



Parlamentul Republicii Moldova



European Parliament

EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Seventeenth Meeting

5 May 2026

Brussels

FINAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

pursuant to Article 441(3) of the Association Agreement

The seventeenth meeting of the EU–Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) was held on 5 May 2026 in Brussels.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Siegfried Mureşan, on behalf of the European Parliament and Mr Marcel Spatari, on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter "Moldova").

The Parliamentary Association Committee discussed the state of play of the Republic of Moldova's EU accession negotiations, the country's economic situation as well as its geopolitical and security state of play.

The Parliamentary Association Committee agreed on the following final statement and recommendations:

On Moldova's EU Membership and EU Support

- 1. Recalls that enlargement policy has proven to be the European Union's most effective foreign policy instrument in promoting stability, democratic transformation and economic convergence across the continent, and reaffirming the European Council's position that enlargement represents a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity;*
- 2. Welcomes the launch of technical negotiations on the six accession clusters, notably clusters 1 (Fundamentals), 2 (Internal Market), and 6 (External Relations) in December 2025, and on the remaining three clusters in March 2026, marking a significant step forward in Moldova's EU accession process, enabling substantive work across the chapters of the EU acquis and supporting further alignment with EU legislation and standards, thereby maintaining momentum in the accession process pending the achievement of the necessary political consensus for the formal opening of accession negotiations;*

3. *Calls on the Council to formally open negotiations on all clusters, without any further delay, starting with Fundamentals Cluster during the Cypriot Presidency of the Council and the other five clusters before the end of 2026; emphasises that formally opening accession negotiations would signal that the EU recognises and rewards Moldova's achievements, reinforcing the credibility and integrity of the enlargement process;*
4. *Welcomes the significant progress achieved by the Republic of Moldova in advancing its EU accession process at record speed and recognising the sustained efforts undertaken by the Moldovan authorities in implementing reforms and aligning national legislation with the EU acquis, as acknowledged in the 2025 European Commission Enlargement Report;*
5. *Welcomes the continued implementation of the EU Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova; recalls that the related EUR 1,9 billion Reform and Growth Facility adopted in 2025 represents the largest EU financial support package since the country's independence; welcomes the disbursement of the second instalment of EUR 189 million in March 2026 after the successful completion of 24 agreed reform steps, representing the highest rate of completion of commitments under the Reform Agenda among all candidate countries; underlines that these disbursements reflect Moldova's sustained commitment to advancing key socio-economic and structural reforms; welcomes the first Dialogue with the Commission which took place on 15 January 2026; stresses the importance of maintaining reform momentum in particular regarding the investment pillar, and strengthening administrative capacity to ensure the effective absorption of subsequent EU funds and the delivery of tangible benefits to citizens; calls on the Commission to continue and strengthen the technical support provided to Moldovan institutions in the implementation of the Growth Plan;*
6. *Welcomes the European Parliament's proposal to include a mandatory review clause in the 2028–2034 EU Multiannual Financial Framework, ensuring that, in the event of accession of current candidate countries, Moldova could benefit from key funding instruments in the upcoming budget; notes that such a mechanism would allow for a timely and structured revision of the EU budget upon accession;*
7. *Welcomes the European Parliament's vote on the interim report on the future long-term EU budget, which calls for allocating the necessary funds to support enlargement, including an increase of approximately 12% for the "Global Europe" budgetary line, which would strengthen support for Moldova and other candidate countries in the next Multiannual Financial Framework;*
8. *Welcomes the Parliament's call to guarantee a dedicated allocation for Moldova, with specific budgetary lines in the next long-term EU budget, which would ensure predictability of EU support for Moldova in its modernisation, reforms, and preparation for EU accession; underlines that a successful EU accession process requires strong local ownership, and urges the creation of dedicated capacity-building measures and funding streams within the future Global Europe framework to support Moldovan municipalities in implementing decentralisation reforms and EU-aligned public services;*

