

STATEMENT by the “Building Trust” Civic Movement on the Annual Conference “Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society”

The Civic Movement “Building Trust” welcomes the organization of the annual conference “Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society,” held on May 22, 2026, and considers the existence of platforms for dialogue between Parliament and civil society to be important, particularly in the context of the European integration process.

The conference highlighted several systemic challenges regarding the organization and functioning of public consultation processes in the Republic of Moldova.

Although some representatives of local, regional, and professional organizations attended the conference, the **official agenda and main panels disproportionately reflected the participation of organizations and experts consistently involved in consultations organized at the central level. Consequently, a significant portion of civil society actors from the regions played the role of participants and audience members rather than direct contributors to the formulation of the event’s main messages and conclusions.**

This situation was also evident during the workshop dedicated to “local civil society.” In this workshop, the participation of local actors as speakers was limited relative to the relevance of the topic and the diversity of existing experiences.

We also consider it necessary to have a broader and more balanced involvement of sectoral, professional, academic, and regional organizations in discussions regarding European integration, particularly of actors directly involved in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of reforms and policies aimed at harmonization with the European acquis.

Another important issue concerns the lack of clear outcomes and follow-up mechanisms following the conference, which limits the practical impact of the dialogue that took place.

In our view, these findings confirm the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for the involvement and consultation of civil society in the work of Parliament—including in the context of debates on the new Code on the Organization and Functioning of Parliament.

We consider it necessary to:

- **diversify the actors included in parliamentary consultation processes;**
- **ensuring broader representation of local, regional, and sectoral organizations;**
- **establishing public and transparent criteria for selecting participants and speakers at events involving civil society organized by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova;**

- **publishing, within a reasonable timeframe, the conclusions and recommendations formulated during the consultations:**
- **strengthening permanent mechanisms for dialogue and monitoring with the participation of civil society.**

At the same time, a discrepancy persists between stated commitments regarding public participation and actual consultation practices. Organizing public consultations with very short notice limits the actual participation of stakeholders and reduces the inclusivity of the decision-making process. However, some committees announce public consultations on important draft laws on the Parliament's website exactly on the day, or at most one day before, they take place. This makes it impossible for stakeholders to participate in the consultations, limiting access only to those directly invited by the committees.

We note that the **European Commission's 2025 progress report states the following: "The regulatory framework governing the establishment and operation of civil society organizations is in line with European standards, but continued efforts to improve the transparency of decision-making processes and public participation, both at the central and local levels, are essential for the sustainable development of civil society."** The European Commission thus notes the importance of the practical implementation of policies regarding transparency in decision-making and the genuine involvement of civil society in the decision-making process.

In the context of the Republic of Moldova's European path, strengthening public dialogue should not be viewed as a procedural formality, but as an essential condition for the legitimacy and quality of the decision-making process. Civil society participation must be effective, predictable, and based on pluralism and representativeness.

Civic Movement "Building Trust"

Chisinau, May 26, 2026