



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, 12. 04. 2024
Ares (2024) 1598708

Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you for your letter on the EU accession process of the Republic of Moldova.

The European Commission acknowledges ongoing reform efforts by the Republic of Moldova, fostering democracy, the rule of law, human rights, anti-corruption as well as prosperity and the well-being of its people. The European Council decision in December 2023 to open accession negotiations with Moldova is a testament to these efforts and the EU's geo-strategic investment in peace, security, stability, and prosperity in our continent.

As outlined in the Commission's recommendations of 8 November 2023, Moldova is currently working on crucial steps including justice reform, anti-corruption efforts, and deoligarchisation. These steps are key to ensure further alignment with EU standards and values. The Commission continues to monitor Moldova's progress in these areas closely and will report back to the Council shortly.

Following the European Council decision to open accession negotiations, an introductory meeting on the next procedural steps in the accession process took place on 7 February. Moldova has received explanatory material on the different chapters of the EU acquis. A first explanatory meeting on Chapter 23 – judiciary and fundamental rights, took place on 21/22 February. This is being followed by meetings on the different chapters, in which European Commission services explain and answer questions on the EU acquis.

On 12 March, the Commission submitted the draft negotiating framework to the Council. This document is crucial for setting the stage for Moldova's EU accession negotiations, and we assure you of our unwavering support to Moldova throughout this journey. It is now for the Council to take forward the work on the negotiating framework.

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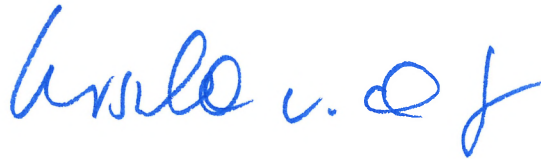
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The EU is following the developments in the Transnistrian region closely and encourages both sides to engage into a constructive dialogue. We believe that stability in the region is in the interest of all, in particular people from both sides of the Nistru river. The EU supports a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

In order to strengthen Moldova's resilience in the face of present challenges, the EU continues with its significantly increased, concrete support in the areas of security and defence, notably through the European Peace Facility, the EU Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova (EUPM Moldova) and other measures.

We remain dedicated to supporting Moldova's EU accession and addressing the external challenges it faces, fostering a secure and prosperous future for Moldova within the European Union.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ursula v. d. L.', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ursula von der Leyen