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:

1. **Political criteria**
   - Stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities

2. **Economic criteria**
   - A functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces

3. **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 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.

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.
Ukraine presents its application for EU membership

Moldova & Georgia present their applications for EU membership

The Council of the European Union requests the Commission to submit its Opinions on Ukraine, Moldova & Georgia’s applications

Ukraine receives questionnaire on the political & economic criteria

Moldova & Georgia receive questionnaire on the political & economic criteria

Ukraine receives questionnaire on the EU acquis

Ukraine sends answers to political & economic criteria

Moldova & Georgia receive questionnaire on the EU acquis

Moldova sends answers to political & economic criteria

Georgia sends answers to political & economic criteria

Ukraine sends answers to the EU acquis

Georgia sends answers to the EU acquis

Moldova sends answers to the EU acquis

European Commission adopts its Opinions on the EU membership applications

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.