Chapter 17 – Economic and Monetary Policy

The acquis in the field of monetary policy contains specific rules that ensure the independence of central banks in member states, prohibiting the direct financing of the public sector by central banks and the privileged access of the public sector to financial institutions. Member states are also expected to coordinate their economic policies, including structural reform plans, and are subject to the Stability and Growth Pact, as well as the macroeconomic imbalance procedure. New member states also undertake to comply with the criteria set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in order to adopt the euro in due time after accession. Until then, states will participate in the Economic and Monetary Union as a member state with a derogation from using the euro and will treat their exchange rates as a common interest.

In the Republic of Moldova, responsibilities for defining economic policy are distributed among several institutions, following best practices of good governance. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for fiscal policy. The Ministry of Economy is responsible for structural and trade policies. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection also contribute to structural policies to the extent that they relate to the economic sectors under their responsibility. The National Bank of Moldova (BNM) defines monetary policy, and it is independent of the Government. The National Commission for Financial Markets (CNPF) is another autonomous entity that regulates, authorizes, and supervises the activities of participants in the non-banking financial market.

The main objectives of Moldova's fiscal policy are established in Law No. 181/2014 on public finances and fiscal responsibility, which are:

- Ensuring general fiscal discipline and stability of the national public budget in the medium and long term;
- Ensuring efficient management of state debt and the debt of administrative-territorial units, maintaining it at a sustainable level in the medium and long term;
- Developing a predictable and transparent fiscal framework;
- Optimizing the tax burden and improving the efficiency of the tax administration system.

The acquis in the field of economic and monetary policy is primarily regulated by Title VIII (Articles 119-144) of the TFEU and relevant legislation. The provisions of Chapter 4 of Title VIII of the TFEU (i.e., Articles 136-138, specific to member states whose currency is the euro) and those defined in Article 139 of the TFEU do not apply to member states with a derogation. The acquis consists mainly of the provisions of the annexed TFEU (so-called "primary legislation") and the provisions of legal acts adopted by EU institutions under them (so-called "secondary legislation", e.g., regulations, decisions). In particular, according to Article 131 of the TFEU, each member state must ensure that its national legislation, including the statute of its central bank, is compatible with the treaties and with the Statute of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and the European Central Bank (ECB). Furthermore, the acquis on economic policy includes Directive 2011/85, which sets requirements for the budgetary frameworks of member states and mandates transposition into national legal and administrative order.

In the context of fulfilling commitments in the EU accession process, joint efforts will be made to align national practices with EU standards in the field of economic and monetary policy. Law No. 181/2014 on public finances and fiscal responsibility.