



16th meeting

Brussels, 11 November 2025

JOINT DECLARATION

The EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform¹ 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, draft recommendations for the relevant authorities on each side, endorse declarations that outline progress achieved, and address issues of concern.

On accession negotiations, the Civil Society Platform (CSP) members:

1. welcome the results of the parliamentary elections conducted on 28 September 2025, confirming the Moldovan people’s enduring support for the European future of the Republic of Moldova, as enshrined in its Constitution, point out that through these elections, voters have given a clear and strong mandate to maintain Moldova’s determined commitment to moving towards EU membership;
2. commend the people of Moldova on their resilience and determination to resist Russia’s malign interference and on safeguarding their choice; likewise commend the institutions of Moldova on their efforts to ensure the integrity of the elections, despite sustained external manipulation and pressure;
3. welcome the appointment of the new Government of Moldova in the wake of these elections, and call for broader dialogue and cooperation with civil society to facilitate the implementation of reforms;
4. welcome the completion of the bilateral screening process as a key part of EU accession negotiations¹;
5. welcome the European Commission’s 2025 Enlargement Package report on the Republic of Moldova, published on 4 November 2025, which acknowledges the substantial progress that the country has made on its path towards accession; stress that despite persistent hybrid threats and attempts to destabilise its institutions, Moldova has successfully completed the screening process and adopted comprehensive roadmaps on the rule of law, public administration reform, and the functioning of democratic institutions – each assessed as positive by the Commission; and note that the report confirms that Moldova has met the conditions for opening Clusters 1 (Fundamentals), 2 (Internal Market) and 6 (External Relations) and is making progress towards meeting the criteria for the remaining clusters;
6. following the European Commission’s positive assessment set out in the 2025 Enlargement Package, call on the Council of the European Union to swiftly approve the opening of all negotiation clusters

¹ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/moldova-successfully-completes-its-screening-process-2025-09-22_en.

with the Republic of Moldova, and stress that moving on to this next stage of accession would send out a strong, unambiguous signal about the EU's strategic commitment to Moldova's European integration, democratic resilience and reform progress, despite continuous hybrid threats and destabilisation attempts;

7. welcome the disbursement of an additional EUR 18.9 million to Moldova under the Reform and Growth Facility, and note that these funds come on top of the EUR 270 million in pre-financing already provided this year and that Moldova is set to receive up to EUR 1.9 billion in grants and loans under the Facility for 2025-2027²;
8. welcome the European Commission's call for expressions of interest to boost investment in Moldova, encouraging business from the EU, EEA and Moldova to explore investment opportunities in the country³;
9. welcome the accession of Moldova to the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), which brings immediate and tangible benefits for the Moldovan public and diaspora, companies, and the entire economy⁴;
10. welcome the deepening of digital cooperation between Moldova and the EU, which includes steps to enhance cybersecurity, tackle misinformation, and include Moldova in the EU roaming area; stress that the first successful cyber agreement reached under the Danish Presidency helps address major cybersecurity incidents, representing a significant achievement in the Commission's efforts to deepen digital cooperation and boost the security of both Moldova and the EU⁵;
11. 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 such a council;

On the Fundamentals of the Accession process

12. express a strong commitment to accelerating the opening of Cluster 1 (Fundamentals), and reaffirm determined support for 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;
13. reiterate the critical need for an inclusive, transparent and comprehensive consultation process with civil society throughout the entire legislative adoption process, as well as for promoting the Civil Society Organisation Development Programme for the 2024-2027 period; and note that this approach ensures that diverse public perspectives are incorporated 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 Moldova, carried out by anti-reform political players and Kremlin proxies seeking to undermine democratic progress and derail Moldova's European path; urge Moldovan and EU authorities to take decisive measures to counter these threats; and welcome the strong condemnation by the EU Ambassador to Moldova of these attacks, reaffirming the EU's

² https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-delivers-additional-eu189-million-moldova-and-calls-businesses-invest-country-2025-09-04_en.

³ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-technical-assistance/business-opportunities/publication-call-expressions-interest-euecamoldova-based-businesses-invest-republic-moldova_en.

⁴ <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/moldova-now-connected-to-sepa-euro-payments-on-the-same-conditions-as-in-the-eu/>.

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-and-moldova-enhance-digital-cooperation-better-resilience-strategic-areas>.

commitment to protecting media freedom and strengthening democratic resilience;

15. welcome the European Economic and Social Committee's call⁶ for urgent EU action to safeguard civic space across Europe;

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

16. call on the Superior Council of Prosecutors, and the Prosecutors' Selection and Evaluation Board under its authority, to speed up procedures for the selection and appointment of permanent heads of prosecution offices, based on the principles of integrity, competence and merit;
17. point out that extended reliance on interim leadership risks generating institutional paralysis and exacerbating public perception of politicisation within the justice system;
18. reiterates the position outlined in the Joint Declaration of 24 March 2025, emphasising that any reform of the prosecution system – including Draft Law No. 40/2025 on establishing the Anti-Corruption and Organised Crime Prosecution Office (PACCO) – must undergo extensive public consultation and be guided by the recommendations of the Venice Commission and other international bodies in order to maintain judicial independence and effectiveness;
19. encourage EU partners to maintain close oversight of the justice sector under Cluster 1 (Fundamentals) and to enhance technical and financial support for Moldova's prosecution and law enforcement institutions;
20. call on the authorities to demonstrate commitment to effective implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women for 2023-2027;
21. urge international organisations and the Government of Moldova to continue supporting independent media and civil society organisations in combating disinformation, and to help promote public transparency, ensuring Moldovans have access to accurate and trustworthy information;

