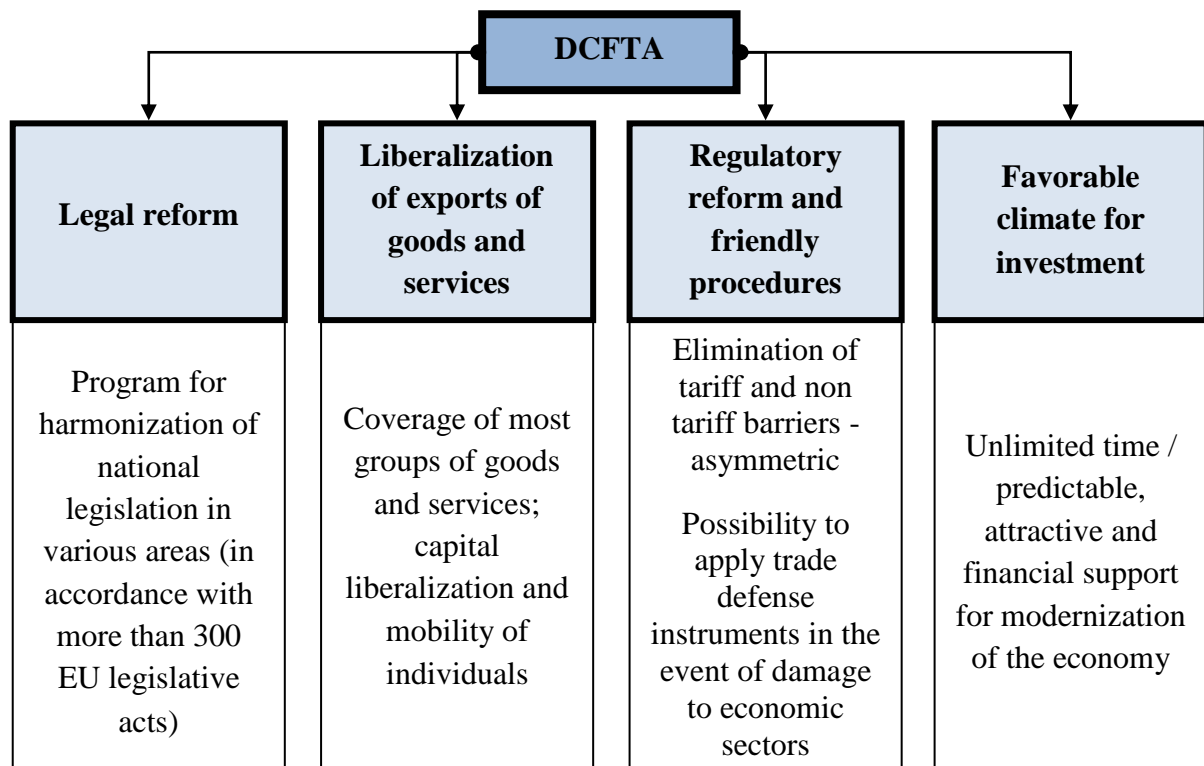


Figure 1: Main element of DCFTA

Another dimension of trade policies relates to the deep character of Free Trade Area with the Republic of Moldova. In this regard DCFTA includes provisions to reform national trade and trade policies in line with European legislation, which will contribute to attraction of investment and modernization of the economy.

Table 1: General provisions of DCFTA

Rules, aspects, components	Provisions	Content
‘Trade only’ rules	<i>Tariff obligations</i>	Complete removal of all import duties and prohibition of exports’ taxes for all EU products with the exception of few agricultural goods (mostly animal, sugar and cereals), considered sensitive in the EU and whose trade flows are subject to monitoring.
	<i>Rules of origin</i>	The Republic of Moldova will apply the rules of origin that will enable accession to the Pan-EuroMed (PEM) Convention as an area for cumulation of manufacturing processes with EU and other PEM countries, facilitating economic integration of trade in goods.
	<i>Services and right of establishment</i>	EU and the Republic of Moldova shall provide mutual market access for cross-border services in a wide range of areas. Also, qualified personnel will be offered the right to temporary employment in the EU or in the Republic of Moldova in the sectors offering the right of establishment.
“Comprehensive” aspect	<i>Competition policies</i>	The rules aim at proper implementation of national legislation on competition and prevention of monopolistic practices or abuse of dominant market position. The Republic of Moldova and the EU seek cooperation in the exchange of information and compliance with competition rules. With regard to assessment of subsidies/state aid, these rules will be applied within

		the first 5 years. The Republic of Moldova will create the necessary institutions with regard to state aid, which will become operational within 2 years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement.
	<i>Intellectual property</i>	Parties strengthen the commitment to protect intellectual property beyond the provisions of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). These concern the extended protection of various intellectual property rights (e.g. trademarks, patents, design etc.).
	<i>Sustainable development and Transparency</i>	Country's economic development must take place in accordance with environmental, social and work legislation, in particular with relevant international agreements under which the Republic of Moldova is a member, involving necessary transparency during policy development.
"In-depth" component	<i>Food safety / sanitary and phytosanitary measures</i>	Provisions aim at trade conditions for plants and plant products as well as for animals and animal products; procedures for establishing the equivalence of food safety regime of the Republic of Moldova with the EU regime, which will enable Moldovan exports of animals and animal products to EU.
	<i>Technical regulations and standards for industrial goods</i>	Provides progressive (until 2018) and comprehensive harmonization of national legislation, horizontally and sectorally, for industrial products with the EU acquis. Once harmonization will be completed, the parties will be able to sign an Agreement on conformity assessment and acceptance of industrial standards, through which Moldovan accreditation and market surveillance policies for industrial goods will be recognized.
	<i>Public procurement</i>	EU and Moldova opts for continuous and gradual (over 8 years) modernization of the public procurement system and alignment of national legislation with EU legislation. Completion of reforms in this area will provide wide access to the EU market under national treatment above certain value limits.
	<i>Services</i>	The reforms will also aim post and courier areas, sea shipping, electronic communications and financial services. The Republic of Moldova envisages for gradual process of reforms in all these areas up to 10 years.
	<i>Trade and customs facilitation</i>	The Republic of Moldova will undertake discipline measures related to customs policy management, customs fraud and administrative cooperation in this regard under EU law. DCFTA provides for the harmonization of national legislation within 3 years (EU Customs Code, customs applications of intellectual property).

Source: developed based on [9].

Thus, DCFTA represents a new trading instrument that goes beyond the traditional concept of trade liberalization and is based on two key elements:

- ✓ trade liberalization by eliminating customs duties, import quotas and other procedural, legal and technical barriers to trade; including new liberalized rules on investment and services;
- ✓ adoption of EU rules and standards, thus ensuring the premises for a deep integration in the Community market.

One must note that the Community market is considered to be the largest in the world, having 500 million consumers and GDP nominal value of about 20 trillion US dollars.

Between the Republic of Moldova and the EU is operated a trade regime (ATP) established by European Council Regulation (EC) no. 55/2008 of January 21, 2008 introducing autonomous trade

preferences for the Republic of Moldova [5] which subsequently undergone many amendments after the progress recorded when negotiating the RM-EU Association Agreement and commitments regarding the creation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between EU and the Republic of Moldova, the latter being operated by the Regulation of the European Parliament (EU) no. 37/2014 and of the European Council on January 15, 2014 [7].

With the mutual opening of markets, the Republic of Moldova and the EU have established measures to protect markets and domestic producers in terms of most sensitive positions.

As regards access of EU agricultural products on the market of the Republic of Moldova for most tariff headings cancellation of immediate fees was carried out after the entry into force of the RM-UE Association Agreement.

For agricultural products there are established certain market protection measures. Thus, for this group of goods are provided:

- cancellation of immediate fees – for products which are not produced in the country or represent raw materials with low added value;
- setting a transition period (3-10 years) for less sensitive, competitive products (fruits, vegetables, alcoholic beverages, specialty cheese, etc.);
- setting annual tariff quotas for imports (by average EU imports level in the last 3 years) for sensitive products, with regard to which import goods from the European Union can potentially disrupt the activity of companies from the relevant industry (meat and meat products, milk and milk products, confectionery, etc.).

