



**17<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**Chisinau, 24 April 2026**

**JOINT DECLARATION**

The EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform<sup>1</sup> (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, draft recommendations for the relevant authorities on each side and endorse declarations that outline the progress achieved and address issues of concern.

The EU–Moldova Civil Society Platform expresses its appreciation for the continued support and engagement of the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States in their support for the Republic of Moldova. This support reflects a shared commitment to democratic resilience, rule of law and inclusive governance as common European responsibilities, and plays a critical role in reinforcing democratic institutions, fostering political dialogue and advancing reforms for Moldova’s European path.

The Platform acknowledges the importance of sustained political and technical support from European partners in accompanying the Republic of Moldova in its reform efforts. In recent years, Moldova has demonstrated a clear commitment to advancing key reforms in areas such as justice, public administration, anti-corruption and economic governance. However, these reforms require continued encouragement, expertise and solidarity from EU Member States and partner countries to ensure their effective implementation and long-term sustainability.

***On the EU accession process, the CSP members:***

1. welcome the European Parliament resolution of 11 March 2026 on the EU enlargement strategy, which commends the significant and rapid progress made by the Republic of Moldova on its EU accession path despite persistent hybrid threats, and call for the swift opening of the negotiating clusters<sup>1</sup>;
2. welcome Moldova’s inclusion in the EU "Roam Like at Home" area as a step towards integration into the EU’s internal market.
3. welcome the upcoming second EU-Moldova Summit as an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to political association, economic integration and democratic reform;
4. welcome the adoption of the European Commission’s decision of 11 March 2026 approving the second disbursement under the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova (“the Facility”)<sup>2</sup> and welcome the disbursement of €189 million, including €173 million in direct budget support and €16 million for investment projects through the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, as a tangible sign of

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2026-0077\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2026-0077_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://link.europa.eu/3RWJRN>

continued EU support for Moldova's reform efforts and accession-related commitments;

5. welcome the opening, on 17 March 2026, of technical negotiations on the three remaining negotiating clusters of the EU acquis – Cluster 3 (Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth), Cluster 4 (Green Deal and Sustainable Connectivity), and Cluster 5 (Resources, Agriculture and Cohesion) – thus completing the launch of technical negotiations across all six clusters and marking an important step forward in the accession process<sup>3</sup>;
6. call on the Moldovan authorities to ensure strong institutional coordination, sufficient administrative capacity, effective benchmark tracking and structured consultation with civil society and social partners throughout these technical negotiations and the entire accession process;
7. welcome the joint declaration signed on 31 March 2026 by the Members of Parliament of seven EU Member States and Moldova, which reaffirmed support for Moldova's European path and urged that the enlargement process remains merit-based, credible and predictable<sup>4</sup>;
8. call upon the EU Parliaments of EU Member States to further strengthen their support for Moldova's reform agenda, including by promoting legislative cooperation, facilitating exchange of best practices, and maintaining political backing for Moldova's efforts to align with European standards as enhanced parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation can significantly contribute to building institutional capacity, ensuring accountability and accelerating the pace of reforms;
9. emphasise the central role of social partners and civil society in monitoring reform implementation, ensuring transparency, tangible benefits of reforms for citizens and inclusive decision-making processes; call for continued support for social dialogue and civil society actors, noting that active and representative social partners together with a strong, empowered organised civil society are a cornerstone of Moldova's democratic development and European integration.
10. reiterate the call on authorities and all stakeholders to support the establishment of an Economic and Social Council in the Republic of Moldova, as a national institution of public interest and tripartite nature that acts autonomously and serves as a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government, and to allocate an adequate budget to this Council;

***On the Fundamentals of the Accession process:***

11. welcome the implementation of the three Roadmaps on the Rule of Law<sup>5</sup>, the Functioning of Democratic Institutions<sup>6</sup> and Public Administration Reform<sup>7</sup>, and note that the completion of the explanatory sessions with the European Commission has further clarified the benchmarks, legislative priorities and institutional steps required for advancing under Cluster 1 – Fundamentals.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://old.gov.md/en/content/moldova-opened-technical-negotiations-all-chapter-groups>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.moldpres.md/eng/politics/european-union-member-states-mps-call-for-speeding-up-eu-accession-talks-with-moldova-declaration-to-this-effect-was-signed-in-chisinau>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=148501&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=148501&lang=ro)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=148502&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=148502&lang=ro)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=148499&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=148499&lang=ro)

