

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004509/25
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (PFE)
(13 November 2025)**

Subject: Concerns about Moldova's economic growth

On 10 November 2025 it was announced that this year inflation in Moldova has exceeded 6% and there has been significant contraction in key economic sectors. ⁽¹⁾ On 12 November it was also announced that the IMF has blocked the payment of a tranche of USD 170 million intended for the country. This amount had, however, already been incorporated into the national budget and halting the payment has therefore led to a financial shortfall. ⁽²⁾ Dr Veaceslav Ionita, a well-known expert on Moldova, notes that the country is in a recession comparable with the worst period experienced during the collapse of the former Soviet Union. ⁽³⁾ In view of this:

1. How is it possible for the country to have ended up in a recession in spite of all the financial support received from the EU?
2. What will the Commission do if this trend continues and possibly deteriorates further?
3. Is the country's economic development a decisive factor for its accession to the EU?

Submitted: 13.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(4 February 2026)**

The economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Moldova are significantly amplified by external shocks mostly linked to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine ⁽¹⁾.

A drought-induced agricultural decline in 2024 further weighed on growth. Domestic reforms and EU financial support have helped to cushion these effects and economic activity has improved since the fourth quarter of 2024. In the Commission's most recent economic analysis ⁽²⁾, 2025 growth was assessed to have been higher than previously forecast.

But it is needed to step up efforts to ensure sustained economic growth that allows for economic convergence with the EU. The Commission therefore encourages structural reforms that address core constraints to growth and improve the business environment.

The Moldova Growth Plan ⁽³⁾ focuses on reforms that strengthen competitiveness, enhance governance and support Single Market alignment.

These reforms aim to remove bottlenecks hindering investment and productivity. EU financial assistance, including technical support, concessional financing and investment tools, helps leverage private capital for long-term, private-sector-led growth.

The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of the Plan and its broader support measures, so it leads to an increasing income convergence with the EU.

Economic development is an important part of any path towards EU accession. In line with the Copenhagen economic criteria, candidate countries must demonstrate a functioning market economy able to withstand competitive pressures within the EU.

This economic performance is assessed together with progress on other important criteria such as the rule of law, democratic institutions, fundamental rights and the capacity to implement the *acquis*.

¹ <https://www.infotag.md/finances-en/327967/>.

² <https://tv8.md/2025/11/11/video-fmi-a-blocat-o-transa-de-aproape-3-miliarde-de-lei-pentru-moldova-deputat-pas-bugetul-de-stat-nu-e-in-pericol/292171>.

³ <https://point.md/ru/novosti/ekonomika/ionitse-moldova-ofitsial-no-voshla-v-retsessiiu-samoe-tiazhioloe-ekonomicheskoe-padenie-s-90-kh/>.

⁽¹⁾ These shocks affect key sectors such as agriculture, energy, manufacturing and transport, leading to a recession in 2022.

⁽²⁾ https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/34538512-fff6-451a-8bbc-4c8d60e4d132_en?filename=ip327_en.pdf#page=170.

⁽³⁾ OJ L, 2025/535, 21.3.2025.