9. *Welcomes the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by President Metsola and President Grosu on 18 March 2026 in Brussels renewing the European Parliament's commitment to continue supporting the Moldovan Parliament through democracy support, which entails a wide range of programmes and activities for Members and staff; praises the sustained and close cooperation between both Parliaments which started in 2021;*
10. *Underlines the crucial role of the Moldovan Parliament in granting democratic legitimacy to accession-related reforms; **welcomes in this regard the current proposal for the new Parliament's Rules of Procedures; stresses the importance to adopt them, following comprehensive public consultation, with broad support and in an inclusive manner;** insists on the importance of being equipped with adequate Rules of Procedure in view of the upcoming intensive workload with accession-related legislation; stresses the importance of substantive consultations in order to ensure the quality of the legislative process;*
11. *Commends the EU's continued financial and technical assistance, including the allocation of an additional EU funding to support justice reform announced on 27 March 2026, which includes EUR 5 million to extend support for the ongoing vetting process of judges, and EUR 4 million for a new e-justice project aimed at accelerating the digitalisation of the justice system;*
12. *Welcomes the continued strong commitment of Moldova to carry out comprehensive reforms, particularly in the areas of the rule of law and anti-corruption; recalls that an independent, impartial, accountable, efficient and professional judicial system in line with European standards remains an indispensable condition for EU integration; encourages Moldova to continue carrying out judicial appointments in a merit-based and transparent selection process and continue working towards the finalisation of the vetting process;*
13. *Highlights the vital role of the Moldovan diaspora in maintaining the country's European path, as demonstrated by their active participation in democratic processes, and its significant contributions to the socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova; calls on the Moldovan authorities to continue strengthening ties with the diaspora and facilitating their active involvement in the country's European integration process;*
14. *Welcomes the European Commission's allocation, in January 2026, of EUR 8 million in humanitarian aid to support the Republic of Moldova's continued efforts in hosting Ukrainian refugees, recognising the country's sustained solidarity and commitment since Russia's invasion of Ukraine;*
15. ***Welcomes Moldova's official integration into the EU "Roam Like at Home" area as of 1 January 2026, allowing its citizens to use mobile services—calls, SMS, and data—while traveling in the EU and European Economic Area (EEA) without additional charges as well as EU citizens traveling to Moldova;** congratulates Moldova on becoming an operational part of the Single Euro Payments Area as of 6 October 2025, facilitating transfers in euro and reducing costs for Moldovan citizens and businesses; recognises that these measures bring tangible benefits for citizens and businesses through reduced communication costs and*

enhanced connectivity with the EU and that this milestone represents a significant, tangible step in Moldova's gradual integration into the EU's single market;

16. *Welcomes Moldova's participation, as of 1 January 2026, in the Creative Europe programme, as well as in the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme, following the agreement signed on 21st of May 2024, thus facilitating access to funding opportunities aimed at promoting cultural cooperation, employment, social inclusion, and innovation, as well as strengthening cross-border cooperation;*
17. *Praises Moldova for actively working to align its national legislation with the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA) as part of its EU accession process, with the objective of transposing the regulation into national law by October 2026; calls for the country's swift inclusion of Moldova in the EU's Digital Services Act cooperation and enforcement mechanisms, as soon as the national digital services framework is adopted;*
18. *Stresses the importance of safeguarding media freedom, pluralism, and editorial independence as fundamental pillars of a democratic society and essential components of the EU accession process; recalls the crucial role played by the media and investigative journalists in uncovering corruption and vote-buying during the 2024 and 2025 elections; calls on the Moldovan authorities to ensure a transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory framework for media support;*
19. *Stresses that the planned reform of local public administration should be conducted in an inclusive manner, following genuine, transparent, and substantive consultations with local administrations and civil society; reaffirms the principle of voluntary amalgamation of administrative units, with full respect for the interests of citizens and the economic viability of local self-government;*
20. *Emphasise that in the current geopolitical context the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union would make a tangible contribution to enhancing peace, security, stability and prosperity, as well as democratic resilience across the Union and the wider European region, and underlines the strategic importance of advancing the accession process accordingly;*
21. ***Stress that the enlargement process must remain merit-based, predictable and credible, and emphasise that reform achievements must be reflected in concrete progress in accession negotiations so as to safeguard the credibility of the European Union and reinforce trust in enlargement as a strategic partner;***
22. *Welcomes the decision to award President Maia Sandu the European Order of Merit, recognising her contribution to advancing European integration and defending European values, democracy and the rule of law; considers this distinction a reflection of Moldova's sustained reform efforts and its clear European trajectory, as well as the leadership demonstrated in navigating complex geopolitical and security challenges; welcomes the official conferral ceremony which will take place at the May plenary in Strasbourg;*

