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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0244/2022**

2.5.2022

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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

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

**Pedro Marques, Tonino Picula, Juozas Olekas**  
on behalf of the S&D 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 Moldova, in particular its legislative resolution of 24 March 2022 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on providing macro-financial assistance to the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup>, and its resolution of 20 October 2020 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with the Republic of Moldova<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to its resolutions on the war in Ukraine, in particular those of 1 March 2022 on the Russian aggression against Ukraine<sup>3</sup> and of 7 April 2022 on the EU's protection of children and young people fleeing the war in Ukraine<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 29 April 2022 on the recent security incidents in the Transnistrian region,
- 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>5</sup>,
- having regard to the agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova on operational activities carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in the Republic of Moldova of 17 March 2022,
- having regard to the Versailles Declaration of 10-11 March 2022,
- having regard to United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/282 of 22 June 2018 on the complete and unconditional withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova,
- having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Parliament and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova of 29 November 2021,
- having regard to the upcoming report of its Committee on Foreign Affairs on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with the Republic of Moldova,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Republic of Moldova is a close and valued partner of the EU; whereas

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2022)0090.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 404, 6.10.2021, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 125, 18.3.2022, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2022)0120.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 260, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

through the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), in force since 2016, the EU and Moldova have committed to promoting political association and achieving economic integration;

- B. whereas Moldova has embarked on an unprecedentedly ambitious reform process since the latest presidential election of November 2020 and the parliamentary elections of July 2021; whereas the current Moldovan Government's enhanced implementation of existing agreements demonstrates its commitment to closer cooperation with and integration into the Union;
- C. whereas the unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine profoundly affects regional security and stability, endangers Moldova's socio-economic recovery after the pandemic, its macroeconomic situation and its financial stability, as well as its democratic development and social cohesion, and further increases the risks of poverty and emigration;
- D. whereas more than 440 000 refugees from Ukraine have transited through Moldova and approximately 100 000 are currently staying in the country, which amounts to the highest number of refugees per capita in the region; whereas the EU and the Republic of Moldova signed an agreement on 17 March 2022 on border management cooperation between the Moldovan border guards and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex);
- E. whereas the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted the Government of the Republic of Moldova to submit its application for EU membership on 3 March 2022; whereas a clear majority of Moldovan citizens supports EU membership;
- F. whereas the Union and its Member States have provided the Republic of Moldova with financial and in-kind assistance to cope with the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including EUR 8 million in humanitarian assistance, EUR 15 million for administrative support for the temporarily displaced, EUR 15 million to support the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine, EUR 150 million in macro-financial assistance, and in-kind assistance under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism; whereas on 5 April 2022, the EU, its Member States, G7 countries and other like-minded states pledged EUR 659.5 million at the launch of the Moldova Support Platform;
- G. whereas during the last week of April, a series of security incidents were reported in the region of Transnistria, where a significant number of Russian troops continue to be stationed under the guise of being 'peacekeepers';
- H. whereas on 4 March 2022, the de-facto Transnistrian authorities reasserted their claim to independence; whereas the Transnistrian Defence Ministry has reportedly ordered the general mobilisation of all men aged between 18 and 55; whereas these incidents, and the response of the Transnistrian de-facto authorities, are detrimental to the security and stability of the Republic of Moldova and may be perceived as deliberate attempts at sowing conflict and increasing unrest, and thereby destabilising the Republic of Moldova;
- I. whereas the Cobasna depot, located within the Transnistrian region on the Ukraine-

Moldova border, contains approximately 22 000 tonnes of Russian ammunition and military equipment guarded by the Operational Group of Russian Forces (OGRF); whereas, in spite of commitments made in 1999 and again in 2021, the Russian Federation has failed to ensure the full destruction of these weapons; whereas concerns persist that this equipment might be utilised in armed conflict in either an operational capacity or to exert pressure on the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities;

- J. whereas the permanent neutrality of the Republic of Moldova is enshrined in Article 11 (1) of its Constitution; whereas on 8 March 2022, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova reaffirmed the country's neutrality;
  - K. whereas Russia's long-running multi-channel disinformation, propaganda, and political manipulation campaigns in the Republic of Moldova have escalated since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022; whereas Russia's subversive activities in the Moldovan information space seek to undermine wide-spread popular support for temporarily displaced Ukrainians and the European Union, tie down Ukrainian forces on the southern border, and foster enhanced destabilisation in particular in the run-up to 9 May;
  - L. whereas in 2021, Gazprom created a gas supply crisis in the Republic of Moldova with the objective of forcing the Moldovan authorities into a settlement over Transnistria and reducing their engagement with the EU; whereas the EU provided Moldova with a EUR 60 million budget support programme in order to mitigate the impact of the rising prices;
  - M. whereas on 22 June 2018, the UN General Assembly urged the Russian Federation to complete, unconditionally and without further delay, the orderly withdrawal of its forces and armaments from the territory of the Republic of Moldova; whereas an estimated 1 500 Russian troops remain illegally within Moldova's internationally recognised borders; whereas the independence, sovereignty, and full territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova is recognised by all member states of the United Nations;
1. Praises the solidarity shown by the Moldovan population towards the people fleeing Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the destruction of Ukraine's cities and towns and the atrocities and war crimes committed by Russia against, in particular, the civilian population of Ukraine; expresses its conviction that the EU must demonstrate the same degree of solidarity with the people of Moldova and support as determinedly as possible the country's efforts to cope with the consequences of the Russian war of aggression;
  2. Calls on the Commission to continue delivering humanitarian support via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, activated on 25 February 2022, border management support via Frontex and the relocated EUBAM, and support for the transfer of persons to EU Member States in the context of the Solidarity Platform;
  3. Welcomes the establishment of the Moldova Support Platform by EU Member States, G7 countries, international partners and like-minded states, intended to mobilise and coordinate international support, as a clear sign of the Union's and its partners' commitment to the Republic of Moldova's European future; urges all Platform partners to ensure the timely disbursement of their pledges and to swiftly increase funding in case of a change to Moldova's needs; calls on the Council to facilitate greater overland