12. call on the EU institutions and the Member States to take, without delay, the necessary political decisions for the formal opening of accession negotiations on the fundamental cluster;
13. acknowledge the launch of the Concept of the reform of local public administration on 8 April 2026<sup>8</sup>, and stress that any reform in this area should be developed through broad, transparent and evidence-based consultation with local authorities, social partners, civil society and citizens, respecting local democracy, service accessibility and administrative capacity in the context of Moldova's public administration reform and EU accession;
14. reiterate the critical need for an inclusive, transparent and comprehensive consultation process with social partners and civil society throughout the entire legislative adoption process, in line with the Civil Society Organisation Development Programme for the period 2024-2027; note that an 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;
15. condemn continued hybrid threats, foreign interference and disinformation targeting democratic processes in the Republic of Moldova, and welcome the conclusions of the 14th meeting of the European Union Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management (EU Security Hub) of 22 January 2026, which placed safeguarding democratic values, protection of the information space and the role of media and civil society in the electoral context at the centre of EU-Moldova cooperation<sup>9</sup>;
16. underscore that efforts to safeguard peace and stability across Europe must be urgently strengthened and sustained, and express deep concern over ongoing threats to civilian infrastructure and critical energy systems, which endanger lives, disrupt essential services and undermine regional security. In this context, express appreciation for the solidarity and practical support provided by EU Member States in strengthening and restoring energy infrastructure, thereby contributing to the stability and energy security of the wider region, including the Republic of Moldova.
17. reiterate the critical importance of protecting civic space, media freedom and meaningful public participation throughout the accession process, and call on both Moldovan and EU institutions to continue supporting social partners, civil society, independent media, trade unions and representative employers' organisations as indispensable actors for democratic resilience, public trust and the successful implementation of reforms;
18. welcome the European Economic and Social Committee's call<sup>10</sup> for urgent EU action to safeguard civic space across Europe.

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

19. note concerns raised regarding recent legislative changes affecting the appointment procedure for members of the judicial vetting commissions, and stress that any such changes should preserve the

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<sup>8</sup> <https://primariiputernice.gov.md/sites/default/files/2026-04/Conceptul%20reformeii%20APL.docx.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://eu4moldova.eu/en/eu-security-hub/>

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

credibility, broad legitimacy and political impartiality of the vetting process, in line with Moldova's rule of law commitments under the accession process<sup>11</sup>;

20. call on the authorities to introduce a randomised case allocation system for prosecutors based on strict and objective criteria, to strengthen impartiality, transparency and public trust in prosecutorial decision-making<sup>12</sup>;
21. stress the need to improve the functioning of the National Institute of Justice by implementing without delay all outstanding recommendations of the 2022 TAIEX assessment; further call for the development of human resource strategies for the judiciary and prosecution services, including a comprehensive salary reform, and for the effective implementation of the judicial and prosecutorial maps<sup>13</sup>;
22. call on the authorities to take the necessary steps to significantly improve court clearance rates and reduce disposition times, to ensure timely access to justice and increase the efficiency of the judicial system<sup>14</sup>;
23. point out that judicial inefficiencies are further aggravated by the inadequate condition of court infrastructure; note with concern that a significant number of court buildings require urgent repair, that the number of unresolved cases continues to grow, and that only around half of Moldovan courts use the new SI e-DJ electronic case management system, which limits judicial efficiency, accessibility and transparency<sup>15</sup>;
24. emphasise 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 violence<sup>11</sup>, call on 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;
25. call on the EU to sustain and, where possible, increase targeted support for justice reform, independent media, investigative journalism and fact-checking, including through instruments aimed at media sustainability and civic space resilience, particularly as a result of reduced external funding from other international partners;

### ***On economic criteria, internal market and Moldova Growth Plan***

26. note that the EU accession process represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen the Republic of Moldova's economic resilience and competitiveness; stress the need to ensure that this process delivers tangible and sustainable results through coordinated and forward-looking actions by both the Government of Moldova and EU institutions;

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<sup>11</sup> Taken from the Parliament website, the amendment—now the Parliament's website is not working.

<sup>12</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/moldova-report-2025\\_en](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/moldova-report-2025_en) , Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights, page 5

<sup>13</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/moldova-report-2025\\_en](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/moldova-report-2025_en) , Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights, page 5

<sup>14</sup> [https://mded.gov.md/transparenta/planul-de-crestere/Agenda\\_260\\_ro.pdf](https://mded.gov.md/transparenta/planul-de-crestere/Agenda_260_ro.pdf) , page 26

<sup>15</sup> <https://mded.gov.md/transparenta/planul-de-crestere/> ; [Agenda\\_260\\_ro.pdf](https://mded.gov.md/transparenta/planul-de-crestere/Agenda_260_ro.pdf) , page 26

