



**PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR
pri príležitosti otvorenia Slovensko-moldavského
biznis fóra**

Bratislava, 26. 3. 2026

Your Excellency, Honourable President Maia Sandu,

Dear Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

a warm welcome to everyone, especially our guests from Moldova. It's great to have you all with us today.

I am honoured to open our first Slovak-Moldovan Business Forum together with you, dear Madam President.

Let me start on a personal note. I've been really looking forward to meeting you all - a business community charged with fresh energy and new ideas. In any program with my distinguished guests from abroad, business forum is one of my favourite highlights. The willingness to work together, build partnerships and create values – you can literally feel it in the air.

This appetite for business cooperation is something we can rely on in today's unpredictable world. Madam President and I have agreed recently to do our best to support your efforts. The presence of economy ministers from both our countries speaks volumes.

We discussed our economic ties and how we can strengthen them. To this goal, the signing of two agreements on economic cooperation has been scheduled. We have solid ground to build on.

Both Slovakia and Moldova are rather small economies, working hard to diversify beyond traditional sectors and challenged by the ongoing war in our immediate neighbourhood. We can leverage our similarities and also focus on areas where we could complement each other.

Slovakia is a friend of Moldova, supporting your journey towards prosperity and stability within the EU family. Dedicated, but realistic. We have walked this road ourselves and understand the challenges of reform. There is a first-hand experience from our own integration that we are ready to share with you.

I know, your reform efforts have been under constant pressure. But you are doing a great job. We respect and support your courage. That's why we stand by your side, both with our bilateral and EU initiatives.

I invite you all to make the most of this political capital and the position of Slovakia at the heart of Europe. Not only geographically, with all the benefits of gateway between East

and West. Our companies already have the necessary know-how to meet the EU standards - the golden key to a market of four hundred million people. Let's translate this advantage into new business ideas. The pieces are in place.

Over the years, trade between Slovakia and Moldova has grown significantly. But there is much more we can do together. In particular, investments are modest, with only a few Slovak companies active in Moldova.

We see new opportunities for example in energy efficiency, environmental technologies, food processing, automotive, or digital. Some of these sectors are even represented here by our delegations. And now is the perfect time to explore how their capabilities can match your projects.

I believe your meetings and new contacts made today will be crucial in turning opportunities into success stories.

I wish you a very productive afternoon. Enjoy the presentations, enjoy the networking and chance to know each other!

Thank you very much.