Immediate abolition of import duties is provided for most EU industrial products accessing the Moldovan market except for some products from the textile, furniture, construction and chemical industries.

Gradual liberalization is envisaged, as already mentioned, for some sensitive products from the domestic market. The list of these products is shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: List of quotas for imported food products from the EU
in the Republic of Moldova and the transition period

HS ⁶	Products	Transition period
0206	Pork offal	10 years
0402	Powder or concentrated milk and cream	10 years
0406	Cheeses	3-5 years
1602	Canned meat	10 years
07-08	Fruits and vegetables	5 years
1902-1905	Pasta, cereals, bakery products	3-5 years
2002	Processed fruit and vegetable products	3-5 years
2007-2009	Juices	5 years
2204	Wines	5 years

⁶ The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

Table 3: List of industrial products imported in the Republic of Moldova
from the EU and the transition period

HS	Products	Transition period
2523	Salt; sulfur, earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	5 years
3917 3922-3926	Plastics and articles thereof	3-5 years
5702-5705	Carpets and other textile floor coverings	5 years
6101-6110 6115	Clothing and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	3-5 years
6201-6006 6211-6212	Articles of clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	3-5 years
6302-6309	Other textile articles; sets; clothing and worn textile articles; rags	5 years
6402-6405	Footwear, gaiters and similar goods; parts thereof	5 years
7010	Glass and glassware	5 years
9401-9403	Furniture; medical and surgical furniture; bedding and similar products; luminaires not specified or included elsewhere; lamps for illuminated advertising, illuminated signs, illuminated nameplates and similar products; prefabricated frames	5 years

For a number of products access on the Moldova domestic market will not be liberalized, therefore being administered tariff quotas (TRQ - Tariff Rate Quota), Table 4.

Table 4: List of quotas for agricultural products imported from the EU
in the Republic of Moldova within tariff quotas

HS	Products	Amount
0203 (16 tariff headings)	Pork meat	TRQ 1 - 4000 tons
0207 (20 tariff headings)	Chicken meat	TRQ 2 – 4000 tons
0401, 0405	Milk. Butter	TRQ 3 - 1000 tons
1601, 1602 (16 tariff headings)	Processed meat products	TRQ 4 – 1700 tons
1701 (7 tariff headings)	Sugar	TRQ 5 – 5400 tons
1702 (17 tariff headings)	Sugar products	TRQ 6 – 640 tons

It is estimated that about 95% of the import duties will be reduced to zero in the long run [3, p. 20]. This will lead to:

- increase of the competition level,
- increase of labor productivity after the implementation of new technologies,
- decrease of prices for consumers,
- salary growth,
- extension of employment opportunities,
- access to quality products, etc.

With regard to access of domestic products on the European Union market, it should be noted that the asymmetrical trade regime established under the RM-EU Association Agreement offers Moldovan agricultural producers preferential access on the Community market, access which any other partner of the European Union does not benefit of. The Republic of Moldova has the shortest

list of products that are produced domestically for which trade protection measures have been maintained by the EU, and is the only state that has obtained exemptions from the application of the “entry price” protection mechanism traditionally applied by the EU for a set of products. Within the quotas amount approved, our country can deliver six products without any customs duties charged.

The European Union has implemented a set of three measures to protect the Community market:

- application of annual tariff quotas (customs duty is excluded within the approved amount of annual quotas);
- elimination of ad-valorem component from the tax while maintaining the “entry price” specific duty;
- application of "anti-circumvention"⁷ protection mechanism.

Elimination of taxes will stimulate, particularly, the development of the agricultural sector - of strategic importance for the country, and will help to increase Moldovan export of agricultural products from the Republic of Moldova to the EU, especially of sugar, grain and wheat (30% estimated increase) and of other food products. Only certain agricultural products (mostly animal products, sugar and cereals), sensitive for the European market will be monitored to ensure that the import of these products, classified to be Moldovan, to the EU market are in compliance with the production capacity of the country and no circumvention of export taxes through export of products of different origin (from another country) occurs.

Mastering the potential of Moldovan exports to the Community market involves, first of all, harmonization with EU standards, reduction of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers as well as of technical barriers. Achieving this goal will have a double effect: it will open the EU market for Moldovan exporters and will help expand the access of Moldovan products to third countries' markets.

