



**2023/0018(COD)**

19.4.2023

# OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2022/563 as regards the amount of macro-financial assistance to the Republic of Moldova

(COM(2023)0053 – C9-0011/2023 – 2023/0018(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Siegfried Mureșan

PA\_Legapp

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Budgets welcomes the Commission's proposal of 24 January 2023 to increase ongoing Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) for the Republic of Moldova by EUR 145 million, of which EUR 100 million in concessional loans and EUR 45 million in grants, to cover parts of its external financing needs in 2023. This new proposal would bring the total amount of ongoing MFA assistance to the country to EUR 295 million. During the delegation of the Committee on Budgets to Moldova from 21 to 23 February 2023, BUDG Members discussed Moldova's budgetary needs, including the MFA, with the Moldovan authorities. Moldova's economy is heavily affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as a result of trade disruptions, lost export revenues, soaring food and energy prices as well as high inflation. In this context, the Committee on Budgets recalls that Parliament, in its resolution of 5 May 2022 on the state of play of EU-Moldova cooperation, stressed that a "new MFA proposal was essential" and that it should "mainly be composed of grants, rather than loans". The Committee on Budgets regrets that this is not the case and calls on the Commission to increase the share of grants in future MFA decisions. The Committee on Budgets is also asking the Commission to evaluate whether MFA operations for Moldova should not be part of the Union's diversified funding strategy to reduce overall risks and liabilities for the EU budget, as is the case for Ukraine and to provide a detailed assessment of the MFA grants line (14 20 03 01) and the NDICI provisioning line (14 02 01 70) including the remaining budgetary flexibilities for 2023.

The Committee on Budgets also highlights that Moldova will need further support, and therefore additional financial and technical assistance, including through the IPA III instrument, given that Moldova is now a candidate for accession. It calls on the Commission to present a proposal to revise the IPA III Regulation accordingly as soon as feasible, including a proposal to sufficiently increase the overall IPA III budget. The Committee on Budgets also stresses the importance of ensuring complementarities between EU programmes and additional resources provided by EU and International Financial Institutions, Member States and other donors.

The Committee on Budgets also notes that the additional MFA assistance is to be released in two disbursements in the third and fourth quarter of 2023, subject to satisfactory progress with the International Monetary Fund programme and the implementation of new policy conditions to be agreed between Moldova and the EU, which will be added to the Existing Memorandum of Understanding.

In addition, the Committee on Budgets calls on the European Commission to disburse, without delay, the rest of the ongoing MFA.

To conclude, the Committee on Budgets calls on the Commission to provide the budgetary authority with the detailed reports on the compliance with the agreed policy conditions to be submitted by the Moldovan authorities ahead of each disbursement, in a spirit of full transparency.

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The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on International Trade as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament adopt its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal.

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	Amending Decision (EU) 2022/563 as regards the amount of macro-financial assistance to the Republic of Moldova						
<b>References</b>	COM(2023)0053 – C9-0011/2023 – 2023/0018(COD)						
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	INTA 13.2.2023						
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	BUDG 16.3.2023						
<b>Rapporteur for the opinion</b> Date appointed	Siegfried Mureşan 9.3.2023						
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	28.3.2023						
<b>Date adopted</b>	17.4.2023						
<b>Result of final vote</b>	<table> <tr> <td>+:                   </td><td>35</td></tr> <tr> <td>–:                   </td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>0:                   </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	35	–:	1	0:	0
+:	35						
–:	1						
0:	0						
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Rasmus Andresen, Pietro Bartolo, Olivier Chastel, David Cormand, Andor Deli, Pascal Durand, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Matteo Gazzini, Vlad Gheorghe, Valentino Grant, Valérie Hayer, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Hervé Juvin, Joachim Kuhs, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Pierre Larroustou, Camilla Laureti, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Andrey Novakov, Bogdan Rzońca, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds, Angelika Winzig						
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Francisco Guerreiro, Fabienne Keller, Jan Olbrycht, Petri Sarvamaa						
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Jérémy Decerle, Elena Kountoura, Željana Zovko						

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

35	+
ECR	Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bogdan Rzońca
ID	Matteo Gazzini, Valentino Grant
NI	Andor Deli, Hervé Juvin
PPE	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, José Manuel Fernandes, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Petri Sarvamaa, Angelika Winzig, Željana Zovko
Renew	Olivier Chastel, Jérémy Decerle, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Fabienne Keller, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Pascal Durand, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Pierre Larrousurou, Camilla Laureti, Margarida Marques, Victor Negrescu
The Left	Elena Kountoura
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, David Cormand, Francisco Guerreiro, Nicolae Ştefănuţă

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ID	Joachim Kuhs

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Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention