

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001176/26
to the Commission
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)
(20 March 2026)**

Subject: Potential obstacles to Ukraine and Moldova's accelerated EU membership process

In recent days, reports have reached the public that some EU Member States are sceptical about the possibility of accelerating Ukraine's accession process and are opposed to the 'fast-track' model. At the same time, questions are being raised publicly as to whether new political arguments or additional conditions are emerging in the enlargement process, even though Ukraine and Moldova continue to implement reforms and demonstrate progress towards EU membership.

In light of the foregoing:

1. What major political or institutional obstacles does the Commission currently consider to be the greatest barriers to an accelerated EU accession process for Ukraine?
2. Despite the progress made by Ukraine and Moldova, are new arguments, additional conditions or criteria currently being raised regarding these countries that were not previously mentioned explicitly?
3. What is the state of play of the assessment of Moldova's progress regarding technical benchmarks and the opening of negotiation chapters, and when can further decisions on accelerating the accession process be expected?

Submitted: 20.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(23 June 2026)**

EU accession is a well-established process based on Article 49 of the Treaty of the European Union and conditional upon the fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria.

Accordingly, enlargement is and will remain based on the 'own merits' principle and the pace at which candidate countries accomplish the necessary reforms.

Both Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova have set themselves targets for closing accession negotiations and the Commission remains committed to supporting their ambitious objectives, contingent on delivery of the necessary reforms.

The Commission's assessment is that Moldova and Ukraine have met the conditions required to formally open all clusters. In the meantime, technical work on the accession negotiations continues with both countries.

The reform priorities to be implemented have been communicated by the Danish and Cypriot Presidencies of the Council of the EU in December 2025 and in March 2026. Ultimately, the decision to formally move forward in the process is in the hands of the Member States.

The Commission will keep monitoring progress of both countries as well as providing regular assessment of progress through its annual Enlargement package.