Currently, only 6 products are subject to annual exemption of entrance fees within the limit of tariff quotas on Moldovan exports to the EU (Table 5).

Table 5: Products subject to annual exemption of fees/entry price in the amount of tariff quotas for export from Moldova to the EU

Product	Amount, tons
Fresh or refrigerated tomatoes	2000
Fresh table grapes	10000
Fresh plums	10000
Fresh apples	40000
Grape juice	500
Fresh garlic	220

Source: [10].

For a number of products the ad valorem component of the import duty is excluded while maintaining the tax/entry price on the EU market (Table 6).

⁷ It involves setting floating quotas (indicative amounts) that can be overcome and amended depending on the increase of export potential for a specific Moldovan product. The goal – protection of the EU market from possible re-exports of products from third countries.

Table 6: Products subject to entry price on the EU market
for which the ad valorem component of the import duty is excluded

Code NC 2012	Products
07070005	Cucumbers, fresh or refrigerated
07099100	Spherical artichokes, fresh or refrigerated
07099310	Courgettes, fresh or refrigerated
08083090	Pears (excl. cider in bulk from August 1 to December 31)
08091000	Fresh apricots
08092100	Fresh sour cherries "Prunus cerasus"
08092900	Fresh cherries (excl. sour cherries)
08093010	Fresh nectarines
08093090	Fresh peaches (excl. nectarines)
22043092	Grape stum, unfermented, concentrated (excl. grape stum whose fermentation was stopped by the addition of alcohol)
22043094	Grape stum, unfermented, not concentrated (excl. grape stum whose fermentation was stopped by the addition of alcohol)

The list of products for which the “anti-circumvention” protection mechanism for Moldovan exports to the EU market is shown in Figures 2 and 3.

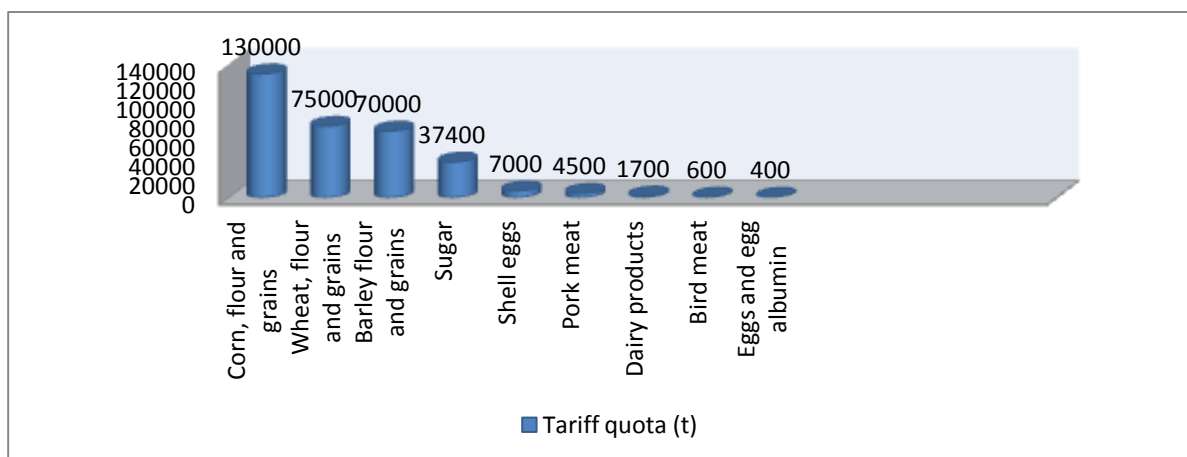


Figure 2: Agricultural products subject to the “anti-circumvention” mechanism for Moldovan exports to the EU market (floating quotas to the EU)

