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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0333/2022**

20.6.2022

## 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 the candidate status of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia  
(2022/2716(RSP))

**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz**  
on behalf of The Left Group

**European Parliament resolution on the candidate status of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia**

**(2022/2716(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the applications of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia for accession to the European Union,
  - having regard to the Association Agreements and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs) between the EU and Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia,
  - having regard to the statements and decisions on the EU perspective of Ukraine at the informal meeting of Heads of State and Government at the Versailles Summit on 10-11 March 2022,
  - having regard to the Commission Opinion on Georgia’s application for membership of the European Union COM(2022)0405,
  - having regard to the Commission Opinion on the Republic of Moldova’s application for membership of the European Union COM(2022)0406,
  - having regard to the Commission Opinion on Ukraine’s application for membership of the European Union COM(2022)0407,
  - having regard to Art 49 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Copenhagen criteria,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on 28 February 2022 submitted an official request to allow his country to gain ‘immediate’ membership under a special fast-track procedure; whereas Moldova and Georgia submitted their applications for EU Membership on 3 March 2022;
- B. whereas the European Council at its meeting in Versailles on 10 and 11 March 2022 responded promptly by launching the initial steps of the enlargement process; whereas the Commission is expected to deliver its opinion on Ukraine’s EU membership application, opening the way for a possible decision by EU leaders to grant candidate status at their summit on 23-24 June 2022;
- C. whereas according to Article 49 of the TEU ‘any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union’;
- D. whereas Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are closely linked to the EU by association and

free trade agreements which offer a large and flexible space for cooperation and integration; deplores the fact that DCFTAs promotes neoliberal economic reforms, including reforms jeopardising essential public services in the accession countries; whereas Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are partner countries of the Eastern Partnership, which offer the closest possible political association and highest possible degree of economic integration; whereas Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have territories where there is a state of war, frozen conflict or territorial dispute, which violate their territorial integrity;

- E. whereas the Commission recommends that Georgia be granted candidate status, once some priority reforms have been implemented; whereas these reforms relate to basic principles enshrined in the Copenhagen criteria, including a functioning democracy, an independent judiciary, the fight against corruption, the elimination of excessive influence of oligarchs in economic, political and public life, the fight against organised crime, protection of human rights and the fight against impunity for human rights violations, gender equality and the fight against violence against women;
  - F. whereas the Commission recommends that Moldova be granted candidate status on the understanding that a series of reforms are undertaken; whereas these reforms require the implementation of the basic principles of the Copenhagen criteria, such as a comprehensive justice system reform in all institutions of the judiciary and prosecutor's office, the fight against corruption at all levels, the elimination of excessive influence of oligarchs in economic, political and public life, the fight against organised crime, public administration and public finance management reform, enhancing the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels and the protection of human rights, particularly of vulnerable groups;
  - G. whereas the Commission recommends that Ukraine be granted candidate status on the understanding that a series of reforms are undertaken; whereas these reforms require the implementation of the basic principles of the Copenhagen criteria; whereas the Commission insists on judicial reforms to ensure the independence of the judiciary, the fight against corruption, in particular at high level, anti-money laundering legislation and a reform of the entire law enforcement sector, implementation of the Anti-Oligarch Law to limit the excessive influence of oligarchs in economic, political and public life, tackling the influence of vested interests in the media, reform of the legal framework for national minorities and the adoption of immediate and effective implementation mechanisms;
- 1. Expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia who in times of the Russian war in Ukraine hope for a safe and prosperous future as part of the family of European peoples;
  - 2. Notes that decisions of the Heads of State and Government of the European Union to accept applicant countries as candidate countries are political in nature, and very often based on geopolitical and economic considerations;
  - 3. Rejects any fast-track EU accession procedures based on geopolitical considerations; insists that the accession process of any applicant country should be based on the rules agreed, e.g. on the implementation of the Copenhagen criteria and the *acquis*

*communautaire*; stresses that the EU should not create false expectations about EU accession;

4. Underlines that priority in the accession process should be given to democracy, rule of law, respect for democratic, human rights and rights of minorities, eradication of undue influence of oligarchs on governments, parliaments and the media, the fight against corruption, money laundering and organised crime, independence of the judiciary, media freedom and respect for social rights during and after transformation processes; notes with concern that - to a different degree - there are fundamental problems in these areas in all three applicant countries;
5. Stresses the urgency of an EU reform which does not only result from the need to prepare for enlargement; recalls that the Conference on the Future of Europe echoed broad citizen's demands for strengthening 'Social Europe', meaning progressive economic, health, environmental and asylum policies, safeguarding the rule of law both at EU and Member State level and permanent and more ambitious forms of popular participation in EU decision-making structures; underlines that such a reform is also needed for the prosperous development of the candidate countries;
6. Insists that citizens in both the EU Member States and the applicant countries have to be closely associated in the reform processes linked to EU accession;
7. Expresses its concern that if the EU does not take the necessary measures, the current focus on the accession of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia may weaken the ongoing enlargement process in the Western Balkans and partnerships with countries in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood; notes with concern the stalemate and partial backsliding in the reform processes in the Western Balkans countries, especially on rule of law issues; stresses that in general the enlargement strategy needs a substantial review based on lessons learned, taking into account both achievements and long-standing inefficiencies, and properly address especially the rule of law, and social and sustainable development issues in the accession countries, including Neighbourhood policy;
8. Stresses the urgent need for the EU to intensify diplomatic efforts to end the ongoing armed conflicts and ensure peace in the region through a solution in line with the principles laid out in international law, inter alia the territorial integrity of all states and the self determination of peoples;
9. Calls for the cancellation of Ukrainian debt in order to support the country in meeting current urgent expenses and to facilitate reconstruction; calls on the EU and its Member States to provide support focused on meeting the Ukrainian population's humanitarian needs in the current context; stresses in this regard that macro-financial assistance in the form of loans further exacerbates the debt burden and includes conditionalities linked to structural reforms;
10. 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, and the governments and parliaments of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and the Member States.