On Moldova's security, including energy security

23. **Strongly condemns the repeated incursions of Russian drones and missiles into Moldovan airspace, which since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine amounted to over 50;** stresses these are serious violations of sovereignty and pose significant risks to civilian safety and regional stability; underscores that such actions are part of a broader pattern of hybrid threats aimed at destabilising the country and bringing it back to Moscow's sphere of influence;
24. **Calls for enhanced cooperation between the EU and Moldova in the areas of airspace security, surveillance, and defence capabilities, as well as increased support to strengthen resilience against hybrid and asymmetric threats;** acknowledges the role of trilateral cooperation between Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (the "Odesa Triangle") in strengthening regional security, advancing the EU integration process, enhancing connectivity, and countering hybrid threats from the Russian Federation, including disinformation and foreign information manipulation; welcomes in this regard the signing in April 2026 of the Cooperation Plan between the EU Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM) and the Cyber Security Agency, National Centre for Crisis Management, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, Ministry of Interior, Service for Technological Information and Cyber Security, aimed at strengthening institutional resilience, crisis management capacity, and response to hybrid threats; welcomes the appointment of the new Head of the EUPM mission Ms Kirsten Joppe and thanks Ambassador Cosmin Dinescu for the outstanding work achieved by the EUPM under his leadership in supporting the Moldovan authorities increase Moldova's resilience since April 2023;
25. **Condemns in the strongest terms Russia's repeated and targeted attacks on critical energy infrastructure in Ukraine in violation of international law, including the attack on the Moldovan-owned Isaccea–Vulcănești high-voltage power line on 23 March, which significantly destabilised Moldova's electricity grid, heightened vulnerability of households and critical public services; stresses the severity of the disruption which prompted the Moldovan authorities to declare a state of emergency; praises the Moldovan government for its mitigation actions;**
26. **Notes the significant power outage on 31 January 2026 following an incident on the Ukrainian power grid, which triggered a voltage drop on the Isaccea-Vulcănești-MGRES high voltage line and its disconnection from the Continental European Grid; praises Moldovan authorities, including the Ministry of Energy and Transmission System Operator Moldelectrica, for their rapid response in stabilising the network and restoring power, thereby limiting the overall economic impact;**
27. **Welcomes the government's plans to continue advancing works on the three new high-voltage lines to make them operational as early as possible, in cooperation with the EU and international partners; underlines that these high power lines will significantly increase Moldova's electricity capacity and energy security; welcomes the completion of the Vulcănești - Chișinău line, which will enable the import of over 50% of Moldova's electricity needs directly from Romania; calls for the completion of the Bălți–Suceava interconnection by late 2027 and for continued progress on the Strășeni–Gutinaș line, with a view to making it operational by 2030; notes that these interconnections will increase Moldova's import and export capacity, facilitate the integration of renewable energy and support Moldova's gradual integration into the**

European electricity market Expresses concern over the impact of the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz on Moldova's energy security and economic stability; notes that the Iran crisis prompted the declaration of a new state of alert in the energy sector; notes that Moldova, as a fully import-dependent country for petroleum products, is particularly vulnerable to such external shocks, with significant price increases for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel affecting key sectors of the economy, including transport and agriculture; recognises that the state of alert in the energy sector, as well as the state of emergency enabled the authorities to mitigate potential supply shocks;