27. call on the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of EU institutions, to ensure legislative predictability and stability, avoiding frequent or abrupt regulatory changes that may undermine business confidence and investment planning; urge a strong focus on the quality of transposition of the EU acquis, prioritising clarity, coherence and practical applicability of legislation, alongside the pace of alignment.
28. call on the national authorities to institutionalise genuine, timely and meaningful consultations with employers' organisations, trade unions and other stakeholders, ensuring that policies are grounded in economic realities; further encourage a balanced and predictable approach to the adoption of sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards, aligned with EU requirements, to support companies in their transition, enhance transparency, and promote responsible, long-term investments;
29. call on both national authorities and EU partners to systematically assess reform measures through the lens of investment attractiveness and economic competitiveness, so as to ensure that such reforms help attract new investments, encourage the reinvestment of existing capital, strengthen investor confidence and translate Moldova's EU integration into tangible and lasting economic benefits;
30. welcome the adoption of the Economic Reform Programme 2026–2028, which sets out Moldova's medium-term priorities for fiscal responsibility, energy security, green transition and progressive integration into the EU Single Market, including through SEPA participation and trade facilitation; also acknowledge the ongoing efforts, under the Reform Agenda, to integrate the gender dimension into medium-term budget planning<sup>16</sup>;
31. emphasise the need to strengthen the administrative and technical capacity of contracting authorities and of the Public Procurement Agency, and to accelerate the development of a modern electronic procurement system, as the current MTender platform remains outdated and does not allow the full use of the tools provided by the legislation in force; further call for greater transparency, including wider public access to procurement documentation and procurement plans;
32. welcome the progress noted by the European Commission in the field of digital transformation, including the adoption on 28 May 2025 of the Programme for the Implementation of the National Digital Transformation Strategy 2025–2027, and stress the importance of digital public services and regulatory alignment for improving the economic environment and facilitating Moldova's integration into the EU internal market<sup>17</sup>;
33. underline the need for Moldova to accelerate the transition towards a more competitive economic model based on higher productivity, export diversification, innovation and greater domestic value added, including in traditional sectors such as agriculture and food processing; in this context, call for stronger support for the private sector, especially for investment in tradable sectors, technological upgrading and technology transfer.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/ERP%202026-2028%20ENG.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025SC0758>, , page. 75

34. call on the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to substantially strengthen the institutional capacity to absorb and manage EU financial assistance effectively, in particular under the Reform and Growth Facility, by improving project preparation, public investment management, internal control, procurement, staffing and coordination across the institutions responsible for implementing EU-funded reforms and investments.
35. recommend that the implementation of the Growth Plan and the Reform Agenda for the Republic of Moldova (2025–2027) be further strengthened as key instruments for advancing European integration, modernising the economy and enhancing social, economic and institutional resilience. While acknowledging the initial progress achieved in the first phase, the Platform underlines that the next stage of implementation requires the development of more robust reporting, verification and communication mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and effective monitoring of results. For a more inclusive approach, recommend to include mainstreaming of disability in the evaluation process
36. call on Moldova’s authorities to further develop the country’s energy sector, focusing primarily on electricity infrastructure, renewables and energy efficiency in order to eliminate its exposure to Russian energy blackmail and promote the decarbonisation agenda.
37. emphasise the importance of supporting 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 households, which have significant untapped potential for energy savings and generation;
38. stress the need to strengthen electricity connection with neighbouring EU countries to support integration into the European energy market while encouraging the development of power stations and co-generation facilities to strengthen domestic energy capacity;

***On labour legislation and labour market***

39. stress the need to improve the legal framework in the field of social partnership to regulate the system of social dialogue at the national level; call for the improvement of the legal framework in the field of social dialogue and partnership to build capacity as well as to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness of trade unions, and employers’ organisations and their participation in decision-making processes;
40. stress the need to improve further the legal framework in the field of salaries for the public sector and to establish a unique reference value for all categories of employees in the public sector; call on the authorities to establish a predictable, evidence-based and consultation-based mechanism for the periodic re-examination of the minimum wage;
41. urge the Moldovan authorities to advance progressive alignment with Directive (EU) 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages, including by promoting collective bargaining at appropriate levels on wage-setting; given that collective bargaining coverage remains far below the 80% reference level, call for the preparation, in consultation with social partners, of measures aimed at strengthening bargaining coverage;

42. call for the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate access to European pre-accession funds for social partners – trade unions and employers' organisations, thus 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;
43. stress the need to strengthen the capacities of the National Employment Agency and the State Labour Inspectorate to ensure the effective implementation of the EU acquis in the field of employment and workers' rights protection;
44. request the prevention of excessive flexibilisation and liberalisation 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); social partners should be consulted while new legislation is proposed;
45. welcome the public consultation held in March 2026 on the draft law amending legislation in the fields of labour relations, occupational safety and health, and equal treatment, prepared under the National Programme for Accession; call for its adoption, after meaningful consultation with social partners, as an important step in aligning Moldova's labour and social legislation with the relevant EU acquis<sup>18</sup>;
46. call on the authorities to intensify efforts to reduce undeclared and informal work, particularly in sectors with persistently high informality such as agriculture and construction, through stronger enforcement, awareness-raising and effective use of existing reporting mechanisms;
47. call on the Government of the Republic of Moldova to strengthen the capacity of state institutions to effectively prevent workplace accidents and occupational diseases, so as to ensure that working conditions fully comply with occupational safety and health standards, in line with relevant EU directives.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://gov.md/sites/default/files/media/documents/sedinte-de-guvern/2026-03/181-MMPS-2026%28%29.pdf>