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Message of the NBM Governor, Ms Anca Dragu, on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the introduction of the Moldovan leu



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„Nothing is possible without men, nothing is lasting without institutions," wrote Jean Monnet, one of the leading advocates and architects of European integration, in his memoirs.

These words carry particular significance for us this year: the National Bank of Moldova has celebrated its 35th anniversary and today marks 33 years since the introduction of the Moldovan leu. People made both beginnings possible: they laid the foundations for the central bank and prepared for the introduction of the national currency, at a time when the Republic of Moldova was shaping its economic life in the early years of independence. Through the institution they built, their work was given continuity. Later generations have strengthened the National Bank and carried forward its responsibilities, even during difficult times.

Today, price stability remains central to the NBM's mandate. That is why monetary policy decisions require careful analysis, independence and clear explanations. At the same time,

public confidence depends on a well-supervised financial system in which rules are consistently applied.

The way we use money has also changed. Moldovan lei can be sent within seconds, at any time, via the MIA system, created by the NBM. Through the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), transfers in euros between the Republic of Moldova and participating countries have become faster and more accessible. For someone supporting their family from abroad, for a student, or for a company working with European partners, the time and cost of a payment are invaluable. These services demonstrate how much financial modernisation matters in everyday life.

Connecting to SEPA, however, required more than just a technical solution. It called for rules aligned with European standards, well-prepared banks and cooperation between institutions. This is what drawing closer to the European Union truly means: building institutions and developing services here that work effectively for people, inspire confidence and meet European standards.

The anniversary of the Moldovan leu encourages us to look, above all, to the future – the Republic of Moldova's steady progress towards integration into the European financial area. The European Commission's 2026 report highlights that Moldova's financial system is increasingly prepared for EU accession. The report notes that the banking sector remains stable and well-capitalised. This is a recognition of people's efforts and of the institutions' capacity to take reforms forward.

Confidence in the Moldovan leu and closer ties with the EU rest on the same foundation: an independent central bank, clear rules and a well-supervised financial system. We continue to align banking legislation with European standards, work towards recognition of the equivalence of our supervisory framework and develop increasingly accessible payment services. Through these and other reforms, the Republic of Moldova is strengthening its credibility with its European partners.

Trust is based on the results of people's work and on how institutions fulfil their mandates in the public interest every day.

Anca Dragu
Governor of the National Bank of Moldova

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