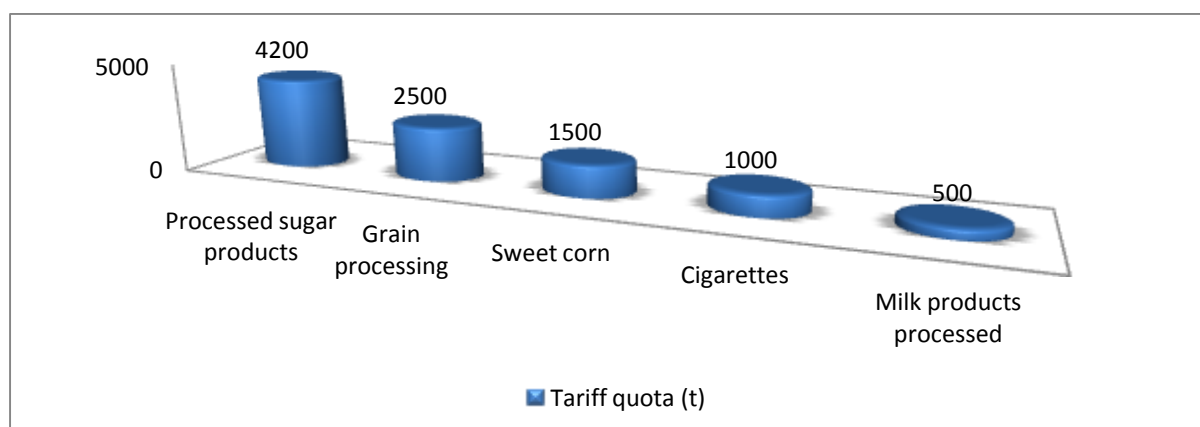


Figure 3: *Processed agricultural products* subject to the “anti-circumvention” mechanism for Moldovan exports to the EU market (floating quotas to the EU)

Exports of industrial products from the Republic of Moldova to the EU also benefit from reduced taxes.

Expansion of Moldovan products access on the EU market, increase of Moldovan exports to the Community market is influenced to a large extent by the quality of products and their compliance with EU rules. Particularly topical in this context is the harmonization of the legislation on sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well, as currently Moldovan exports of a range of products, particularly those of animal origin, cannot be achieved due to failure to comply with EU requirements. Nowadays, however, there are substantial differences between our and European technical regulations. Their elimination, through harmonization of Moldovan technical regulations to EU norms, will have a multiple effect:

- reduction of corporate costs related to passing conformity assessment procedures;
- establishment of a mechanism for mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures;
- reduction of product promotion costs;
- stimulation of investments in product quality and implementation of new technologies;
- increased competitiveness of products and enterprises, etc.

Based on estimates, reduction of these costs could reach 50% for agricultural products and 35% - for industrial products [3, p. 23].

The RM - EU Association Agreement stipulates the possibility to revise the provisions in order to increase the liberalization level of trade, to accelerate and extend the range of customs duties eliminated in trade between the Parties. It is expected that after three years from entry into force of the RM-EU Association Agreement parties will assess the situation taking into account the structure of bilateral trade in agricultural products, the specific sensitivity of these products and the development of agricultural policy on both sides, and will examine the possibility for granting new concessions to extend liberalization of trade in agricultural products, especially regarding those subject to tariff quotas.

5. DCFTA benefits and impact of its implementation

The RM-EU Association Agreement and DCFTA in particular, give our country an effective framework for modernization and development, and its implementation benefits are multiple and concern various aspects: economic, trade, legal, social, etc. It is estimated that the implementation of DCFTA will substantially transform not only economic, trade and investment relations between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, but also the entire economic area of the country, due to not only mutual opening of markets through elimination and reduction of duties and quotas but also to deep harmonization of laws, rules and regulations in all sectors of national economy to European standards.

The economic impact of DCFTA will materialize in economic consolidation and stimulation of economic growth of our country, investment, access to the largest market - the EU market, expansion of domestic products exports, harmonization of internal standards related to product quality and safety to the European ones, increase of competitiveness on domestic and foreign markets, etc. (Figure 4).

