



UPDATE ON OPENING MOLDOVA REGIONAL OFFICE

The following report summarizes the progress made since the 20th GBM, regarding the start-up of STCU operations in Moldova.

Since the 20th GB Meeting, the STCU has been in contact with Academician Duca, and also engaged in informal contact with other Moldovan officials (Mr. M. Tkachuk – Presidential Administration & Presidential Councillor and Mr. Leonid Culiuc – former Presidential Administration & Director of Institute of Applied Physics MAoS)..

As a result, in September this year, Dr. Alfreda Roca signed the Service Contract with the STCU and since then she works for the STCU Regional Officer for Moldova. Additionally, the STCU and the Moldovan Academy of Sciences have signed the final User Agreement for suitable office premises in the Academy of Science building, which the STCU found to be the best choice from among the other locations examined in February 2005 by the STCU DED EU and CAO.

In November, the STCU ED wrote a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Moldova advising him of the STCU situation regarding office space, and requesting his ministries assistance in completing the official process of diplomatic accreditation. That letter was copied to Acad. Duca and to Mr. Tkachuk (the letter expressly thanks the Academy and Acad. Duca for achieving agreement of locating the STCU office in the Academy's central building). Unfortunately, there appears to be some confusion regarding diplomatic accreditation in Moldova; a formal request from the Academy of Sciences to the MFA for granting diplomatic accreditation was rejected by the MFA. Alfreda Rosca is now preparing all documentation in this respect and will visit the MFA to pre-brief the MFA before submitting the next request since it appears that there may be some misunderstanding and lack of information and documentation which caused the rejection to the Academy's request.

Dr. Alfreda Rosca visited the STCU Headquarters in November. The aim of that visit was to familiarize with the STCU staff in Kyiv, receive training on issues related to the STCU and STCU Regional Office routine activities, and processes. Additionally, she received a list of standard STCU Regional Office furniture and equipment, to start searching for appropriate vendors for STCU procurement of furniture, computer and office equipment.

Dr. Rosca participated in a regular meeting of the Moldovan Academy Of Sciences offered to her by Academician Duca, and she was introduced to the members of the Academy, and additionally she made an STCU presentation and presented her plan of activities. Her presentation was met with high interest. Dr. Rosca will also participate in the STCU's Regional Officers meeting in Kiev on 17th/18th November.

As per the STCU's request in November, Dr. Duca sent to the STCU a letter confirming that the Moldovan Academy of Sciences will be the organization giving the Moldovan HGC for the STCU Proposals coming from Moldova. Dr. Roca is clarifying the details of the process of receiving HGC presently. There are already Moldovan proposals supplied to the STCU and these are waiting for final establishment of the Moldovan HGC process.

The main task for the STCU and Dr. Rosca presently are: receiving quotations and finding vendors for the renovation of the office, purchase of the furniture and office equipment and, of course, receiving the Moldovan diplomatic accreditation as soon as possible.

A trip to Chisinau is provisionally planned by the STCU CAO in November as part of the office renovation process and also to find out about procurement, customs, VAT, tax and local banking procedures etc. It is still in the STCU plans to push ahead with establishing operations in Moldova as quickly as possible, and at this point, we foresee only a few possible bureaucratic delays with diplomatic accreditation and office preparations.