- 28. *Calls for continued EU and international support to enhance Moldova's energy interconnections, diversify supply routes, and reinforce the protection of critical energy infrastructure;* recalls that Moldova's Action Plan for Energy Independence and Resilience adopted last year has integrated the energy sector into the broader vision of national security; welcomes the agreed objectives to boost renewable energy production and energy efficiency, increase local electricity generation capacity, establish strategic gas and petroleum products stocks, and integrate energy markets with the EU as soon as possible; further welcomes the draft legislation proposed by the Ministry of Energy to advance towards 90-day strategic petroleum reserves in line with the EU standards; calls on the EU to explore additional support measures to address the impact of global energy market volatility, including through inclusion of Moldova in the relevant EU working groups and formats of information exchange, coordinated energy supply mechanisms, and enhanced integration into the EU energy market;**
29. *Commends Moldova for reaching a significant milestone in its energy transition, having surpassed 1 GW of installed renewable energy capacity; notes that this progress is driven predominantly by solar and wind generation, reflecting the country's accelerated shift towards clean and sustainable energy sources; highlights that this development strengthens Moldova's energy security, reduces dependence on external suppliers, and supports its alignment with EU climate and energy objectives;*
30. *Strongly condemns the Russian attack on the Novodnistrovsk hydropower complex on 7 March 2026, which resulted in a severe oil spill polluting the Nistru River; expresses grave concern over the environmental and humanitarian consequences of the oil spill, the Nistru River being Moldova's primary source of drinking water, supplying approximately 80% of the population;*
- 31. *Welcomes the EU and Romania's support provided through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism addressing the consequences of the pollution incident; underlines the urgent need for continued coordinated international support to mitigate environmental damage, ensure water safety, and strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure;***
32. *Welcomes Moldova's expressed readiness to join the "coalition of the willing"; notes that this initiative reflects Moldova's unfaltering commitment to European security and its continued solidarity with Ukraine; underlines that, in line with its constitutional neutrality, Moldova's potential contribution would remain limited to non-combat activities, including humanitarian and technical support; takes note of Moldova's ongoing contributions, in particular the training of demining personnel,*

and welcomes the country's willingness to further engage in post-war recovery efforts in Ukraine, including demining operations and capacity-building initiatives;

- 33. Welcomes the decision of the Parliament of Moldova on 2 April 2026 to denounce the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), recognising it as a significant step in the country's ongoing efforts to distance itself from the 1991 CIS framework and its associated agreements marking a significant geopolitical shift; welcomes this development as a clear expression of Moldova's alignment to the EU CFSP and CSDP policies; notes that Moldova will officially leave the CIS on 8 April 2027, when the 12-month period expires following the official notification;***
- 34. Highlights the concerning socio-economic situation in the Transnistrian region, due to its gas supply dependence on Russia as well as the consequences of the Middle East crisis; underlines that these developments further demonstrate the unsustainability of the region's current economic model and reinforce the need for a comprehensive, peaceful, and sustainable reintegration of the region;*
- 35. Recalls the EU offer of EUR 60 million in conditional assistance and regrets the ongoing refusal by the so-called Transnistrian authorities to make use of this offer; reiterates the EU support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict; supports the gradual approach of the constitutional authorities towards the region's reintegration; welcomes the possible creation of a dedicated "convergence fund." to support the economic, social, and infrastructural reintegration of the Transnistrian region (facilitating alignment with the EU acquis, and improving living standards for citizens on both banks of the Nistru River);*
- 36. Expresses concern about the difficulties in organising regular elections in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia for the People's Assembly of Gagauzia since the expiration of the mandate of the 7th legislature; takes note of the elections scheduled for June have again been postponed; calls on the Gagauzian regional authorities to align its Electoral Code with the provisions of the new 2022 Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova; emphasises the importance of ensuring that these elections are conducted in full compliance with democratic standards, including transparency, pluralism, and the rule of law; expresses concern over the risk of external interference and destabilisation efforts in the region, including through disinformation, illicit financing, and undue political influence; reaffirms the importance of constructive engagement with the local authorities and communities in Gagauzia, with a view to strengthening national cohesion, social inclusion, and the country's European path.*