trade with the Republic of Moldova by increasing the flexibility of road transport and to ease import restrictions on Moldovan agricultural produce;

4. Reiterates its call on the Commission as well as on the Moldovan authorities to take into account the particular needs of children, who represent more than half of the refugees from Ukraine currently staying in Moldova; calls on the Commission and the Member States to support the Moldovan authorities in setting up support programmes for refugee women, in particular those in need of specialised support for victims of gender-based violence;
5. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to thoroughly assess existing support measures, taking into account the increased security risks for the Republic of Moldova and the need to strengthen the resilience of Moldova's state institutions, armed forces and society against external attempts at destabilisation and provocation; insists on the need for the Council and the Commission equally to continue supporting the efforts of the Moldovan authorities to maintain macro-economic stability, guarantee Moldova's full energy security while swiftly working towards its energy independence from Russia, and carry through their ambitious reforms in the areas of democracy and the rule of law;
6. Calls on Moldova to accelerate its efforts to reduce its energy dependency on Russia; encourages the country to diversify its energy sources, increase its interconnection with the European energy networks and accelerate the development of renewable energy sources;
7. Commends the Moldovan authorities' recent actions against Russian propaganda, including the temporary ban on several Russian disinformation websites under the imposed state of emergency and the ban on pro-Russian military symbols; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to provide Moldova with a comprehensive support package to enhance the country's resilience against hybrid threats including cyberattacks and disinformation, to support the work of journalists and civil society organisations seeking to counter disinformation and to develop a permanent legal framework to protect Moldova's information space; urges the Commission to increase the Union's strategic communications in Moldova; calls on the Commission and the Moldovan authorities to increase their outreach to the population of the Moldovan region of Transnistria;
8. Expresses its concern about the recent security incidents in the Transnistrian region that affect the security and stability of the Republic of Moldova and the entire region; welcomes the measured reaction from the authorities of the Republic of Moldova which have helped to reduce tensions and maintain calm; calls on the responsible authorities to continue to prevent the situation in the region of Transnistria from destabilising, which would risk being exploited as a pretext for escalation of the war to the territory of Moldova;
9. Reiterates its support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and for the efforts in the framework of the 5+2 negotiation process to reach a peaceful, comprehensive and lasting political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognised borders and with a special

status for the Transnistrian region; calls on the Russian Federation, therefore, to completely withdraw its military forces and equipment from the Transnistrian region and to ensure the immediate evacuation and full destruction of all ammunition and equipment in the Cobasna depot under international oversight;

10. Calls to make effective use of the recently established high-level political and security dialogue between the EU and the Republic of Moldova to enhance cooperation on foreign and security policy, raise relevant issues of concern for regional security and stability and discuss possibilities for close coordination and effective assistance and support measures;
11. Calls on the Council and the Member States to offer urgent capacity-building assistance to the armed forces of the Republic of Moldova;
12. Encourages the Government and president of Moldova to continue the ambitious reforms on democracy and the rule of law upon which the country has embarked, and in particular to continue the judicial reform, the fight against corruption and the investigation and prosecution of the 2014 bank fraud scandal;
13. Underlines the importance of advancing the country's reform process in order to improve the living standards of the population, especially of the more vulnerable population groups and those in the regions, and to provide the younger generations with attractive prospects for life and work in the country, thereby reducing the number of citizens who feel the need to leave the country to seek better living conditions elsewhere in Europe;
14. Welcomes the application for EU membership submitted by the Moldovan authorities on 3 March 2022; calls on the Commission to assess Moldova's preparedness for EU membership taking into account the close cooperation under the Association Agreement and ensure the rapid delivery of its opinion to the Council regarding Moldova's EU application; calls on the Moldovan authorities to enhance their work towards full and effective implementation of the AA/DCFTA as well as on democracy, governance and rule of law reforms, as a demonstration of their ambition to enjoy the rights and fulfil the obligations of an EU member;
15. Calls on all political actors to contribute towards fulfilling the European aspirations of the people of Moldova, by seeking to establish a consensus over the most important and urgent reforms, by actively engaging in the legislative work of the Parliament of Moldova with the aim of further harmonising Moldova's legislation with EU standards, and by engaging with civil society over all major reforms as well as the country's future orientation; expresses its determination to contribute to supporting and strengthening parliamentary democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including through the upcoming Jean Monnet Dialogue;
16. 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.