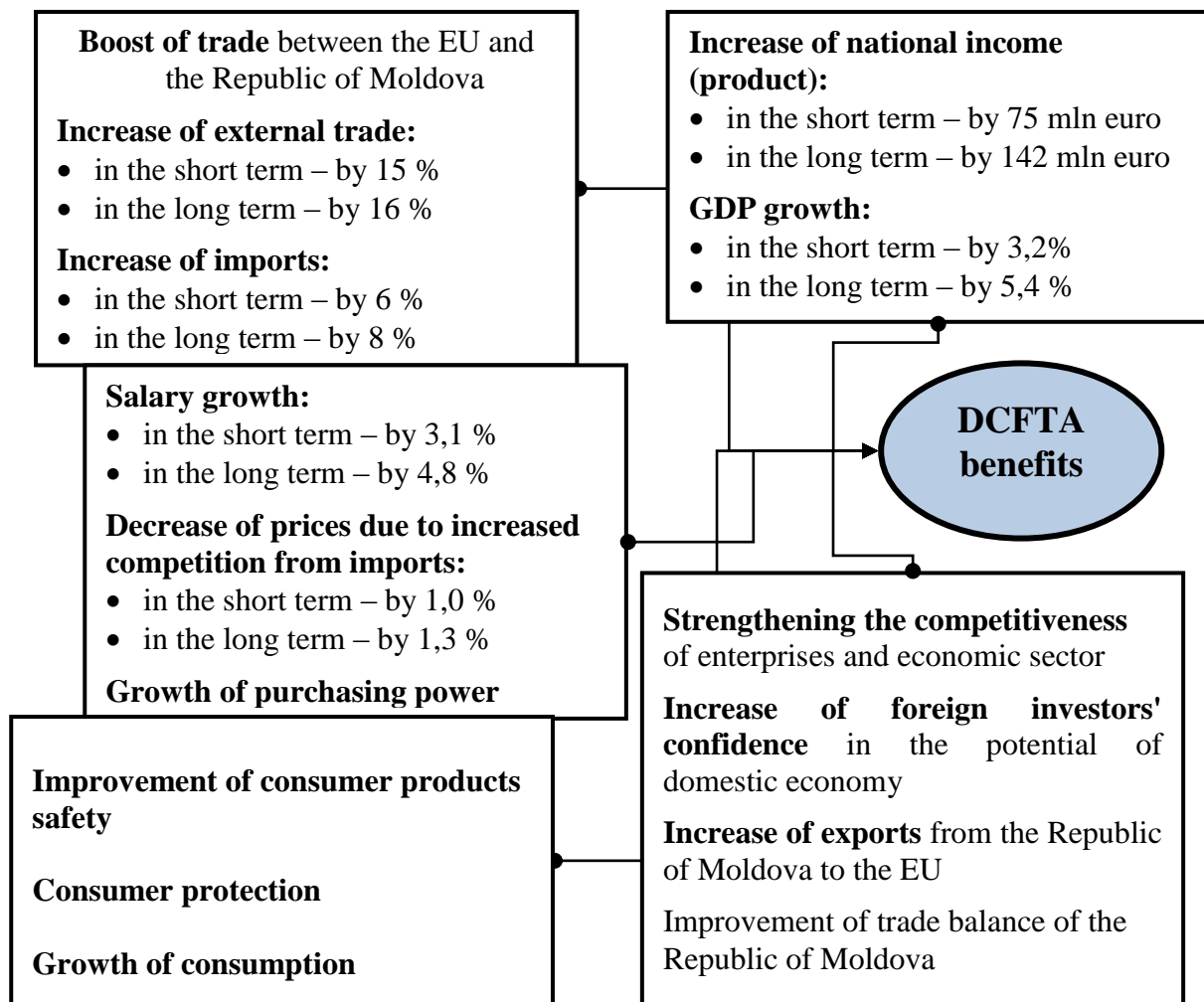


Figure 4: DCFTA benefits for the Republic of Moldova

Source: developed based on [5, 9].

DCFTA provides multiple benefits for exporters:

- unlimited access, with no tariff restrictions for import of agricultural and industrial products on the Community market;
- prospects for export of animal products;
- elimination of customs duties;
- implementation of European standards and rules on quality infrastructure;
- strengthening of efforts in order to penetrate foreign markets;
- increased competitiveness;
- development of national legal framework in the area of competition;
- prospects for joint business development and stimulation;
- reorientation from trade towards production;
- EU technical and financial assistance benefits, etc.

