



15th meeting

Chisinau, 24 March 2025

JOINT DECLARATION

The EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform¹ (CSP) is one of the bodies set up under the association agreement between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter the ‘Association Agreement’). It enables civil society organisations from both sides to monitor the implementation process, to draft recommendations for the relevant authorities on each side, and to endorse declarations that outline the progress achieved and address issues of concern.

On accession negotiations, the CSP members:

1. welcome the adoption by the European Parliament and the European Council of the €1.9 billion Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova for the period 2025-2027¹, to accelerate Moldova’s socio-economic reforms, strengthen resilience and advance EU integration and look forward to the adoption by the Government of the Republic of Moldova of the Reform Agenda, following a comprehensive national consultation, as the key condition for initiating EU payments;
2. welcome the essential improvements on the Reform and Growth Facility for Moldova focused on increasing grant-based support, accelerated funding access, and administrative capacity building²;
3. welcome the inclusion of Moldova in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) which will bring concrete benefits for Moldovan citizens and businesses;
4. commend the EU's €250 million emergency assistance to Moldova under a 2-year Comprehensive Strategy for Energy Independence and Resilience of Moldova agreed on 4 February 2025, aiming to achieve energy independence and resilience for Moldova - *decoupling Moldova from the insecurities of the Russian supply of energy and fully integrating it the EU energy market*³. This includes €100 million by mid-April and €60 million for Transnistrian region, subject to conditions on energy sector reforms. This follows an earlier first decision of the European Commission from 27 January 2025 to make available €30 million to support Moldova in overcoming the energy crisis, ensuring the purchase and transportation of natural gas to the Transnistrian region⁴;
5. acknowledge the development and current consultations of the National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the EU 2025-2029, which encompasses all the commitments made by Moldova to demonstrate the country's readiness to become a full member of the European Union⁵;

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5124

² <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250217IPR26980/parliament-and-member-states-agree-on-new-support-plan-for-moldova>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_403

⁴ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/ue-ofer%C4%83-sprrijin-de-urgen%C8%9B%C4%83-pentru-dep%C4%83%C8%99irea-crizei-energetice-%C3%AEn-moldova_ro?s=223

⁵ <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/programul-national-de-aderare-a-republicii-moldova-la-ue-2025-2029-spre-avizare-de-catre-guvernul-republicii-moldova/13931>

6. call on Moldova authorities to sustain their efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Association Agreement, advancing key reforms in democracy, governance, and the rule of law;
7. are pleased that the Enlargement Candidate Members' project of the European Economic and Social Committee has entered its second phase following the successful pilot project; they believe that the expertise and experience gained by Moldovan civil society representatives who take part in the project contribute to Moldova's gradual integration to the EU;
8. reiterate the call on authorities and all stakeholders to support the establishment of an Economic and Social Council in the Republic of Moldova and to allocate an adequate budget to this Council;
9. welcome the announcement of the opening of the European Parliament's office for Eastern Partnership in Chisinau and believe it will contribute to boosting EU relations with the region by supporting local Parliaments, civil society, and the EU accession process,

On the Fundamentals of the Accession process:

10. express strong commitment to accelerating the opening of Cluster 1 „Fundamentals”, and reaffirm its dedication to supporting this crucial milestone in the accession process, which includes critical areas such as the rule of law, judicial reforms, public administration reform, and the effectiveness of democratic institutions;
11. acknowledge the completion of the bilateral screening phase for the Cluster 1, on 15 November 2024, and look forward for the approval by the Council of the first progress report on this Cluster presented by the European Commission earlier this year as a crucial step for the organization of the second intergovernmental conference, which will mark the start of the actual negotiations for the chapters of Cluster 1⁶;
12. acknowledge the progress in developing the three Roadmaps (on the Functioning of Democratic Institutions⁷, Rule of Law⁸, and Public Administration Reform)⁹ through a national consultation process, and look forward to their adoption as the first opening benchmarks for starting negotiations on Cluster 1;
13. reiterate the critical need for an inclusive, transparent, and comprehensive consultation process with civil society throughout the entire legislative adoption process, in line with the Civil Society Organisation Development Programme for the period 2024-2027; note that inclusive approach to consultation ensures that diverse public perspectives are integrated into the decision-making process, thereby enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of both the legislative framework and the programme;
14. condemn the increasing disinformation, manipulation, and intimidation campaigns targeting civil society organisations and independent media in the Republic of Moldova by anti-reform political actors and Kremlin proxies seeking to undermine democratic progress and derail Moldova's European path; urge Moldovan and EU authorities to take decisive measures against these threats;