On economic criteria and the internal market

22. welcome the updated agreement on the trade terms of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), aimed at building a stable, long-term and balanced trade relationship, especially as Moldova advances on its path towards EU membership⁷;
23. stress the need to prioritise the 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 a deceleration in economic growth over recent years and an erosion of the country's potential;
24. underscore that Moldova should focus on channelling policies and resources towards supporting the private sector, which creates added value by processing local raw materials, streamlining production processes and implementing technological innovation;

⁶ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/civil-society-under-fire-why-eu-must-act-now>.

⁷ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-moldova-reach-agreement-modernised-trade-relationship-2025-07-24_en.

25. call for steps to be taken to strengthen Moldova's capacity to absorb financial support effectively, especially with the EUR 1.9 billion Growth Plan provided by the EU; in this connection, stress that it is essential to significantly improve the quality of governance in the public sector, particularly in the public institutions that are, and will be, responsible for managing EU financial resources;
26. stress the importance of strengthening Moldova's energy security system, improving its resilience and reducing dependence on Russian supplies, while looking ahead to further progress in this area;

On labour legislation and the labour market

27. call on the authorities to expedite adoption of the Moldovan Government's decision establishing a minimum wage for 2026, ensuring progress towards transposition of EU Directive No. 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages, in particular towards the target of the minimum wage being set at 50% of the national average;
28. urge the authorities to speed up adoption of the action plan for implementing the provisions of the EU Directive on adequate minimum wages, also aiming to ensure that collective bargaining covers at least 80% of workers;
29. underline the need to take effective measures to fully eradicate wage arrears both in private and public companies – including in cases of insolvency – without delay;
30. emphasise the need for legal acts to be adopted that introduce dissuasive sanctions to prevent interference in trade union activities by employers, including those in state agencies, and also to prevent union busting and discrimination, in line with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) and the conclusions of the International Labour Conference's (ILC) Committee on Application of Standards;
31. call on the authorities to increase financial support for initial vocational training and retraining programmes for job seekers, especially those in the NEET category;
32. urge the authorities to develop and implement tax incentives for companies that create green and digital jobs;
33. also call for the institutional capacities of the National Employment Agency and the State Labour Inspectorate to be strengthened to ensure effective implementation of the European *acquis* in the areas of employment and protection of workers' rights;
34. reaffirm the importance of maintaining strong labour protection and recommend avoiding excessive flexibilisation or liberalisation of labour laws that could weaken employees' rights, guarantees and legal interests, in full compliance with Article 371 of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which prohibits the promotion of trade or investment by lowering national labour or environmental standards;

On child protection and reform

35. call on the Government of Moldova to speed up the transition from institutional care to a vastly improved, quality-based system of family and community care as a central component of Moldova's

EU accession process, specifically under the Fundamental Rights chapter; and underline the need to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan supported by a specific budget allocation, ensuring continuity, coordination and accountability across the system;

36. urges the authorities to ensure dedicated and predictable funding for care reform, the development of social services and the strengthening of child protection work, including systematic supervision, professional training and well-being support for social workers and child protection specialists; and stress that traditional investment through the Growth Facility Plan and other available EU instruments should be used strategically in order to guarantee the long-term sustainability of these reforms;
37. call for the active involvement of – and support for – civil society as a strategic partner, ensuring that deinstitutionalisation, quality of care, and children’s well-being are systematically incorporated into EU monitoring and accession frameworks; and reiterate that civil society organisations must play an essential role in innovation, monitoring and partnership, and their contribution structurally recognised and supported;
38. underline the need for full and effective implementation of the European Child Guarantee, establishing it as a cornerstone of Moldova’s children’s rights and social inclusion strategy for the EU integration process;

On people with disabilities

39. urge the Government of Moldova to align its national legislation with both the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the European Union’s standards for disability inclusion, as part of the national plan for EU accession; call for focal points on disability to be taken on board in all ministries and state agencies and ask that a comprehensive National Disability Inclusion Strategy be adopted that includes clear indicators, specific budget allocations and robust accountability mechanisms;
40. call on the authorities to take measures to advance independent living for people with disabilities, by prioritising the deinstitutionalisation process and scaling up community-based support services, including personal assistance and supported housing options that meet harmonised European standards for accessibility and autonomy; and stress the need to revise and adopt a comprehensive national plan on the deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities, including clear indicators, specific budget allocations and accountability mechanisms;
41. urge the authorities to prioritise full accessibility in public infrastructure, services and digital platforms for people with disabilities, by adopting European standards, conducting regular audits, involving representative organisations, and allocating resources to remove barriers; and underline that these measures are vital for fostering inclusion and upholding rights, in accordance with Moldova’s CRPD and EU accession commitments;
42. stress the need for the authorities to develop and implement a disability-disaggregated data system to inform policy and monitor progress and to ensure that this system is harmonised with European Union data collection standards, including the use of internationally recognised indicators and methodologies on disability statistics.