



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT
ON THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

6 December 2023

Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, having considered the European Commission Communication of 8 November 2023 on EU Enlargement Policy, and in particular its provisions recommending that the Council of the European Union take the following steps:

- to open EU accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova and to approve the framework for accession negotiations with these countries once the relevant conditions are met,
- to grant Georgia candidate country status, provided that the established steps are carried out,
- to open EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina once the necessary level of compliance with the membership criteria has been reached,

stressing that the speed of the EU enlargement depends on the reforms undertaken by the countries aspiring for membership, and underlining the need for them to partake in the implementation of the EU's Common Security and Foreign Policy positions and to implement EU sanctions against third countries,

underlining the crucial role of the Eastern European partners in contributing to long-term security and stability in the region and noting that the EU integration of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina will help prevent the potential new geopolitical cleavages,

recognising the unwavering commitment of Ukraine, which is defending the European values and principles at the highest price on the battlefield, and the determination of Moldova to join the EU, as demonstrated by the efforts of the two countries in implementing substantial political and institutional reforms despite the geopolitical challenges associated with Russia's aggression,

appreciating the strong support of Georgian civil society for EU integration and expressing optimism that it will be effectively reflected in the steps of the Georgian executive,

supports the immediate opening of EU accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

welcomes the Commission's proposals for the granting of candidate status to Georgia and the opening of accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina once the required level of compliance has been reached;

considers that decisions on the recommendations made by the European Commission on 8 November 2023 need to be taken in a single package in order to ensure a coherent EU enlargement process while avoiding possible blocking of decisions on individual countries;

calls on other Member States to endorse, at the December 2023 Council of the European Union and the European Council, the recommendations of the European Commission and to approve the opening of EU accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

calls on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to urgently develop and approve a framework for negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova;

encourages Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue the necessary reforms and **confirms** Lithuania's readiness to provide assistance for the implementation of the comprehensive reform process;

reaffirms the commitment of the Committee to monitor and regularly discuss the progress of the countries aspiring for EU membership at the Committee meetings and to make recommendations to the Government and the President of the Republic of Lithuania regarding Lithuania's position on decisions in the relevant EU formats.

Chair of the Committee

Žygimantas Pavilionis