⁶ <https://gov.md/ro/content/pozitiile-de-negociere-pentru-primul-grup-de-capitole-valori-fundamentale-supuse-discutiilor>

⁷ <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/anunt-de-initiere-a-elaborarii-proiectului-dispozitiei-guvernului-cu-privire-la-aprobarea-foii-de-parcurs-pentru-institutii-democratice/13273>

⁸ <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-foii-de-parcurs-pentru-statul-de-drept/13305>

⁹ <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-hotararii-guvernului-cu-privire-la-aprobarea-foii-de-parcurs-privind-reforma-administratiei-publice-criteriu-de-referinta-in-procesul-de-aderare-a-republicii-moldova-la-uniunea-europeana/13270>

welcome the strong condemnation by the EU Ambassador to Moldova of these attacks, reaffirming the EU's commitment to protecting media freedom and strengthening democratic resilience;

15. following the suspension of U.S. external assistance, express deep concern about a growing trend of exploiting discussions around external funding to discredit mass media and civil society and erode their credibility;
16. welcome the European Economic and Social Committee's call¹⁰ for urgent EU action to safeguard civic spaces across Europe;

On justice, rule of law, human rights and media:

17. call on the Parliament to review the draft Law No. 40 approved in the first reading, which aims to establish a new Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Prosecutor's Office (PACCO) by dissolving the existing specialized prosecutor's offices; in this regard, it is essential to consider the opinions of the General Prosecutor's Office, the Superior Council of Prosecutors, the Government, and civil society, including IPRE¹¹ and CAPC¹². The legislative process must ensure broad public consultations¹³, align with European integration commitments, and incorporate recommendations from the Venice Commission and other international bodies to safeguard judicial independence and prosecutorial effectiveness;
18. call on the EU to intensify their support and assistance in the fields of justice and media, especially considering the suspension of funding from the United States;
19. welcome certain progress in reforming the judiciary; note that the two principal self-governing judicial and prosecutorial bodies are now operating with a renewed composition (11 out of 12 members of the Superior Council of Magistracy and all members of the Superior Council of Prosecutors have been appointed), a new vetted Prosecutor General has been appointed, appointments to the Supreme Court of Justice have taken place;
20. welcome the approval of the National Human Rights Action Programme for 2024-2027, although normative gaps persist in some sectoral areas, including ill-treatment, procedural rights, and the fight against discrimination;
21. emphasize the need to strengthen the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, ensuring comprehensive and effective measures in combating gender-based violence¹⁴. Urge on the authorities to refrain from modifying the legal status of the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (GBV Agency), maintaining its position as a specialised central administrative authority under the Government¹⁴;
22. call the authorities to show determination to effectively implement the National Programme for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women for 2023-2027;

¹⁰ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/civil-society-under-fire-why-eu-must-act-now>

¹¹ <https://ipre.md/2025/02/28/justitiepentrumoldova-nota-de-pozitie-la-proiectul-de-lege-nr-40-2025-cu-privire-la-procuratura-anticoruptie-si-combaterea-crimei-organizate/?lang=en>

¹² https://www.capc.md/en/noutati_total/comunicate-de-presa/pacco/

¹³ <https://multimedia.parlament.md/votat-in-prima-lectura-va-fi-creata-procuratura-anticoruptie-si-combaterea-crimei-organizate/>

¹⁴ <https://www.eap-csf.md/declaratia-platfomei-nationale-forumului-societatii-civile-din-parteneriatul-estic-cu-privire-la-proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-nr-inregistrare-cancelaria-de-stat/>

23. urge the responsible authorities to intensify efforts to carry out the measures outlined in the Government's Programme for the Support of the Roma Population (2022–2025), to improve transparency by reporting on progress, and to address the needs of the Roma community in areas such as education, employment, health care, and housing.
24. call on international organizations and the Governmental authorities of the Republic of Moldova to continue supporting independent media and civil society organizations to combat disinformation, and to contribute to public transparency ensuring that the Moldovan citizens have access to accurate and reliable information;

On economic criteria and internal market:

