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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0243/2022**

2.5.2022

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

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

on the state of play of EU-Moldova cooperation  
(2022/2651(RSP))

**Siegfried Mureșan, Michael Gahler, Andrzej Halicki, Rasa Juknevičienė, Željana Zovko, David McAllister, Paulo Rangel, Andrius Kubilius, Traian Băsescu, Vasile Blaga, Daniel Buda, Jerzy Buzek, Gheorghe Falcă, Tomasz Frankowski, David Lega, Miriam Lexmann, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Aušra Maldeikienė, Liudas Mažylis, Gheorghe-Vlad Nistor, Radosław Sikorski, Eugen Tomac, Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Milan Zver**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the state of play of EU-Moldova cooperation (2022/2651(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Eastern Partnership countries and on the Republic of Moldova,
  - having regard to its resolution of 20 October 2020 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup>,
  - 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<sup>2</sup>, which includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and which fully entered into force on 1 July 2016,
  - having regard to the Republic of Moldova's application for EU membership, submitted on 3 March 2022,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Republic of Moldova has been disproportionately affected by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, mainly due to the arrival of more than 440 000 refugees since the invasion began – nearly 100 000 of whom have stayed – which is the highest number per capita of all countries that have received refugees from Ukraine, but also due to lost trade with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus as well as increased energy and transport prices;
- B. whereas the Republic of Moldova submitted its application to join the EU on 3 March 2022 and subsequently provided answers to the first part of the EU's questionnaire 11 days after receiving it from the Commission;
- C. whereas Russia maintains at least 1 500 troops on the ground in the breakaway territory of Transnistria, supplemented by an additional 5 000 soldiers from the so-called Armed Forces of Transnistria;
- D. whereas on 22 April 2022 Major General Rustam Minnekayev, acting commander of Russia's central military district, stated that one of the goals of Russia's ongoing invasion is to create a land corridor to the Transnistrian region;
- E. whereas on 25 and 26 April 2022 a number of security incidents took place in the Transnistrian region, including a grenade attack on a state security ministry building in Tiraspol and an explosion that damaged a radio mast in the village of Maia;
1. Commends the great solidarity shown towards the refugees from Ukraine by the citizens

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 404, 6.10.2021, p. 136.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 260, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

of the Republic of Moldova, who have opened their homes to welcome them in their thousands; welcomes the efforts undertaken by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to support the Ukrainian refugees;

2. Notes that the longer the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine lasts, the more humanitarian, security and socio-economic assistance the Republic of Moldova will require; welcomes the recent adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the EUR 150 million macro-financial assistance (MFA) for the Republic of Moldova to cover part of its external financing needs; calls on the Commission, in consequence, to further increase financial and technical assistance for Moldova, including through a new proposal for macro-financial assistance; stresses that a new MFA proposal is essential, as the recently adopted package was devised by the Commission prior to the conflict in Ukraine; insists that a new MFA proposal should mainly be composed of grants rather than loans; calls on the Member States, moreover, to provide additional financial support to the Moldovan authorities;
3. Calls on the Commission to put forward additional proposals aimed at ensuring the full liberalisation of transport and trade with the EU in light of the disruptions to the Republic of Moldova's supply chains and to eastern export markets;
4. Recalls that managing the situation of the almost 100 000 refugees who have found shelter in the Republic of Moldova constitutes an increasing financial burden for the Moldovan state, which already finds itself in a precarious financial situation due to the economic slowdown of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in gas prices triggered artificially by Gazprom;
5. Stresses the key role played by the Republic of Moldova so far in the safety and stability of the EU in the context of the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine;
6. Welcomes, in this respect, the conclusion of the EU-Moldova agreement on border management cooperation on 17 March 2022, enabling Frontex to support the Moldovan authorities in daily border management and border security activities;
7. Welcomes Moldova's application for EU membership, in the context of the brutal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine;
8. Calls on the EU institutions to work towards granting EU candidate status to the Republic of Moldova, in line with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and, in the meantime, to continue to work towards its integration into the EU single market; calls on the Commission to swiftly complete its assessment and to provide Moldova with its full assistance during this process;
9. Underlines the fact, without seeking to prejudge the content of the Commission's opinion, that the Moldovan authorities are undoubtedly on the right track by adopting key reforms that will ensure that the country complies with the Copenhagen criteria that accession countries must fulfil; encourages the Moldovan authorities to continue on its path of reforms that will improve the lives of its citizens and bring the country closer to European standards;

10. Calls for a clear and firm political signal to be made at the European Council meeting in June regarding the Republic of Moldova's European path;
11. Calls for strengthened cooperation between the Member States and the Moldovan authorities in investigating the 2014 bank fraud and, in particular, in ensuring the repatriation of stolen assets;
12. Calls for the EU to provide increased administrative and technical assistance by creating a Support Group for Moldova, similar to the existing Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA), which will increase the presence of EU staff in Moldova and allow SGUA-type assistance to be extended to the country; considers that in light of the Republic of Moldova's recent application for EU membership, there is an urgent need to set up this Support Group;
13. Condemns the attempts by the Russian Federation, via Gazprom, to exert pressure on the Republic of Moldova by manipulating gas prices and threatening to cut off access to gas in order to influence the country's political trajectory and geopolitical orientation, notably after the presidential elections in 2020 and parliamentary elections in 2021;
14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to support the Republic of Moldova towards ensuring its energy independence, diversification and efficiency;
15. Welcomes the conclusions of the European Council of 24 and 25 March 2022, which include a commitment by EU Member States to jointly purchase natural gas, liquefied natural gas and hydrogen through a common purchasing platform that is also accessible to the Western Balkan states and three associated Eastern Partnership countries; reiterates, in this context, its call for the creation of a genuine gas union; calls on the Moldovan authorities and the Commission to work together to produce a clear assessment of Moldova's gas storage needs for the forthcoming period;
16. Welcomes the successful isolation tests recently carried out by Moldova and Ukraine to temporarily disconnect their electricity grids from Russia and Belarus, followed by their synchronisation with the continental European power grid;
17. Expresses serious concern over the recent developments on the territory of the Transnistrian region and condemns them as dangerous acts of provocation undertaken in a highly volatile security situation; calls for calm and strongly advises against the escalation of bellicose rhetoric, which could lead to any kind of hostilities; welcomes the calm and restrained reaction on the part of the authorities in Chişinău and calls, in this regard, for political dialogue to prevail in order to prevent an escalation of tensions;
18. Reiterates its firm support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognised borders;
19. Recalls its support for a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, which should include a special status for Transnistria within a viable Moldovan state and should not affect the country's European aspirations; recalls the benefits and economic opportunities for the companies and population on both sides of the Dniester River following the application of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area to the

entire territory of the Republic of Moldova;

20. Welcomes the recent initiatives and decisions to increase support in the field of security, notably through the launch of the EU-Moldova High-Level Political and Security Dialogue and substantial assistance measures under the European Peace Facility; recalls the need to continue to strengthen security and defence cooperation between the EU and the Republic of Moldova;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the President, Government and Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.