

**On December 25, we celebrate a significant event in the life of the Union of Drivers of the Republic of Moldova - 50 years since its formation. This is not just an anniversary date - it is a huge path traveled by our organization, which is marked by many interesting events. As a non-profit, non-governmental public organization, our Union was created with the aim of educating road safety standards, preventing road accidents and their consequences, which is a standard at the national level.**

**All this began in December 1973, when, by analogy with other Soviet republics, a decision was made to create the MSSR Automobile Enthusiast Society.**

**The Union of Auto Drivers persistently follows the motto of acting together, the entire civil community, to change behavior on the roads, while intensifying work with the population and students of educational institutions of different age levels. A well-coordinated management system for the Union and its branches helps in resolving these issues. The latter operate in 20 district and municipalities in which there are 80 primary organizations, uniting more than 15 thousand members of society. This intellectual potential is actively involved in improving the level of education of road users, through various actions in work collectives and educational institutions. A lot of work is being done to prevent road accidents. And this is very relevant in modern real conditions. Indeed, today in Moldova there are already more than a million people who have driver's licenses. Every road user must be aware of their responsibility on the road.**

**In recent years, our country has been actively reconstructing and developing its road network and road communications. The vehicle fleet has almost completely changed - and today these are modern, powerful and comfortable cars. But still, the main cause of accidents was and remains the human factor. Human behavior on the road determines road safety. Our main task is to mobilize people to reduce accidents. Just think about the accident statistics: since 2000, in our country, about 8,300 people have died as a result of road accidents, 720 of them children. Let's do something about it! We must put a reliable barrier to this deadly machine, which continues to take people's lives! Together, the entire civil community, we are obliged to achieve a change in the situation on the roads of Moldova!**

**In November 2006, the Union of Drivers of the Republic of Moldova was admitted to membership in the European Association of Driving Schools. This made it possible to introduce advanced European experience in training and education of drivers, and to receive European protection of their rights. I would like to thank our foreign colleagues for participating in today's summit, for the help and support provided to our Union. Delegations of the UCA RM constantly take part in EFA meetings - issues of developing state policies and improving legislation in the field of road safety, protecting citizens from road accidents and their consequences are discussed, and experience is exchanged on existing programs to improve road safety. UCA RM participation in a number of summits of the European Association of Driving Schools. As a full member of the EFA, we successfully implement the most effective methods of driver training. To successfully solve this problem, CAB annually improves the material and technical base of driving schools. Classrooms are equipped with the use of modern technical means and everything necessary**

**for high-quality learning of the material by students - stands, posters, simulators, interactive whiteboards, audio-video equipment, literature that cadets receive free of charge, modern computer equipment and programs. Driver training within the framework of international standards is based on the National Road Safety Program for 2022-2025. In recent decades, many initiatives have been taken to develop effective solutions in driver training. UCA also took part in their development.**

**To educate and teach children how to behave on the streets and roads, to teach the basic provisions of traffic rules and road safety regulations, experienced teachers conduct classes with children on the prevention of road safety and compliance with road rules.**

**Our union is concerned about the state of the environment and environmental pollution in the republic. Over the past year, we have planted more than 100 trees of valuable species. In the near future, we plan to purchase electric vehicles for training cadets.**

**I would like to express my gratitude to each of you for your help, understanding and solidarity with the motorists of Moldova, with our public organization. We deeply appreciate the contribution that all of you have made to the common cause of road safety, reducing accidents, and protecting the rights and interests of road users. Let us make every effort to preserve and enhance the legacy left by our predecessors. We will continue to proudly carry the banner of our Union of Drivers of the Republic of Moldova with dignity. Congratulations to everyone on this significant date! I wish you all new successes, implementation of your plans, good health and peaceful skies over our Moldova!**

**Oleg Cojocaru, Chairman of the Union of Drivers of the Republic of Moldova**