



European Commission Opinions on the EU Membership applications

January 2023
#StrongerTogether



On **17 June 2022**, the **European Commission** presented its **Opinions on the applications for membership to the European Union (EU)** submitted to the Council by **Ukraine**, the **Republic of Moldova** & **Georgia**. The Opinions are based on **three key assessments**:



Political criteria

Stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities



Economic criteria

A functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces



Ability to assume the obligations of membership

Capacity to enforce the EU *acquis*

The Opinions also take into account Ukraine, Moldova & Georgia's efforts in implementing their obligations under the **Association Agreements (AAs)** including **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs)**. These agreements, signed in 2014, are the legal framework for bringing Ukraine, Moldova & Georgia and the EU closer together, promoting deeper political ties, stronger economic links and respect for common values.

Recommendations

The Commission recommends to the Council that **Ukraine, Moldova** and **Georgia** be given **the perspective to become a member** of the European Union.

The Commission recommends that **Ukraine** and **Moldova** be granted **candidate status** on the understanding that a **certain number of steps** are taken and for **Georgia**, once a **certain number of priorities** will have been addressed.

The accession process is based on **established criteria and conditions**. This allows any country in the process to progress based on its own merits, but also means that steps towards the EU can be reversed if the underlying conditions are not met any more.

The Commission will monitor the progress in fulfilling these **steps** for **Ukraine** and **Moldova**, and the **priorities** for **Georgia**. The Commission will report on them in its regular enlargement package.

2022 Key dates

- 28 February **Ukraine** presents its application for EU membership
- 3 March **Moldova & Georgia** present their applications for EU membership
- 7 March The Council of the European Union requests the Commission to submit its Opinions on **Ukraine, Moldova & Georgia's** applications
- 8 April **Ukraine** receives questionnaire on the political & economic criteria
- 11 April **Moldova & Georgia** receive questionnaire on the political & economic criteria
- 13 April **Ukraine** receives questionnaire on the EU *acquis*
- 17 April **Ukraine** sends answers to political & economic criteria
- 19 April **Moldova & Georgia** receive questionnaire on the EU *acquis*
- 22 April **Moldova** sends answers to political & economic criteria
- 2 May **Georgia** sends answers to political & economic criteria
- 9 May **Ukraine** sends answers to the EU *acquis*
- 10 May **Georgia** sends answers to the EU *acquis*
- 12 May **Moldova** sends answers to the EU *acquis*
- 17 June European Commission adopts its Opinions on the EU membership applications
- 24 June** The European Council granted **Ukraine, Moldova** and **Georgia** the perspective to become a member of the European Union. The European Council also granted **Ukraine** and **Moldova** candidate status, and for **Georgia** the candidate status will be granted once the set of priorities are met



What's next?

The Commission will report on the progress achieved by the three countries in its regular Enlargement Package as of 2023.