



JOINT DECLARATION

**endorsed at the 1st meeting of the
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) between the European
Committee of the Regions (CoR) (CoR) and the Republic of Moldova,
on 15 September 2026**

The Members of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), in the composition set out in the Annex to this declaration:

1. welcome the establishment of the Joint Consultative Committee between the European Committee of the Regions and the Republic of Moldova as the outcome of a long-standing process of inter-institutional cooperation, and acknowledge, in this respect, the effective collaboration between the EU institutions and the Republic of Moldova, including between the CoR and the associations of the local and regional authorities in Moldova, and sustained contribution of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), together with the Association of Communes of Romania (ACoR), towards advancing dialogue and cooperation at political and institutional level.
2. recall political commitment to the enlargement of the European Union (EU) and to supporting the local and regional dimension of Moldova's EU accession process, including by strengthening collaboration between the representative associations of local and regional public authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), and by calling for adequate financial support, technical assistance, and greater direct access for local and regional authorities to the EU pre-accession funding.
3. express full support for the associations of the local and regional authorities in the Republic of Moldova, within the meaning of Article 10 paragraph 2 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and in accordance with Article 6 paragraph (5) of Law no. 436/2026 on local

public administration, and underline the importance of their full involvement in all relevant consultation mechanisms linked to the Republic of Moldova's EU integration path, both at the EU and national levels;

4. underline the need of compliance with the established principles in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, adopted in Strasbourg on 15 October 1985, ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on October 2, 1997 by Decision No. 1253/1997 by Parliament Decision No. 1253-XIII of July 16, 1997, ensuring sufficient time for genuine and transparent consultation of citizens and local and regional authorities;
5. highlight the importance of strengthening multi-level governance and establishing an institutionalised, inclusive, and meaningful dialogue between the national and local and regional authorities, based on mutual respect and trustful partnership. In this regard, call for structural involvement of the representative associations of local and regional public administration authorities in all stages of developing and implementing policies and reforms that have an impact on local communities and on the Republic of Moldova's path to EU accession;
6. stress that in efforts to strengthen the administrative and financial capacity of local and regional authorities, the amalgamation process must comply with the principle of administrative decentralisation established by Article 3 of Law No. 435/2006 on administrative decentralisation and contribute to building citizens' trust in state institutions and in the Republic of Moldova's path to EU accession;
7. encourage the EU and the Republic of Moldova to ensure the necessary means to strengthen cross-border and inter-regional cooperation between local and regional authorities in the EU and the Republic of Moldova, including by facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges and the development and funding of joint projects as instruments for transferring best practices in local governance, improving public service delivery, developing infrastructure in line with EU standards, and strengthening mutual resilience as well as crisis preparedness and response capacity;
8. express full commitment to monitor and support the alignment of governance practices in Republic of Moldova with the EU democratic standards and values; and promote a constructive dialogue between the central public administration and local and regional authorities, based on the common interest and considering the real needs of citizens;
9. call on the EU and the central authorities of Moldova to consider this declaration as a clear signal of support for local democracy and local autonomy and to capitalise on the expertise of the representative

associations of local and regional public administration authorities in the process of the democratic modernisation of the country.

10. commit to using the framework of the Joint Consultative Committee to identify and promote the territorial priorities of the Republic of Moldova, monitor the impact of reforms on local and regional public administration authorities and facilitate peer-to-peer cooperation and joint projects between European partners and local and regional authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

ANNEX

JCC between the CoR and the Republic of Moldova

CoR full members

1. Mariana GÂJU, Mayor of Cumpăna Commune, Constanța County (Co-Chair)
2. Kirstine Helene BILLE, Municipal Council Member, Syddjurs Municipality
3. Roby BIWER, Councillor of the Municipality of Bettembourg
4. Adam CISZKOWSKI, Mayor of Halinów
5. Emil DRĂGHICI, Mayor of Vulcana-Băi Commune, Dâmbovița County
6. Marcin KUCHCIŃSKI, Councillor of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
7. Siim SUURSILD, Member of Pärnu City Council
8. Adrian Ovidiu TEBAN, Mayor of Cugir City, Alba County
9. Marius Ioan URSĂCIUC, Mayor of Gura Humorului City, Suceava County

Full members from the side of the Republic of Moldova:

1. Valentina CASIAN, Mayor of Strășeni Municipality (Co-Chair)
2. Marcel BOBEICA, Mayor of Gangura Commune, Ialoveni District
3. Nicolae DANDIȘ, Mayor of Cahul Municipality
4. Nina CERETEU, Mayor of Drochia Town, Drochia District
5. Constantin COJOCARI, Mayor of Edineț Municipality
6. Vitalie VRABIE, Mayor of Ungheni Municipality
7. Alexandru BUJOREAN, Mayor of Leova Town, Leova District
8. Natalia EREMIA, President of Ialoveni District
9. Nicolae DRĂGĂNEL, President of Călărași District