

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE,
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The Development of the Naval Transport in the Republic of Moldova
in the Context of Construction of Port Facilities in Giurgiulesti

The Republic of Moldova attaches special importance to the development of country's transport system, including water transport. The attention is focused on restructuring and modernizing water transport sector, including related infrastructure.

Water transport represents an important and environmentally friendly way of transporting goods and passengers, but for a landlocked country it is also an vital alternative way. Danube River transport network offers a large potential. However, on the one hand, insufficient infrastructure development and maintenance prevent competitive and efficient operations; on the other hand the fragmented market structure poses difficulties to effectively integrate it into modern door-to-door transport chains, on the other hand. Thus, ensuring and increasing the efficiency of the water transport system, as well as further expansion of its networks, become a priority tasks that we have to work on. The main purpose is to take ultimate advantage of this safe and sustainable kind of transport.

Referring to the inland water transport sector, I just would like to briefly inform you that the Republic of Moldova has two inland navigable waterways (the Nistru River and the Prut River) which, according to the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (Geneva, 19 January 1996), are classified as waterways of international importance. This is to remind that our country ratified the mentioned Agreement in December 1997.

The Republic of Moldova has concluded with neighbouring states bilateral agreements on navigation on inland waterways of Moldova and those countries. Thus, in 2005 such an agreement was signed with Romania, and in 2006 – with Ukraine. The aforementioned legal instruments allow exploiting vessels, operated by the Moldovan transport agents, using waterways of Romania and Ukraine.

Obviously, Moldova is interested not only in developing its inland water transport. The sector of naval transport is also very important for our country. In this regard, new opportunities have been provided by construction and launch of the Giurgiulesti Port located on the maritime segment of the Danube River.

In this connection, it would be useful to provide you with some general information on the Giurgiulesti Port complex and its functioning. Currently, it consists of the

Giurgiulesti International Free Port and the Giurgiulesti Passenger Port. The facilities of both Ports allow receiving maritime, river and mixed sea-river vessels. The Giurgiulesti International Free Port has a free economic zone status and includes such facilities as oil terminal, general goods terminal, grain terminal, container terminal and industrial zone. It has a multimodal infrastructure consisting of a quay, railroad and highway intended to ensure connection with the Giurgiulesti International Free Port.

With reference to technical specifications: the Port oil terminal consists of a quay and 8 tanks for stocking oil products; the existing facilities allow processing 2 mil. tones of oil products annually; the required standards of security, specifically prevention of fire and environment pollution, are ensured. The fire-prevention facilities include: two water reservoirs with a volume of 500 m³ each, a pump station, a reservoir for foam generation, fire rescue service, necessary fire extinguishing means and equipment. All those allow ensuring the efficient functioning and maintenance of firefighting system. Taking into account the importance of the Giurgiulesti Port for the Republic of Moldova, the competent state bodies are permanently supervising the level of security and safe exploitation, ensuring their compliance with existing international standards and requirements.

The Giurgiulesti Passenger Port has a 4 level administrative building, as well as waste water treatment station, parking lots, boarding / debarkation station for passengers to / from buses, access road, passage to Giurgiulesti Railway Station. The Port quay has 2 levels which are being used depending on the vessels height and the water depth level in the Prut River.

The further development and modernization of the Giurgiulesti Port Complex infrastructure remain an important objective for Moldovan authorities. It will allow strengthening and facilitate trade relations, as well as to identify new prospects for their diversification. The exploitation of the Giurgiulesti Port Complex gives a good opportunity for developing the multimodal transport sector in the Republic of Moldova. It is an important task, taking into account that multimodal transport represents an efficient way to perform regional and international door-to-door transport operations and allows combining specific advantages of each kind of transport – the flexibility of road transport, the capacity of rail transport and lower costs of water transport.

