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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	PL delegation
To:	Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU
Subject:	Questions sent by Poland regarding the Moldova Reform and Growth Facility

Polish comments on the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova

- We welcome that the European Commission has proposed the Reform and Growth Instrument for Moldova, which is needed and comes very timely.
- It is important to ensure that Moldova receives assistance which is as comparable as possible to other candidate countries in terms of available funding and conditionality. In this respect we note that Western Balkans receive funds in parallel from WBF and IPA III.
- We do not intend to impede the process, but rather receive a comprehensive answer to our questions:
 - Does the Commission consider feasible to increase the amount of non-repayable part of the assistance/grants in order to make the new Instrument more comparable, in terms of pre-accession assistance to the support enjoyed by other candidates? Can the ratio between grants and loans be modified in order for the non-repayable part of the assistance to be more substantial? What procedure would such change in terms of allocations entail? Can those funds be made available under NDICI GE?
 - We would like to ask for clarification on how the debt/loans servicing costs are to be borne, i.e. whether the interests will be financed from the grant part of the Instrument. If so, could the funds for pre-accession assistance be clearly separated from the debt's servicing costs so that it will not reduce the pool of funds for pre-accession assistance?
 - We would also like to inquire how the EC intends to implement President Ursula von der Leyen's announcement regarding the development of transport and health infrastructure in Moldova. Currently, the document does not indicate the amount of funds available for the implementation of such projects.
 - Ensuring energy security, including security of supplies remains key for Moldova as mentioned in last year Council conclusions and also in 2023 Commission report. This, we understand, may entail diversification of gas supplies or development of gas infrastructure. Would such projects be eligible for financing, given that the proposal says currently: that the *Facility shall not support activities or measures that promote investment in fossil fuels*? If not can Commission specify how such project can be financed (from other sources)?