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Moldova Readies Full Alignment With EU Sanctions on Russia and Belarus

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Moldovan Foreign Minister Mihai Popșoi. **Gov.md**

Moldova said it plans to fully join the EU's sanctions regime against Russia and Belarus as it seeks to become a member of the bloc sometime in the coming years.

"The country will fully align with the EU's sanctions policy, including on Russia and Belarus," Moldovan Foreign Minister Mihai Popșoi was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency at an EU enlargement conference on Monday.

Popșoi said Moldova has already matched 91% of EU sanctions against the two countries, with a "small lag" in the sectoral sanctions package introduced in 2014. "We're currently working to find solutions and the necessary mechanisms," he said.

Moldova submitted an EU membership bid after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. It began official accession negotiations two years later, with 2030 as the target to join the bloc.

Last week, Moldovan Prime Minister Vasile Tofan said Chisinau will eventually introduce visa

requirements for Russian and Belarusian nationals as part of its EU integration process.

“I’m not ready to name specific deadlines. If EU norms require this, I believe we must make decisions that will allow us to advance in the process of European integration,” Tofan told local television.

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The planned EU alignment has drawn criticism from Moldova’s pro-Russian opposition, with former president and socialist party leader Igor Dodon accusing the ruling pro-EU party of destabilizing steps.

“What benefits will our country get from such a hostile policy? It will bring nothing but new suffering to the population,” Dodon wrote Tuesday on Facebook.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, President Maia Sandu inaugurated a major power line connecting the Moldovan electric grid directly to neighboring Romania, allowing Moldova to bypass electricity supplied by the Russia-backed breakaway region of Transnistria.

“For decades, Moscow used energy to blackmail us,” Sandu wrote on X. “No more. Moldova buys zero Russian gas.”

The U.S. Embassy in Chisinau said last month that the power line would be called the “Trump Liberty Line.” Moldova’s government said it had no objection to the name idea.

AFP contributed reporting.

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