25. welcome the development and presentation of the Economic Reform Programme for 2025-2027 which is expected to further strengthen the country's medium-term budget planning and macro-economic forecasting, and acknowledge the steps being taken to implement green and gender-sensitive budgeting¹⁵;
26. emphasize the need to enhance the capacity of civil servants to manage and improve the public procurement process; note that one of the significant challenges in implementing public procurement has been the e-procurement system (MTender), which fails to support the advancements made in aligning with EU legislation and restricts the use of essential tools outlined in current laws;
27. stress the need to prioritise transition to a new economic growth model based on higher productivity and value added, as the country is gradually exhausting its current competitiveness model based on inputs/resources (mostly cheap labour), leading to the deceleration of economic growth over recent years and the erosion of the country's potential;
28. underscore that Moldova should focus on channelling policies and resources into supporting the private sector, which generates added value, by processing local raw materials, streamlining production processes and implementing technological innovations;
29. call on strengthen Moldova capacity to absorb effectively the financial support, especially in the context of the 1.9 billion EUR Growth Plan provided by EU. In this regard it is critical to substantially improve the quality of governance in the public sector, especially in the public institutions that are and will be managing EU financial resources;
30. call on Moldova authorities to further develop its energy sector, with a primary focus on electricity infrastructure, renewables and energy efficiency, to eliminate its exposure to Russian energy blackmail and promote the decarbonisation agenda. Specifically, the Plan should support programmes implemented through the National Centre for Sustainable Energy, created in 2024 to implement government policies on boosting energy efficiency and renewables; note that particular attention should be paid to the households, where there is significant untapped potential for energy savings and generation; stress that another priority should be electricity interconnection with neighbouring EU countries, in order to facilitate the country's integration into the European energy market while it is also important to support the development of power stations across the country, in order to develop energy generation and co-generation facilities inside the country.

¹⁵ <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Economic%20reform%20programme%202025-2027.pdf>

On labour legislation and labour market

31. call for the improvement of the legal framework in the field of social dialogue and partnership to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of trade unions, and employers' organizations and their participation in decision-making processes
32. stress the need to improve further the legal framework in the field of wages for the public sector and to establish a unique reference value for all categories of employees in the public sector;
33. urge the Moldovan authorities to transpose the EU Directive on adequate minimum wages with regard to the 80% of workers covered by collective agreements;
34. with regards to the Directive, call on the authorities to urgently adopt the Government Decision establishing the stages for the re-examination of the minimum wage for the period 2026-2028;
35. urge the authorities to support and promote social investment in the implementation of the Economic Growth Plan for the years 2025-2027;
36. call for the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate access to European pre-accession funds for social partners – trade unions and employers' organizations, ensuring their institutional and operational capacity to effectively contribute to the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies related to the labour market, social dialogue, and the European integration process;
37. urge the strengthening of the capacities of the National Employment Agency and the State Labour Inspectorate to ensure the effective implementation of the European acquis in the field of employment and workers' rights protection;
38. request the prevention of excessive flexibilization and liberalization of labour legislation to the detriment of employees' rights, guarantees, and legal interests (in compliance with Article 371 of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which prohibits encouraging trade or investment by reducing levels of protection established in national environmental or labour legislation);
39. call for the urgent amendment of the Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova No. 218/2008 to establish sanctions for acts of discrimination and anti-union or anti-employer interference, including violations of rights guaranteed by legislation and the statutes of trade unions and employers' organizations;
40. call for the urgent drafting of the necessary legislation to transpose Directive 2008/94/EC of 22 October 2008 on the protection of employees in the event of insolvency of their employer into national law by 2025.

On environment and climate change

41. welcome the progress made in aligning with EU environmental and climate policies while recognizing that significant work remains to be done in order to meet EU standards; note that Moldova is still at an early stage of preparation in this field, but essential steps have been taken such as the approval by the government of a comprehensive Environmental Strategy for 2030 and adoption

of a new Climate Law in April 2024¹⁶;

42. emphasize the importance of further strengthening Moldova's environmental governance and climate action; call on the authorities to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the Ministry of Environment and its agencies in order to improve policy implementation and law enforcement across all environmental domains;
43. urge authorities to fulfil Moldova's international commitments under the Energy Community, notably by implementing the Decarbonization Roadmap and adopting a National Energy and Climate Plan. This plan will align Moldova's climate targets with the EU's and introduce carbon pricing in accordance with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme;¹⁷

¹⁶ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/858717b3-f8ef-4514-89fe-54a6aa15ef69_en?filename=Moldova%20Report%202024.pdf#:~:text=environmental%20and%20climate%20change%20policies,2023%20and%20became%20a%20full

¹⁷ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/858717b3-f8ef-4514-89fe-54a6aa15ef69_en?filename=Moldova%20Report%202024.pdf#:~:text=%E2%86%92%20implement%20commitments%20under%20the,EU%20ETS%3B%20and%20adopt%20the