

ALEXANDER KREMER  
Country Manager  
Moldova  
The World Bank  
Europe and Central Asia

January 23, 2017

H.E. Mr. Andrian Candu  
President  
Parliament of the Republic of Moldova  
Chisinau  
Republic of Moldova

Your Excellency,

*Re: The draft legislative package on amending certain acts on  
organization and conduct of tourism activities in Moldova  
(Registration Number: 302 (HG.815 2016-06-30))*

The World Bank Group Moldova Country Office would like to express its highest consideration and reiterate its support for Moldova's reform initiatives aiming at the improvement of the investment climate.

We would like to make an observation regarding the draft legislation for the tourism industry: <http://parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/Legislativ/Id/3348/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>, which received its first reading in December 2016, and to highlight the negative impact it may have on the tourism sector.

The draft tourism legislation contradicts Moldova's recent reforms, such as (i) the ongoing reform of permissive documents for entrepreneurial activities, and the clarification of regulations and procedures, as well as the creation of an electronic One-Stop-Shop for permissive documents; and (ii) the ongoing reform of the inspection system that implies a reduction of the number of state control bodies through their deep institutional consolidation and mergers.

The proposed amendments would run counter to these reforms by introducing additional licenses for providers of tourism services, travel agencies, tour operators, or individual tour guides, as well as for the star rating of tourist accommodation, and would thus put an additional and unjustifiable burden on the sector. The new legislation would also define the Tourism Agency as an authority exercising inspection functions over business activities in the tourism industry – which contradicts the institutional map of inspection bodies stipulated by the Law #131 on State Control of Entrepreneurial Activities and introduces duplicative inspections.

We, therefore, believe that a fundamental revision of the aforementioned legislative package would be required to ensure coherence with Moldova's reforms in the area of permissive documents and state controls.

The World Bank Group is grateful for your consideration of our opinion and looks forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Alexander Kremer  
Country Manager  
World Bank  
Moldova  
Europe and Central Asia

Copied to: H.E. Mr. Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova  
H.E. Mr. Octavian Calmîc, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy  
H.E. Ms. Monica Babuc, Minister, Ministry of Culture  
H.E. Mr. Octavian Armaşu, Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Ms. Veronica Vragaleva, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Mr. Stanislav Rusu, Director General, Tourism Agency of Republic of Moldova  
Ms. Lilia Palii, Secretary General of the Government, State Chancellery  
Ms. Oxana Gluşcenco, Acting Head of General Division for Policy and Foreign Assistance Coordination and Central Public Administration Reform, State Chancellery  
Ms. Elena Matveeva, Director, General Division for Public Debt, Ministry of Finance  
Mr. Eugen Cozmulici, Head of Directorate for International Cooperation, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Frank Heemskerk, Executive Director, the World Bank  
Mr. Claudiu Grigoras Doltu, Alternate Executive Director, the World Bank  
Mr. Roman Kachur, Sr. Advisor to Executive Director, the World Bank