

*Dear members of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities,  
Distinguished guests,*

Welcome to Moldova and thank you for choosing to celebrate this important anniversary with us!

Your decision to mark 30 years of cooperation here in Chişinău is a sign of trust in our country, in our progress, and in our commitment to European values. We are grateful for your support—and for believing in Moldova.

Just like your Platform, the Republic of Moldova has come a long way in the past 30 years. We were a young democracy when we first passed our audiovisual law and created the national regulatory authority. Today, we are a country on the frontlines of the fight for democracy in Europe.

Over the decades, the mission of regulatory authorities has changed, but its core has remained the same: to protect the public interest and defend citizens' right to honest, quality information. Many of you in this room have had to fight for the independence of your institutions—resisting political or economic pressures, defending your right to act in service of democracy rather than power. Given how vital independent media regulators are to the health of democratic societies, it's no surprise these institutions are still being targeted and tested. The threats haven't faded. In fact, they have evolved.

Moldova has not been spared. For years, our media space was influenced by oligarchic groups but also by foreign interests seeking to manipulate public opinion and undermine social trust. But today, we are changing that. We now have an independent Audiovisual Council—composed of professionals from the media sector, civil society, and academia. Their work has already made a difference, especially in exposing disinformation and propaganda tied to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

As Moldova moves closer to the membership of the European Union, we are reforming our laws to meet EU standards. We have largely transposed the Audiovisual Directive and are preparing to adopt a new media law aligned with the European Media Freedom Act. These reforms weren't written behind closed doors—they were developed transparently, with the contributions of journalists, legal experts, and civil society.

For us 2025 is a defining year. Our parliamentary elections will determine whether Moldova continues its democratic path—or returns to a captured state, dominated by foreign influence. Our institutions are working to ensure that the will of the people is protected—especially from those who try to distort it with lies.

Freedom of expression is not just a principle—it is a responsibility. Our citizens must be free to speak, but also free from manipulation. In the age of hybrid warfare, media regulators are guardians of truth and trust.

Across Europe, we are witnessing coordinated campaigns of disinformation designed to sow division and weaken institutions. No country is immune. That is why your platform—this cooperation—is more important than ever. Because together, we can share solutions, defend our standards, and support each other in the face of growing threats.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Moldova's future is European. Last year, we opened EU accession negotiations. Every reform we make—from fighting corruption to defending media independence—is a step towards building a stronger, more resilient Moldova. A Moldova that belongs in the European Union. A Moldova that stands proudly as part of a free and democratic Europe.

So once again, thank you for choosing Moldova to celebrate your milestone. Thank you for your commitment to truth, to independence, and to democracy.

Happy 30th anniversary!