



Plenary sitting

B9-0410/2023

2.10.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on taking stock of Moldova's path to the EU
(2023/2838(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B9-0410/2023

European Parliament resolution on taking stock of Moldova's path to the EU (2023/2838(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Moldova,
 - having regard to the European Council decision of 23 June 2022 granting EU candidate status to the Republic of Moldova,
 - having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part (AA)¹,
 - having regard to the updated EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda for 2021-2027 of 22 August 2022,
 - having regard to the European Council conclusions of 23 March 2023 on the EU's continuing to provide all relevant support to the Republic of Moldova,
 - having regard to the EU-Moldova Priority Action Plan, agreed in June 2023,
 - having regard to the Support Package for the Republic of Moldova presented by the Commission on 28 June 2023,
 - having regard to the Commission's verbal interim update on enlargement, presented on 22 June 2023,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Council decided on 23 June 2022 to grant the Republic of Moldova EU candidate status, on the understanding that Moldova is to implement nine steps, including justice sector reform, anti-corruption and de-oligarchisation measures;
- B. whereas on 28 June 2023, the Commission presented a Support Package for the Republic of Moldova, which addresses the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and aims to bring Moldova closer to the EU;
- C. whereas the EU-Moldova Priority Action Plan was also agreed in June 2023 and will function as a roadmap for the full implementation of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and Moldova's further integration into the EU single market, with jointly agreed priorities for 2023-2024;
- D. whereas the Commission's verbal interim update on enlargement, presented to Member States at the end of June 2023, recognised the progress Moldova has made and deemed

¹ OJ L 260, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

that it has fully implemented three out of nine conditions;

- E. whereas the Commission will present an assessment of the country's reform process in the EU enlargement package by early November 2023;
 - F. whereas the Russian Federation is continuing its efforts to destabilise Moldova in an attempt to push it off its democratic European course; whereas Moldova, Ukraine and the United States have confirmed that intelligence reveals ongoing Russian destabilisation efforts in Moldova with the ultimate goal of replacing the current government with a pro-Russian alternative, including by staging anti-government protests and paying people to attend them;
 - G. whereas the Russian Federation is continuing to use gas and other resources as a means of destabilisation and political blackmail and has made questionable demands disputed by the Moldovan Government;
 - H. whereas as of June 2023, Moldova has been hosting approximately 110 000 Ukrainian refugees (representing over 4.5 % of the country's total population); whereas Moldova is currently hosting more Ukrainian refugees per capita than any other country;
1. Commends the efforts by the Moldovan Government to implement the necessary reforms as set out in the nine steps of the 2022 European Council decision, as well as the further reforms needed on the path to EU accession;
 2. Further welcomes the implementation of the wider AA/DCFTA, including on democracy, the rule of law and human rights; is pleased with the presentation of the EU-Moldova Priority Action Plan in June 2023, which will function as a roadmap for the full implementation of the DCFTA and Moldova's further integration into the EU single market, with jointly agreed priorities for 2023-2024;
 3. Welcomes the decision by the Commission to incorporate roaming into the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, allowing Moldovan visitors to the EU to use their mobile phones under the same price conditions as in their home country, while travellers from the EU will benefit from the same rights when visiting Moldova;
 4. Welcomes the European Council's publication of a support package for Moldova in June 2023, to be delivered by the Commission; welcomes the direct budget support provided to Moldova, the liberalisation of road transport and the temporary trade liberalisation with the EU for seven agricultural products until June 2024;
 5. Looks forward to the publication of the EU's enlargement package by early November; calls on the Member States to muster the political will to re-energise the enlargement process, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and as the start to a merit-based process, and to deliver on their promises through concrete positive steps in the accession processes of countries seeking to join the Union and that deserve to be part of the European family;
 6. Welcomes the fact that according to the Commission's verbal update, the requirements concerning the reform of the judiciary, civil society engagement and gender equality were deemed achieved;

7. Encourages Moldova to step up its progress on the implementation of the other steps, concentrating on fighting corruption and organised crime, as well as on public administration reforms;
8. Calls on the Moldovan Government to invite civil society representatives to also be part of the 35 working groups responsible for negotiating the EU accession chapters and to intensify cooperation with civil society in helping the country to advance along the European path;
9. Congratulates Moldova on its successful organisation of the June 2023 Summit of the European Political Community;
10. Calls on the Commission to adequately accommodate the support needs stemming from Moldova's new candidate status, including by establishing a dedicated directorate in the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and ensuring sufficient capabilities at the EU Delegation in Chişinău; calls for Moldova to be included as a recipient under the pre-accession financial instruments of the EU as soon as possible and no later than the start of the next EU multiannual financial cycle; expresses support for the transfer of the non-used budget reserves from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe programmes for Moldova;
11. Calls on the Commission to reward sustainable progress with a wider phasing-in of Moldova and other candidate countries into respective EU policies and initiatives, so as to allow citizens to enjoy the benefits of accession throughout the process and not only upon its completion;
12. Calls on the Commission to expand the opportunities for Moldova to participate in and observe the work of the EU institutions, as well as to enhance structured political dialogue, including dialogue on the margins of the European Council;
13. Commends Moldova on continuing to host a large number of Ukrainian refugees; calls on the Commission to continue providing humanitarian assistance in Moldova to support vulnerable Ukrainian refugees and the families hosting them, as well as adapting this support to the longer-term nature of their displacement;
14. Stands in solidarity with Moldova and reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova, and therefore condemns the hybrid aggression by the Russian Federation and its proxies seeking to destabilise the country and push it off its democratic course, whether by violating Moldova's airspace, cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, weaponising energy or orchestrating protests;
15. Calls on the Commission to continue supporting the Moldovan Government, including by strengthening Moldova's legal, financial and auditing capacities, in order to better counter the outrageous claims by Gazprom of it being owed around EUR 800 million, which is in stark contrast to Moldova's own requirements; further calls on the Commission to assist the Moldovan Government with diversifying gas supplies in the short term and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources in the medium and long term;

16. Stresses that on a daily basis, Moldova counters Russia's hybrid assaults, which are intended to destabilise the country; acknowledges that the Moldovan Government is pursuing its reform agenda at a time when Russia is employing a combination of energy blackmail, support for separatism, sponsoring mass anti-government protests, cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns in an attempt to undermine it;
17. Urges the Commission and the Member States to help Moldova build its resilience against potential future Russian hybrid attacks, including in the areas of defence, cybersecurity and strategic communication; welcomes, in this regard, the assistance measures under the European Peace Facility in support of the armed forces of the Republic of Moldova; calls, further, for the Commission and the Member States to take further measures against foreign interference and disinformation and to support Moldova in this regard;
18. Welcomes the establishment of the EU Partnership Mission in Moldova, which provides strategic advice on enhancing the resilience of the security sector of the country in the areas of crisis management and hybrid threats, and on countering foreign information manipulation and interference; calls for the extension of the mandate of Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, which will expire in November 2023;
19. Calls on the Commission and the international monetary institutions to invest in Moldova's road, rail and port infrastructure, which could facilitate Ukraine's efforts to break the Russian naval blockade and create stronger links with the rest of Europe, benefiting Ukraine by helping to counter the Russian war of aggression and rebuilding the country;
20. Warns that protracted conflicts are always at risk of flaring up, as we have seen in the South Caucasus; calls on the actors responsible to avoid the destabilisation of the situation in Transnistria and avoid Russia's war of aggression spreading to the territory of Moldova; calls on the Russian Federation to fully and unconditionally withdraw its military forces and armaments from the Transnistrian region in line with the 1999 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Istanbul Summit Decisions and with respect for the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European External Action Service, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, and to the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.