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Political Developments in the Republic of Moldova

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STATE OF ALERT DECLARED IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

The Moldovan government declared a **60-day state of alert in the energy sector**, introducing preventive measures aimed at strengthening national preparedness amid evolving geopolitical risks. The decision follows a risk assessment conducted by the National Crisis Management Center (CNMC), which analyzed potential impacts stemming from recent developments in the Middle East, focusing on energy supply routes, economic implications such as price fluctuations, and broader national security concerns.

Authorities emphasized that the measure is **preventive rather than emergency-driven**, meaning no exceptional restrictions are currently required. The state of alert will allow institutions to ensure minimum strategic reserves of petroleum products—particularly at the Giurgiulești port terminal—regulate electricity exports from renewable sources during certain hours to protect the national grid, and prepare for increased diesel consumption during the agricultural season. Government institutions are required to submit updated contingency plans, which will form part of a national response strategy covering short-, medium-, and long-term measures.

PHYTOSANITARY EXPORT CERTIFICATES FEES ELIMINATED

The Moldovan government has **eliminated fees for phytosanitary certificates required for export and re-export of plant products**, a measure that entered into force on 5 February 2026. Issued by the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA), these certificates confirm compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards and are essential for accessing international markets.

The policy aims to **reduce administrative costs for farmers and improve the competitiveness of Moldovan agricultural exports**, while maintaining national and international food safety standards. Authorities describe the initiative as part of a broader effort to streamline administrative procedures, reduce bureaucracy, and support the development of local businesses.

IGOR DODON LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNION WITH ROMANIA

The issue of a potential **union between Moldova and Romania** has re-entered the political debate following a campaign launched by the Socialist Party led by Igor Dodon. The initiative includes a nationwide information campaign featuring billboards promoting “patriotic” and “statehood” messages opposing the idea of unification.

The campaign comes after statements by President Maia Sandu and other officials indicating that they would support unification if approved through a referendum. Dodon strongly criticized this position, arguing that Moldova’s sovereignty must be preserved and framing the union

debate as a threat to national statehood. The Socialist Party announced that the campaign will run for several months and may be followed by additional actions depending on how the political situation evolves, particularly around the symbolic date of 27 March, associated with the historical union of Bessarabia with Romania in 1918.

PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

The Moldovan Parliament adopted a **declaration condemning Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, marking four years since the start of the war. The document, supported by nearly two-thirds of lawmakers, characterizes Russia's actions as crimes of aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, while reaffirming Moldova's support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The declaration also highlights the **direct connection between Ukraine's resistance and Moldova's own security**, noting the continued illegal presence of Russian troops on Moldovan territory. While the statement received broad support, it was not backed by Socialist and Communist deputies, and several prominent political figures abstained from the vote.

NEW LAW TO REGULATE THE STATUS OF FOREIGNERS

The Moldovan government has approved a **new legislative framework regulating the admission, residence, and monitoring of foreign nationals** in the country. The draft law introduces clearer rules for 23 categories of residence purposes (including employment, highly qualified work, studies, research, and professional training) while also creating new forms of legal migration such as intra-company transfers, Au Pair programs, and student exchange schemes.

The reform aims to **balance national security concerns with economic competitiveness**, requiring foreign residents to demonstrate sufficient financial means while facilitating the attraction of investors and highly skilled professionals. The law will also digitalize application procedures and introduce a single residence card replacing several existing documents. If adopted by Parliament, the legislation is expected to enter into force on **1 June 2027**, replacing the current law governing the status of foreigners.

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MAIA SANDU'S MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

On the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Moldovan President Maia Sandu issued a **strong message of solidarity with Kyiv**, emphasizing that Ukraine "deserves a just peace." In a public statement accompanied by a video message, Sandu thanked the Ukrainian people for defending not only their own freedom but also the security of Moldova and Europe.

The president highlighted that Ukraine's resistance has played a crucial role in **keeping Russian aggression away from Moldova**, reaffirming the country's continued political and moral support for Ukraine. Her message coincided with a visit to Kyiv by a delegation of Moldovan parliamentarians participating in commemorative events marking four years since the outbreak of the war.

MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER ALEXANDRU MUNTEANU AND PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

During a visit to Kyiv, Moldovan Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss **strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing both countries' European integration paths**. The Moldovan premier reiterated Chișinău's firm support for Ukraine's efforts to restore peace and resist Russian aggression.

The discussions also focused on Moldova's potential role in **Ukraine's reconstruction**, including cooperation in transport, infrastructure, energy, cybersecurity, and regional resilience initiatives. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration within the trilateral **"Odesa Triangle" format (Moldova–Ukraine–Romania)**, aimed at strengthening regional connectivity and strategic cooperation.