

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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AS

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Prime Minister of
Moldova, 2021-2023



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Context

It is the year 2024, Russia's aggression against Ukraine has continued during this time, but it is broadly unsuccessful. Putin's last hope to keep his pride, before declaring the war lost, is annexing Transnistria. The Russian troops are already at the border with Transnistria, and Russia threatened with an invasion in the next weeks.

The speech is held by Moldova's Prime Minister, at the Eastern Partnership Summit that is, coincidentally, taking place while Moldova is also celebrating the Independence Day.

The speech is about urging Moldova's accession to the European Union in this context, and it is addressed to The President and members of the European Council, to The President and members of the European Commission, and to Heads of States from EU countries. In the audience, there are all also the Heads of States of the Eastern Partnership countries.

Speech

Honourable members of the European Council, of the European Commission, and Heads of States,

Today marks the 33rd year of Moldova's independence, the 33rd year of liberty for our country and its citizens. Maybe it is not accidental that on this date, I am standing in front of you, on behalf of Moldova's people, to represent my country and to use this potentially final chance to request action from your side.

As you very well know, Russia's war against Ukraine is faltering, leaving behind not only a Ukraine that needs reconstruction, but also an authoritarian Russia with a dangerously bruised ego. With almost nothing to lose, Putin is making his last-ditch effort: annexing Transnistria and, further on, Moldova. With Russian troops already being present at the Transnistrian border for years, they are not only ready to attack, but they are fuelled by frustration and a self-righteous desire to conquer our land. They are motivated to strike.

Two years ago, I was signing, together with our president, Maia Sandu, the paper that was supposed to open our door to freedom: the application of Moldova for European Union membership. We promised you but, most importantly, we promised ourselves, that we will not stop working until we earn our place here, in Europe, where we deserve to be.

We have worked, ever since, to build a better future for ourselves, as well as to become an even more trusted partner for the European Union. Our reform of justice cleaned all the corruption of those that seek only their own interest, at the expense of the people. Our institutions have become stronger, more trusted, and more prepared to take care of both today's citizens, as well as of the future generations. Access to quality education and healthcare in Moldova is no longer a luxury, but a normality. With new economic reforms and projects, we managed to help small businesses thrive in the country. And we acknowledge that all these things could not have been done without the European Union's help. For this, we are grateful.

We were also patient. We knew that our European path would not be easy. We knew that it would take time. Today, we do not have this time anymore. With the threat of Russian aggression looming over our peaceful country, we are asking for your support. Support to

integrate Moldova among the European countries. Support to offer Moldova a seat at the European table.

In 2008, it was Georgia. In 2022, it was Ukraine. In 2024, you have the power to prevent Moldova of being the next in this line of aggression. Start acting in the interest of Europe, instead of going soft on Russia, because in all these years, it was not only threatening Georgia, Ukraine or, as it is happening now, Moldova. It has threatened the European identity. Georgia and Ukraine were not only fighting for their independence, but they were also fighting for an independent Europe. You have the responsibility to maintain peace for all the European citizens that put their faith in you. Do not let them down. Do not let us down.

The voices of more than 3 million Moldavians are asking this. European values are our values. We, as a country, believe in the EU and we want to make sure that our children can call Moldova their home. A home of peace, a home of liberty.

Today marks an important event in our history. My heart and thoughts are with the Moldavians all over the world who celebrate their independence. Years from now, I would like all of us to celebrate, not only Moldova's independence, but Moldova's accession to the European Union. I would like us to celebrate freedom over subjugation, unity over division, good's triumph over evil.

Thank you.