

**Note to the attention of the users of the "Practical Handbook for Border Guards":**

**Information regarding expired Moldovan passports (corr.)**

*(This note was presented to Member States at the  
8 July 2022 Working Party on Frontiers as Council document WK 9648/2022)*

The entry conditions to be fulfilled by third-country nationals when entering the territory of a Schengen State in accordance with Article 6(1) Schengen Borders Code include possession of a valid travel document entitling the holder to cross the border and satisfying the following criteria:

- (i) its validity shall extend at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Member States and
- (ii) it shall have been issued within the previous 10 years.

The Moldovan authorities informed the Commission, in June 2022, that due to very specific war related circumstances (a high demand for passports to be issued or renewed as well as a temporary shortage of supply for material for producing passports) they were not able to cope with the high demand for issuing or renewing passports. They also informed the Commission that this situation was likely to improve in autumn 2022. In view of this situation, the Moldovan authorities prolonged, with national administrative decree, the validity of passports expiring between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2022 until 30 June 2023 and informed Member States about their decision. They also requested the Commission to encourage Member States to show flexibility as regards the acceptance of these recently expired Moldovan passports.

In view of this specific situation, the limited security risk emanating from recently expired Moldovan passports and the need for a harmonized approach, the Commission encourages Member States to systematically consider the use of the derogation provided for in Article 6(5)(c) Schengen Borders Code (which allows Member State to authorise entry of third-country nationals who do not fulfil one or more of the entry conditions) in those cases in which Moldovan citizen holding a passport which has expired for not more than [12] months cross the external borders.

The use of this derogation is encouraged until the end of 2022.

While it is the decision of carriers to allow boarding of passengers, Member States are encouraged to provide assurances to carriers that they will not be fined for carrying passengers who are holding Moldovan passports falling within the scope of this note.