DCFTA provides the necessary platform for improvement of national legal framework in line with the *acquis communautaire*, establishment of clear and transparent laws and procedures similar to those applied in the EU. The Republic of Moldova can implement many EU laws and procedures to apply them at national level. Harmonized legislative and regulatory framework will have impact on all sectors, fields of activity and consumers.

DCFTA will also have a major social impact, contributing to improved quality of life, access to products of European quality and safety, poverty reduction also through creation of new employment opportunities both for skilled- and the unskilled personnel, salary growth, reduction of labor migration in the country, etc.

Opting for integration into the European Economic Area and assuming clear membership commitments to community values, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the National Plan for implementing the Republic of Moldova - European Union Association Agreement in the 2014-2016 period [2], which sets key priorities for cooperation and actions required from the responsible institutions according to each component of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area component aimed to ensure economic integration with the EU. This plan is the basic instrument for monitoring the European integration process internally for the 2014-2016 period and provides financial resources for the implementation of the Agreement.

With all the advantages offered by DCFTA, some experts mention certain possible threats to Moldovan economy:

- increasing imports of goods from the EU at a higher pace than exports on the Community market;
- pressure on Moldovan agriculture;
- initiation of a series of costly reforms and insufficient resources to promote them;
- delay of reforms intended to boost competitiveness;
- restrictive measures by some CIS partners;
- decrease of state budget revenues from the reduction in customs duties;
- non-achievement of expected indicators due to worsening economic situation at regional/international level, etc.

6. Conclusions

Economic integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Economic Community depends on progress in the implementation of the RM-EU Association Agreement, creation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, results recorded by our country in terms of compliance with community values and progress in convergence with EU economy, legislation and policy.

The RM-EU Association Agreement will deepen the relations between the Republic of Moldova and the EU as well as will help to continuous transformation of the Republic of Moldova into a modern European country.

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Rezumat

Semnarea Acordului de Asociere între Republica Moldova și Uniunea Europeană, având drept componentă DCFTA⁸, oferă o nouă deschidere (oportunități) pentru consolidarea relațiilor economice dintre părți, oferind o platformă eficientă pentru transformarea Republicii Moldova într-o țară europeană modernă, integrată în spațiul economic comunitar. Realizarea acestui obiectiv ambițios solicită promovarea consecventă a multiplelor reforme de ordin economic, politic, și, prioritar, armonizarea cadrului legislativ național la acquis-ul comunitar pentru facilitarea relațiilor comerciale reciproce și, în special, a accesului extins pe piața europeană a produselor autohtone. Deși se mediatizează mult despre importanța acestui document strategic, conținutul lui, avantajele ce le oferă și acțiunile ce urmează a fi realizate sunt mai puțin cunoscute în mediul de afaceri, dar și în cel academic.

În prezentul articol se analizează prevederile Acordului referitor la dezvoltarea schimburilor comerciale, elementele de bază ale DCFTA și oportunitățile, ce le oferă pentru antreprenori, economia națională, societate, precum și beneficiile derivate din implementarea acestuia.

Cuvinte-cheie: relații comerciale, DCFTA, integrare europeană, piață comunitară.

Аннотация

Подписание Республикой Молдова и Европейским Союзом Соглашения об Ассоциации, с компонентой DCFTA, предоставляет новые возможности для укрепления экономических отношений между сторонами, обеспечивает создание эффективной платформы для трансформации Республики Молдова в современное европейское государство, интегрированное в европейское сообщество. Реализация этой амбициозной цели, требует последовательного осуществления множества экономических, политических реформ, и, в первую очередь, гармонизацию национальной нормативно-законодательной базы с законодательством европейского сообщества в целях опрощения взаимных торговых отношений, в особенности предоставления расширенного доступа отечественных товаров на европейский рынок. Несмотря на значимость данного стратегического документа, его содержание, предоставляемые преимущества, необходимые действия, остаются, по-прежнему, малознакомы как в предпринимательской, так и в академической среде.

В данной статье проведен анализ положений Соглашения, касающиеся развития торговых отношений, основных элементов DCFTA и предоставляемых возможностей для предпринимателей, национальной экономики, общества, а также обзор преимуществ от внедрения акта.

Ключевые слова: торговые отношения, DCFTA, европейская интеграция, рынок сообщества.

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⁸ DCFTA - Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement