

**Evaluation Report No. 24 of 24 March 2026
on Alexandru MACHIDON, candidate for the position of Prosecutor General,
subject of evaluation under Law No. 252/2023**

The Prosecutor Vetting Commission (“the Commission”) established by Law No. 252/2023 on the external evaluation of judges and prosecutors and amending some normative acts (“Law No. 252/2023”), discharging the powers under the same Law, deliberated in private on 17 March 2026 and approved this report on 24 March 2026. The members participating in the approval of the evaluation report were:

*Nadejda HRIPTIEVSCHI
Cornel LEBEDINSCHI
Christopher LEHMANN
Irmantas MIKELIONIS
Virginia MORARU
Laura ȘTEFAN
Saskia DE VRIES*

Ion GRAUR was recused from this matter and did not participate in this evaluation.

Herman von HEBEL was appointed as a member of the Commission on 6 March 2026, after most stages of the present evaluation procedure had already taken place. He therefore did not participate in this evaluation.

Based on its work in collecting and reviewing the information, and subsequent deliberations, the Commission prepared the following evaluation report.

I. Introduction

1. This report concerns the subject of evaluation Alexandru MACHIDON, candidate for the position of Prosecutor General.
2. The Commission evaluated the subject of evaluation (“the subject”) according to the procedure and criteria regulated by Law No. 252/2023, and according to the Rules of Procedure of the Prosecutor Vetting Commission (“the Commission Rules”) approved by the Commission pursuant to art. 5 para. (4) of Law No. 252/2023.
3. The Commission unanimously concluded that Alexandru MACHIDON meets the ethical and financial integrity criteria identified in Law No. 252/2023.

II. Subject of the Evaluation

4. Alexandru MACHIDON (“the subject”) was appointed as a prosecutor in the Criuleni District Prosecutor’s Office on 12 February 2009. On 13 February 2012, he was appointed Deputy Chief of the Criuleni District Prosecutor’s Office. On 23 December 2014, he became Interim Chief of the same office, a position he held until 2 May 2016. Between 6 March 2017 and 20 August 2017, the subject served as Interim Deputy Chief of the Criuleni District Prosecutor’s Office. On 21 August 2017, he was appointed Deputy Chief of that office. He was delegated to the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (“APO”) between 2 January 2020 and 2 May 2020, and again between 6 July 2020 and 7 October 2021. On 21 August 2022, the subject was appointed as a prosecutor in the Chişinău Municipal Prosecutor’s Office. On 12 June 2024, he became Interim Deputy Chief of the Prosecutor Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases (“PCCOCS”). On 28 May 2025, he was appointed Interim General Prosecutor, a position he currently holds. On 19 August 2025, he won the competition for the position of General Prosecutor. Holding this position is contingent upon appointment by the President of the Republic of Moldova after passing the external evaluation pursuant to Law No. 252/2023.

III. Evaluation Criteria

5. Under art. 11 para. (1) of Law No. 252/2023, the Commission evaluates the subject’s ethical and financial integrity.
6. Art. 11 para. (2) of Law No. 252/2023 provides that a subject is deemed not to meet the requirements of ethical integrity if the Commission has determined that:
 - a) over the last 5 years, the subject has seriously violated the rules of ethics and professional conduct of judges or, as the case may be, of prosecutors, as well as if the subject acted arbitrarily or issued arbitrary acts, over the last 10 years, contrary to the imperative rules of law, and the European Court of Human Rights has established, before the adoption of the act, that a similar decision was contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights.
 - b) over the last 10 years, the subject has admitted in his/her activity incompatibilities and conflicts of interest that affect the position held.
7. Art. 11 para. (3) of Law No. 252/2023 provides that the subject shall be deemed not to meet the criterion of financial integrity if the Commission has serious doubts determined by the fact that:
 - a) the difference between assets, expenses, and income, for the last 12 years, exceeds 20 average salaries per economy, in the amount as set by the Government for the year 2023.

- b) over the last 10 years, the subject admitted tax irregularities as a result of which the amount of unpaid tax exceeded, in total, 5 average salaries per economy, in the amount as set by the Government for the year 2023.
8. The average salary per economy for 2023 was 11,700 MDL.¹ Thus, the threshold of 20 average salaries is 234,000 MDL, and the threshold of five average salaries is 58,500 MDL.
9. Art. 11 para. (4) of Law No. 252/2023 allows the Commission to verify various things in evaluating the subject's financial integrity, including payment of taxes, compliance with the legal regime for declaring assets and personal interests, the sources of funds of the subject's wealth.
10. Art. 11 para. (5) of Law No. 252/2023 provides that in evaluating compliance with the criteria set out in para. (3) of this article, the Commission shall also take into account the wealth, expenses, and income of close persons, as defined in Law No. 133/2016 on the declaration of assets and personal interests, as well as of the persons referred to in art. 33 para. (4) and (5) of Law No 132/2016 on the National Integrity Authority.
11. Art. 11 para. (6) of Law No. 252/2023 provides that in assessing compliance with the criteria set out in art. 11 paras (2) and (3), the legal provisions in force when the relevant acts occurred are applied. The documents or findings of other entities with competence in the areas concerned shall have no predetermined value for the Commission. Findings in final judgments shall be taken into account by the Commission, except for judgments that the Commission considers to be arbitrary or manifestly unreasonable. The Commission may rule only on breaches of the rules of ethics and professional conduct, without ruling on the legality of the decisions in question.
12. In applying art. 11 para. (3) of Law No. 252/2023, the Commission cannot apply the term "serious doubts" without considering the accompanying phrase "determined by the fact that". This phrase suggests that the Commission must identify as a "fact" that the specified conduct has occurred.
13. Regarding the standard of "serious doubts" in the context of the vetting exercise, the Constitutional Court noted with reference to its previous decisions that the definition of standards of proof inevitably involves using flexible texts. The Court also said that the Superior Council of Prosecutors can only decide not to promote a subject if the report examined contains "confirming evidence" regarding the non-compliance with the integrity criteria. The word "confirms" suggests a certainty that the subject does not meet the legal criteria. Thus, comparing the wording "serious doubts" with the text "confirming evidence", the Court considered that the former implies a high probability, without rising to the level of certainty (Constitutional Court Judgement No. 2 of 16 January 2025, §§ 99, 101).

¹ Government decision No. 936/2022 on the approval of the amount of the average monthly salary per economy, forecast for 2023.

14. The Commission notes that the Venice Commission underlined that in “a system of prior integrity checks, the decision not to recruit a subject can be justified in case of mere doubt, on the basis of a risk assessment. However, the decision to negatively assess a current post holder should be linked to an indication of impropriety, for instance unjustified wealth, even if it cannot be proven beyond doubt that this wealth does come from illegal sources” (Opinion No. 1064/2021 of 20 June 2022, CDL-AD (2022)011-e, para. 10; Joint Opinion of 14 March 2023, CDL-AD(2023)005, para. 69).
15. Shifting the burden of proof to the subject, once the evaluating body has identified integrity issues, has been found permissible by the European Court of Human Rights (“ECtHR”), even in the vetting of sitting judges who may lose their positions or otherwise be sanctioned as a consequence of the evaluation. In *Xhoxhaj v. Albania*, no. 15227/19, 31 May 2021, § 352, the Court stated that “it is not per se arbitrary, for the purposes of the ‘civil’ limb of Article 6 § 1 of the Convention, that the burden of proof shifted onto the applicant in the vetting proceedings after the IQC [Independent Qualification Commission] had made available the preliminary findings resulting from the conclusion of the investigation and had given access to the evidence in the case file” (confirmed for the vetting of prosecutors in *Sevdari v. Albania*, no. 40662/19, 13 December 2022, § 130).
16. Once the Commission establishes substantiated doubts based on particular facts that could lead to failure of evaluation, the subject will be afforded the opportunity to oppose those findings and to submit arguments in defense, as provided by art. 16 para. (1) of Law No. 252/2023. After weighing all the evidence and information gathered during the proceedings, the Commission makes its determination.

IV. Evaluation Procedure

17. Alexandru MACHIDON was on the list of subjects submitted by the Superior Council of Prosecutors (“SCP”) to the Commission on 23 May 2024 for evaluation, pursuant to art. 12 para. (1) lit. e) of Law No. 252/2023.
18. The subject was on the list of prosecutors from APO, as provided by art. 3 para. (1) lit. e) of Law No. 252/2023, submitted by SCP on 23 May 2024. On 22 August 2025, the SCP notified the Commission that the subject was selected as a candidate for the position of Prosecutor General and his evaluation was requested based on art. 3 para. (1) lit. h) of Law No. 252/2023. Consequently, the subject was evaluated based on the provisions of art. 3 para. (1) lit. e) and h) of Law No. 252/2023.
19. On 24 May 2024, the Commission notified the subject of the initiation of his evaluation and requested that he complete and return the declaration of assets and personal interests for the last five years (“five-year declaration”), which includes the list of close persons in the judiciary, prosecution and public service, and an ethics questionnaire within 20 days, as provided in art. 25 para. (3) of the Commission Rules, consistent with art. 12 para. (4) of Law No. 252/2023. The subject returned the completed five-year declaration and ethics questionnaire within the deadline, on 11 June 2024.

20. Pursuant to art. 15 para. (2) of Law No. 252/2023 and art. 17 of the Commission Rules, the file in this matter was randomly assigned to Panel A.
21. On 16 August 2024, the Commission notified the subject by email that his evaluation file had been randomly assigned to Panel A (“Panel”) with members Nadejda HRIPTIEVSCHI, Christopher LEHMANN, and Saskia de VRIES. The subject was informed that he may request, in writing and at the earliest possible time, the recusal of members from his evaluation. On 22 October 2025 the subject was informed about the recusal of Commission member Ion GRAUR.
22. Because the law sets different evaluation periods for the ethical and financial integrity criteria cited above, the Commission evaluated compliance with these criteria over the past five, 10 and 12 years, respectively. Due to the end-of-the-year availability of the tax declarations and declarations on assets and personal interests, the financial criteria evaluation included 2012 - 2023 (*unjustified wealth*) and 2014 - 2023 (*tax irregularities*). The evaluation period for the ethical criterion includes the past five or 10 years calculated as per art. 24 para. (3) lit. b) of the Commission Rules.
23. During the last 12 years of the evaluation period, the subject was required to file declarations, both under Law No. 133/2016 on the declaration of assets and personal interests (“Law No. 133/2016”), and under the previous Law No. 1264/2002 on the declaration and control of income and property of persons with public dignity positions, judges, prosecutors, civil servants and some persons with managing positions (“Law No. 1264/2002”).
24. As part of the evaluation of the ethical and financial integrity of the subjects, the Commission obtained information from numerous sources. The sources generally included the General Prosecutors Office (“GPO”), specialized Prosecutors Offices, Superior Council of Prosecutors (“SCP”), National Integrity Authority (“NIA”), National Anti-Corruption Center (“NAC”), Office for Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering (“AML”), Ministry of Internal Affairs (“MIA”), Customs Service (“CS”), State Tax Service (“STS”), General Inspectorate of Border Police, the National Office of Social Insurance (“CNAS”), Public Services Agency (“PSA”), Governmental Agent within the Ministry of Justice, banks, financial institutions etc. Information was also sought, and where applicable obtained, from other public and private entities, as well as open sources, such as social media and investigative journalism reports. The Commission also received and examined two complaints from members of civil society. All information received was carefully screened for accuracy and relevance.
25. To the extent that issues were raised from the subject’s five-year declaration, ethics questionnaire, and collected information, those issues were raised in written questions with the subject.
26. On 5 August 2025, the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 13 August 2025 to clarify certain matters (“first round of questions”). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 13 August 2025. On 10 September 2025,

the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 18 September 2025 to clarify certain matters (“second round of questions”). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 17 September 2025. On 29 October 2025, the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 10 November 2025 to clarify certain matters (“third round of questions”). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 10 November 2025. On 25 November 2025, the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 2 December 2025 to clarify certain matters (“fourth round of questions”). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 28 November 2025.

27. On 4 December 2025, the Panel notified the subject that it had identified certain areas of doubt about the subject’s compliance with the financial and ethical criteria and invited the subject to attend a partially public hearing on 15 December 2025 pursuant to art. 16 para. (2) of Law No. 252/2023. The Panel also informed the subject that, in view of specific circumstances related to Issue 1 from Notice of Hearing, that issue would be considered in closed session. The subject was informed about his rights under art. 16 para. (5) of Law No. 252/2023 and that he could request access to the evaluation materials.
28. On 5 December 2025, the subject confirmed his participation in the hearing but requested a different day in view of his business trip on 13 – 20 December 2025. The subject was informed of two possible dates for a hearing. On 6 December 2025, the subject confirmed his availability to participate at a hearing on 10 December 2025. At the same time, he also submitted a request to hold the hearing regarding Issue 2 from Notice of Hearing in closed session. On 8 December 2025, the Panel rejected the subject’s request to hear the Issue 2 in closed session.
29. On 10 December 2025, the subject took part in a partially public hearing of the Panel (“first hearing”). At the hearing, the subject reaffirmed the accuracy of his answers in the five-year declaration and ethics questionnaire and stated that he did not have any corrections or additions to the answers he had previously provided to the Commission’s requests for information.
30. On 9, 11 and 12 December 2025, the subject sent additional information and documents on his own initiative.
31. Following the subject’s request, on 12 December 2025 the subject was granted access to the evaluation materials according to art. 16 para. (5) lit. c) of Law No. 252/2023.
32. On 12 December 2025, the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 22 December 2025 to clarify certain matters (“fifth round of questions”). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 22 December 2025.
33. On 2 January 2026, the Panel notified the subject that it had identified certain areas of doubt about the subject’s compliance with the financial and ethical criteria and invited the subject to attend an additional hearing on 12 January 2026 (“second hearing”), pursuant to art. 16 para. (2) of Law No. 252/2023. Later, on the same day, the subject was informed that the

hearing date was set incorrectly and that it should be 13 January 2026. The Panel also informed the subject that the issue included in the notice of hearing would be considered in closed session. The subject was informed about his rights under art. 16 para. (5) and that he could request access to the evaluation materials. On 4 January 2026, the subject confirmed his availability to participate in a hearing on 13 January 2026.

34. Following the subject's request, on 12 January 2026 the subject was granted access to the additional materials collected in the evaluation process, according to art. 16 para. (5) lit. c) of Law No. 252/2023. The Panel sent to the subject, by e-mail, all additional materials collected in the evaluation process after this date.
35. On 13 January 2026, the subject took part in a closed hearing of the Panel.
36. On 26 January 2026, the Panel asked the subject to provide additional information by 2 February 2026 to clarify certain matters ("sixth round of questions"). The subject provided answers and documents within the set deadline, on 2 February 2026.
37. On 13 February 2026, the Panel discussed the draft evaluation report but was unable to adopt it unanimously. It, therefore, decided to submit the draft evaluation report to the Commission for examination on the following working day, 16 February 2026.
38. According to art. 17 para. (3) of Law No. 252/2023, the Panel submitted the evaluation report to the Commission on 16 February 2026.
39. The Commission analyzed the evaluation materials and the two hearings of the subject held by the Panel. After reviewing the evidence discussed at those the Commission considered that the subject had already been afforded sufficient opportunity to present explanations and respond to the questions raised during the evaluation. The Commission further considered that the information contained in the evaluation file was sufficient to allow it to reach a conclusion. In these circumstances, the Commission, by majority vote, decided not to organize an additional hearing.

V. Analysis

40. This section discusses the relevant facts and reasons for the Commission's conclusion.
41. Based on the information it collected, the Commission analyzed and, where necessary, sought further clarifications from the subject on the following matters:
 - Failures to declare cash savings as required by law in three annual declarations;
 - Source of funds for an apartment bought in 2018 (declared inheritance of 55,000 EUR);
 - Possible deflated purchase price of an apartment bought in December 2018.

42. The first issue (failures to declare cash savings as required by law in three annual declarations) was mitigated before the first hearing. The second and third issues were discussed at the hearings of 10 December 2025 and 13 January 2026.

Issues that raised certain doubts during the evaluation but were either mitigated or do not lead to failure under the thresholds set by Law No. 252/2023:

Issue 1: Failures to declare cash savings as required by law in three annual declarations

43. The subject has not declared any cash savings in his annual declarations of assets and personal interests (“annual declaration”) submitted for the years 2016 and 2017 and has not declared the full amount of available cash savings at the date of submission of his annual declaration for 2018.
44. According to art. 4 para. (1) lit. d) of Law No. 133/2016, the subject was required to declare cash savings exceeding 15 average salaries per economy, available on the date of submission of annual declarations. For 2016, 15 average salaries per economy were 75,750 MDL, for 2017 – 85,456 MDL and for 2018 – 96,690 MDL.
45. In his annual declaration for 2016, submitted on 23 March 2017, the subject did not declare the amount of 210,000 MDL as cash savings. In his annual declaration for 2017, submitted on 26 March 2018, the subject did not declare the amount of 430,000 MDL and 55,000 EUR as cash savings. The subject declared these amounts in reply to the Panel’s first round of written questions (R1-Q2) and explained that the amounts of 210,000 MDL for 2016 and 430,000 MDL for 2017 were approximate estimates of available cash at the end of 2016 and 2017 respectively.
46. The subject conceded that both these amounts exceeded the threshold of 15 average salaries per economy as required by Law No. 133/2016 and that he should have declared these. He explained that the failure to declare these amounts was due primarily to insufficient familiarity with the new declaration rules on declaring cash savings, introduced by Law No. 133/2016 in the course of 2016, in a context in which cash savings were not required to be declared before. He also emphasized that the failure to declare the cash savings amounts for 2016 and 2017 was not intentional and not determined by the goal of hiding or misleading the competent authorities. He further pointed out that for 2017, he declared all income received as inheritance and donations, namely the amounts of 55,000 EUR and 80,000 MDL (inheritance) and 2,000 EUR (donation). Because he did not spend these amounts in 2017, they were still available at the end of 2017.
47. The Commission has examined the financial capacity of the subject to have made savings amounting to 210,000 MDL at the end of 2016. Based on the information available regarding the subject’s income and expenses in 2016, the Commission concludes that such accumulation was plausible.
48. Similarly, the Commission has examined the financial capacity of the subject to have made savings amounting to 430,000 MDL and 55,000 EUR at the end of 2017. The issue

regarding the inheritance of 55,000 EUR and 80,000 MDL is analyzed in detail in Issue 2 below. Accordingly, for the purpose of this analysis, the Commission assessed whether the subject could have accumulated savings of 350,000 MDL (i.e. 430,000 MDL minus 80,000 MDL) from lawful income. The available information on the subject's income and expenses in 2017 allowed the Commission to conclude that the subject could have accumulated the amount of 350,000 MDL.

49. In his annual declaration for 2018, submitted on 28 March 2019, the subject declared 15,000 EUR as cash savings. In reply to the Panel's first round of written questions (R1-Q3), the subject explained that at the end of 2018 he had cash savings in the amounts of 15,000 EUR and 350,000 MDL. Asked to explain the differences between the cash savings declared in his annual declaration for 2018 (15,000 EUR) and in reply to the first round of written questions (R1-Q3), (15,000 EUR and 350,000 MDL), the subject explained in reply to the second round of written questions (R2-Q3) that part of the cash had been used for expenses incurred at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, including approximately 110,000 MDL for furnishing and equipping the apartment (see Issue 3 below), as well as other current expenses at the year's start.
50. The subject further explained that on the date of submission of his annual declaration for 2018 (28 March 2019), he had an approximate amount of 100,000 MDL which was below the relevant declaration threshold and therefore not included in the annual declaration. In the third round of written questions (R3-Q1), the subject was asked to explain why this amount had not been declared together with the amount of 15,000 EUR, given that under Law No. 133/2016 all available cash, irrespective of currency, must be aggregated for the purpose of applying the declaration threshold. The subject explained that he declared only the "effective and durable savings" held in foreign currency, while the approximate amount of 100,000 MDL was destined for and could have been spent on daily expenses. He did not count these together with the amount held in foreign currency, and, because the amount in national currency did not exceed the 15 average salaries per economy threshold, he did not declare it.
51. The Commission notes that this interpretation is not consistent with the requirements of Law No. 133/2016, which obliges declarants to aggregate all available cash irrespective of currency for the purpose of assessing whether the declaration threshold is exceeded.
52. Thus, the Commission has examined the financial capacity of the subject to have accumulated savings amounting to 350,000 MDL at the end of 2018. The available information on the subject's income and expenses in 2018 allowed the Commission to conclude that the subject could have accumulated these amounts. The amount of 15,000 EUR declared by the subject as cash savings at the end of 2018 are part of the declared inheritance, which is analyzed under Issue 2 below.
53. The Commission notes that the subject failed to declare substantial amounts of cash savings for two consecutive years (2016 and 2017) and did not declare the full amount of available cash savings for the third year (2018). The subject's explanations refer to insufficient familiarity with newly introduced declaration rules for the first two years and a legally

incorrect approach for 2018. The Commission is concerned when prosecutors, who are assumed to have a heightened knowledge of the law, claim ignorance of the law as an excuse for omissions or inaccuracies in completing their NIA declarations. Prosecutors are assumed to have an understanding of their legal financial reporting requirements or are assumed to go to the NIA for guidance in situations where they do not.

54. Under Law No. 252/2023, failures related to the legal regime of declaring assets and personal interests may be attributable to either the criterion of ethical or financial integrity, or both. Failure to declare assets may raise concerns of unjustified wealth and may also constitute, in itself, an ethical violation. Pursuant to art. 6.6¹.7 of the Prosecutors' Code of Ethics, approved by the Decision of the General Assembly of Prosecutors No. 4 of 27 May 2026 ("2016 Prosecutors' Code of Ethics"), prosecutors must refrain from concealing or distorting information regarding assets they hold and must ensure full disclosure. Hence, failure to declare assets to the NIA may constitute, in itself, an ethical violation.
55. In the present case the Commission concludes that the subject's failures to declare available cash savings in the annual declarations for 2016, 2017 and 2018 do not raise concerns of unjustified wealth, as the subject's financial capacity to accumulate these amounts from lawful sources has been established. Accordingly, the Commission's remaining concerns in this respect relate to declaration discipline and compliance with the declaration regime as such.
56. The Commission further notes that these failures raise concerns regarding compliance with the 2016 Prosecutors' Code of Ethics. However, art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023 limits the assessment of ethical integrity to the five-year period preceding the evaluation. Pursuant to art. 24 para. (3) lit. b) of the Commission's Rules, this period runs from 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2024, given that the questionnaire was sent on 24 May 2024. The annual declarations containing the analyzed failures were submitted on 23 March 2017, 26 March 2018 and 28 March 2019, all outside the relevant five-year period.
57. Accordingly, without determining whether these failures constituted ethical violations at the time they occurred, the Commission concludes that they cannot be attributed to the subject for the purpose of the ethical integrity assessment under art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023.

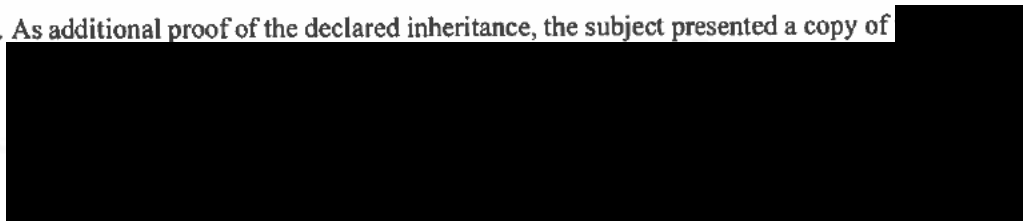
Issue 2: Source of funds for an apartment bought in 2018 (declared inheritance of 55,000 EUR)

58. In his annual declaration for 2017, submitted to NIA on 26 March 2018, the subject declared income received as inheritance of 55,000 EUR and 80,000 MDL (total estimate of 1,244,650 MDL), inherited from his parents in 2017. In December 2018, the subject purchased an apartment for a contractual price of 34,000 EUR (674,872 MDL). In written communication with the Panel, the subject explained that the funds inherited in 2017 from his parents constituted the source of funds used to purchase that apartment. In the absence of these funds, the subject would have faced issues related to unjustified wealth. The Commission therefore examined whether the information available dispels serious doubts that the subject lacked lawful resources to finance the December 2018 acquisition.

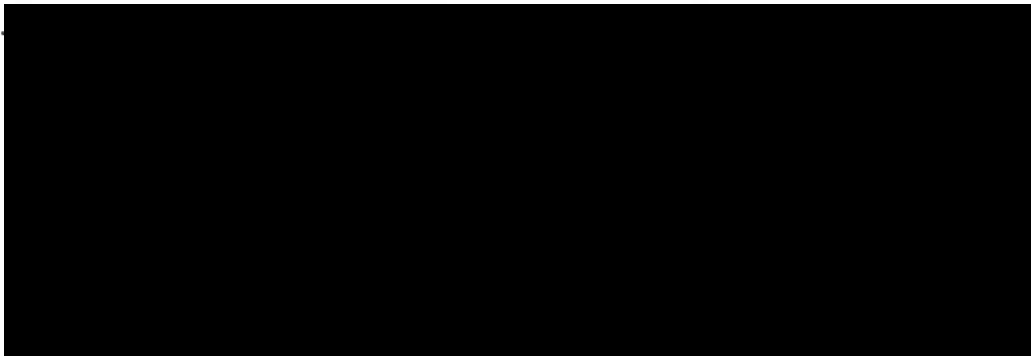
59. The Commission notes that its task is not to reconstruct with certainty the exact amount of inheritance received, but to assess whether the available information leaves serious doubts of unjustified wealth within the meaning of Law No. 252/2023. From this perspective, the Commission examined the documentation and sources of funds related to the declared inheritance of 55,000 EUR. In applying the “serious doubts” standard, the Commission assesses the overall evidentiary picture, including direct and indirect corroboration, internal consistency of explanations, and contextual plausibility.
60. The inheritance was received following [REDACTED] which expressly mentions an estimate amount of 88,065 MDL, 250 EUR and 250 USD found [REDACTED] in the subject’s parents’ house (R1-Q11). The Commission therefore did not raise concerns regarding the declared amount of 80,000 MDL and only focused on the remaining amount of 55,000 EUR, declared in the 2017 annual declaration, submitted in March 2018.
61. The Commission examined the plausibility of the declared inheritance of 55,000 EUR, focusing on available documentation and explanations. Questions regarding this issue were raised in written communication with the subject, as well as during the two hearings.
- a. Documentation of the declared inheritance*
62. Asked in written communication with the Panel whether the inherited funds were included in any will (R1-Q11), the subject stated that, [REDACTED] no will was drafted. He explained that the total inheritance comprised two Subaru vehicles, a residential house with adjacent land, three agricultural land plots and financial means in cash in the amount of 75,000 EUR [REDACTED] and 80,000 MDL (R2-Q5).
63. The subject and his sister, the only heirs, agreed to divide the inheritance such that the subject inherited the two vehicles, while the sister inherited the immovable property (household and land plots). In April 2018, the subject registered the two vehicles as his property. He presented copies of two certificates of legal heir, of 26 April 2018, for the vehicles Subaru Forester, m./y. 1999 and Subaru Forester, m./y. 2009.
64. Regarding the inherited cash, the subject explained that his sister received 20,000 EUR and he received 55,000 EUR. He stated that this unequal division reflected the fact that his sister already owned an apartment to which the parents had previously contributed financially, whereas the subject had no residence of his own. These explanations were provided consistently in written communication and at both hearings. The subject also explained that his sister renounced in the subject’s favor with respect to both the inherited vehicles and the immovable property for purposes of simplifying inheritance related formalities, and that the inheritance procedure regarding the immovable property has not been finalized yet mainly due to cadastral challenges and lack of time, as the subject explained at the first hearing. This statement is confirmed by cadastral data.

65. Asked about the unequal splitting of the cash at the second hearing, the subject provided similar explanations, adding that the sister was more interested in the household and land plots of the parents because her husband has other real estate in the same village and they travel there occasionally, unlike the subject who has no further links with that village. In reply to a post-hearing round of questions, the subject explained that according to his sister, his parents contributed approximately 35,000 MDL (est. 1,570 EUR) to the wedding ceremony in 2010 and approximately 3,000 EUR for the purchase of an apartment after the wedding.
66. The subject stated that, when initiating the inheritance procedure, he informed the public notary of the existence of inherited cash and requested its inclusion in a certificate of legal heir. However, according to the subject, the notary explained that certificates of legal heir could only be issued for funds held in bank accounts or documented by contracts, and not for inherited cash. At the first hearing, the subject provided similar explanations and clarified that he raised the issue of the inherited cash at his first visit to the notary when initiating the inheritance procedure in October 2017.
67. The public notary confirmed in reply to the Panel's inquiry that the inheritance procedure was opened on 5 October 2017 and that certificates of legal heir were issued only for immovable property and vehicles. As to the cash, the public notary replied that he could not recall the amount, due to the passed time, but confirmed that he has never issued certificates of legal heir for cash due to the impossibility of establishing ownership and to avoid disputes among heirs. He also wrote that certificates of legal heir were issued only for money kept at financial institutions, upon presentation to the notary of documents that confirm the property rights.
68. The Commission notes that the reply provided by the public notary, to the extent that it explains why the notary did not quantify any amount of declared inherited cash, is similar to the subject's explanations in reply to written questions and at the hearing. The Commission further notes that art. 1556 – 1557 of the Civil Code, as in force at the relevant time, did not provide an exhaustive list or a detailed classification of the types of assets that must be reflected in a certificate of inheritance. At the same time, the legislation also did not prohibit the inclusion of significant amounts of cash among the inherited assets, and the practice may have varied regarding the inclusion of cash in certificates of inheritance. Accordingly, the omission of cash from the certificates does not establish that no cash existed. However, it also fails to produce any direct documentary support for the amount of cash claimed by the subject to have been found at his parents' property and therefore required the Commission to assess plausibility of this cash through indirect corroboration.
69. The Panel requested information from the Notaries' Chamber of the Republic of Moldova regarding the notarial practice of registering and issuing certificates of legal heir for declared inherited cash in the relevant period. The Chamber's written response does not provide a clear reply to the question asked but refers to the relevant legislation. It does not indicate that legal heir certificates were issued as a rule for cash.

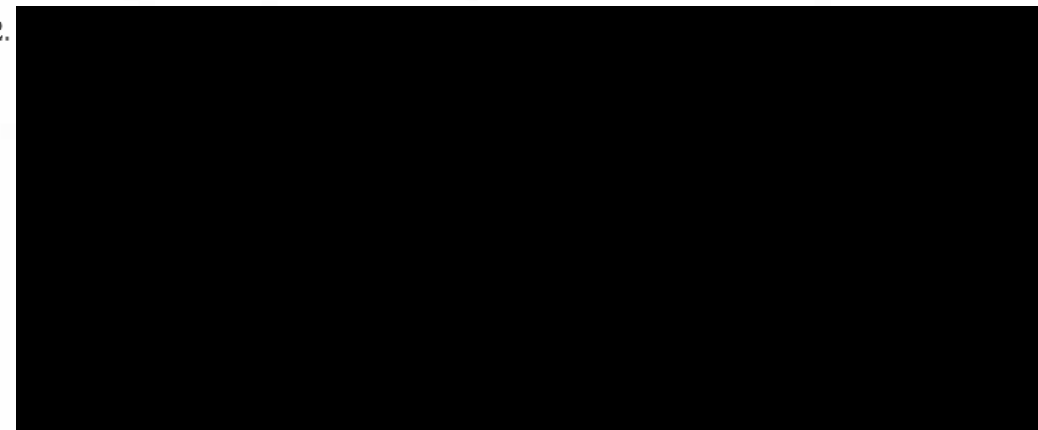
70. As additional proof of the declared inheritance, the subject presented a copy of



71.

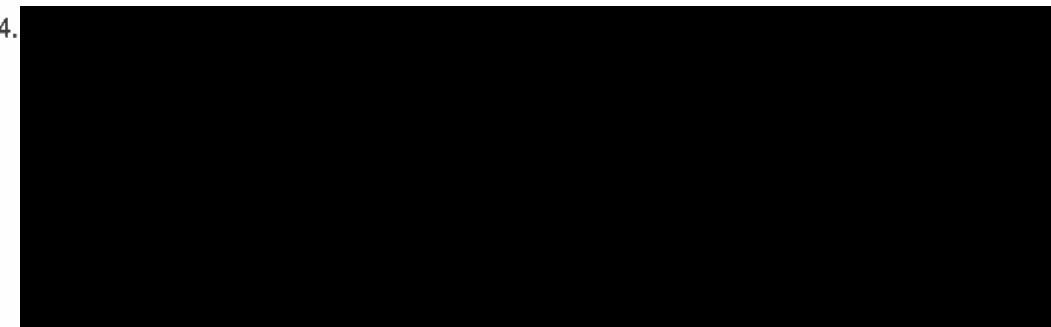


72.



73. At the same time, the Commission avoids substituting its own *ex post* expectations for the investigators' on-the-spot operational choices. The Commission therefore assessed whether the subject's explanations and the contextual information could reasonably account for the omission, without turning that omission into a conclusive proof of non-existence of the declared cash.

74.



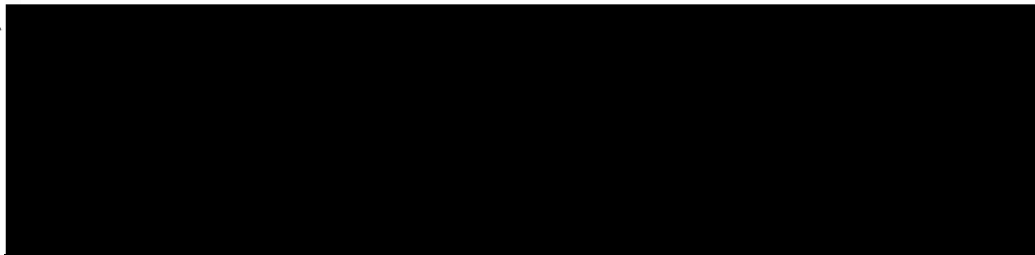


75. At the second hearing, the subject provided additional details regarding the structure of his parents' household, explaining that it consisted of a residential house, another house next to it, where his parents were also living, then three auxiliary buildings in which they kept various goods and after those the annex containing a basement where the cash was found. He explained that this annex had been used as a dwelling approximately 20 years earlier and was later used for storage.



76. Asked to explain the exact location where the cash was found, the subject stated that it was kept in a plastic bag placed in a plastic jar typically used in Moldovan villages for food preservation, located on a shelf behind wine barrels in the basement of the annex used for storage (the last annex, as explained above). He also explained that in that basement his parents kept wine and home-made preserves and that the jar was located on a shelf, alongside other three-four similar jars, behind three wine barrels. He stated that the jar was not easily visible and that he identified it quickly because his sister and he had known since childhood that their parents customarily kept savings in that area.

77.



Accordingly, the absence of an explicit mention of the foreign currency cash reasonably raised the Panel's questions, but it does not, on its own, conclusively establish that the foreign currency did not exist.

78. At both hearings, the subject was asked if he and his family members knew about the amount of cash accumulated by his parents and where it was kept. The subject explained that he and his sister had always, since childhood, known that their parents kept their savings in the basement of an auxiliary building near the parents' house, in a specific place, but they were never aware of the amount. He also explained that his parents kept all their savings together, including the earnings of his father in Israel, his mother's salary and the income from the shop – bar that his parents were running since 1995 (see more on this aspect in the paragraphs on the sources of funds below). He did not know the exact amount accumulated by his parents, but he knew that his parents were periodically exchanging national currency to foreign currency for the purpose of keeping their savings, including through transactions with people from the village. At both hearings the subject explained

that he knew that the parents had accumulated a significant amount of cash, but “whether there were 50,000 EUR or 100,000 EUR”, [REDACTED]

79. Asked if he knew about any specific purpose for the accumulated cash by his parents, the subject explained that there was no specific purpose discussed with him or among his family with him being present. At both hearings the subject explained that in the last years prior to his death, his father mentioned several times that he wanted to buy an apartment in Chisinau and move there with the subject’s mother, for a more comfortable life, but that his mother refused. The subject explained that his father mentioned this a few times, without taking concrete steps to purchase an apartment. The subject considered that this intention was nevertheless an indication that the amount accumulated by his parents was significant. The subject explained, at both hearings, that he found out the exact amount of inherited cash only when he counted the cash [REDACTED]

Conclusions on documentation of inheritance

80. The Commission notes that it is impossible to confirm with any certainty the amount of cash found at the parents’ property. Regarding the documentation of the inheritance declared by the subject, the Commission notes that the subject did not present any direct documentation or other kind of evidence specifically attesting to the existence of 75,000 EUR claimed to have been found at the parents’ house, or to the amount of 55,000 EUR declared by the subject in March 2018 as inherited from his parents. At the same time, the Commission notes that the information presented by the subject regarding his unsuccessful attempt to obtain a certificate of legal heir back in 2017 for the inherited cash is partially supported, though not fully confirmed, by the legislation framework and the ambiguous notarial practice at the relevant period (before the modernization of the Civil Code in 2019), as it transpires from the replies of the public notary that initiated the inheritance procedure and of the Notaries’ Chamber provided to the Panel’s requests.

81. The Commission also takes into account the specific circumstances of [REDACTED]. The Commission further notes that the inheritance differs, by its nature, from sources that typically allow contemporaneous documentation by the subjects and their close persons (such as loans or donations). The Commission also notes, as a relevant contextual factor, that the subject declared the inherited amount in his annual declaration submitted in March 2018. In view of the limited documentary evidence on the exact inherited amount, the Commission proceeded to assess the plausibility of the parents’ apparent capacity to accumulate savings prior to August 2017.

b. Sources of funds for the inheritance

82. Asked about the sources of funds from which his parents accumulated the amount inherited by the subject and his sister, the subject explained that these consisted of three main sources (R1-Q11):

- a) income obtained from the activity of an individual company registered by his father in 1995, which the subject's parents managed from 1995 until 13 August 2017 (hereinafter "father's company" or "shop-bar");
- b) income received by the subject's mother, who worked as a teacher between 1998 and August 2017;
- c) income received by the subject's father, who worked in Israel from 2003 to 2011 - 2012, with an estimative salary of 1,500 - 2,000 USD per month.

83. Because the subject explained in the second round of questions (R2-Q5) that he and his sister split a total of 75,000 EUR inherited from their parents, the Commission focused on assessment of plausibility of the subject's parents to accumulate such a substantial amount of cash prior to August 2017. This assessment did not seek to establish exact amounts or a precise accumulation timeline due to lack of adequate documentation, but rather to determine whether the declared inheritance by the subject, as the main source of funds for purchasing his apartment in 2018, was reasonably supported by the available information. In view of evaluation criteria provided by Law No. 252/2023, the Commission's main concern was to determine whether the available information dispelled serious doubts of unjustified wealth during the evaluation period. Based on the subject's explanations, presented information and the data collected by the Panel, the following conclusions were drawn regarding each of the three sources indicated by the subject.

84. **Father's company (shop-bar):** According to the information provided by the STS, the father's company was registered on 21 February 1995. The registered fields of activity included retail trade in non-specialized stores with predominant sales of food, beverages and tobacco products. According to the STS, the company obtained insignificant official profit in 2001 and 2003 – 2007, zero profit in 2008 – 2013 and incurred losses in 2002 and 2014 - 2017.²

85. Asked about the company's activity in written communication with the Panel, the subject stated (R2-Q5) that he could not explain the reasons for zero income in 2012 – 2013 and losses in 2014 – 2017,³ because he knew it was a profitable business given the constant nature of its activities. The Commission notes that this assertion is not supported by the STS data, which reflect minimal/zero profit or losses for substantial periods. The subject also submitted copies of handwritten notes taken by his mother purportedly tracking goods that, according to him, were bought and sold by the company. Based on these notes, the subject stated that the profit of the company during the last two months prior to his parents' [REDACTED] was of 145,315 MDL. In reply to the third round of written questions (R3-Q3) and before the first hearing, the subject presented copies of similar handwritten notes taken for several years of the company's activity.

86. The Commission has analyzed the handwritten notes presented by the subject throughout the evaluation process. These notes include columns with the price of the products bought

² The data from STS for 2001 – 2017 indicate the following profits of the company: 615 MDL in 2001, -514 in 2002, 1,459 MDL in 2003, 1,895 MDL in 2004, 883 MDL in 2005, 750 MDL in 2006, 1,500 in 2007, 0 MDL in 2008 – 2013, -4,138 MDL in 2014, -4,839 MDL in 2015, -99,933 MDL in 2016 and -131,102 MDL in 2017.

³ At the moment the subject was asked about the company, information from STS was available only for the years 2012 – 2017.

and columns with the sale price of those products. For some months they have presented clearly the amounts of bought and sold products, as well as the profit indicated by the author of the notes. The notes do not indicate the expenses related to running the company. The copies of handwritten notes, presented by the subject to the Panel, include the following months and years and what seems to be profits:

- 2004 – only one date (14 October 2004), indicating 14,779 MDL (est. 964 EUR);
- 2005 – only one date (13 February 2005), indicating 10,588 MDL (est. 651 EUR);
- 2011 – entries starting 16 June 2011, covering June (14,030 MDL), July (17,210 MDL) and August (8,724 MDL), total 39,624 MDL (est. 2,425 EUR);
- 2012 – entries starting 14 June 2012, covering June (24,346 MDL), July (31,262 MDL), August (9,467 MDL), October (8,401 MDL), November (22,006 MDL) and December (2,477 MDL), total 97,959 MDL (est 6,294 EUR);
- 2013 – entries for February (7,322 MDL), March (11,296 MDL), April (25,523 MDL), July (21,626 MDL) and August (8,969 MDL), total 74,735 MDL (est. 4,470 EUR);
- 2015 – entries dated 14 February 2015 and 14 June 2015, also the months of February (13,528 MDL), March (15,766 MDL), April (7,094 MDL), June (15,805 MDL), July (36,089 MDL) and August (9,143 MDL), total 97,425 MDL (est. 4,660 EUR);
- 2016 – entries starting 14 June 2016, covering June (35,491 MDL), July (29,652 MDL), August – October (27,384 MDL), November (44,839 MDL) and December (2,198 MDL), total 139,564 MDL (est. 6,327 EUR);
- 2017 – entries dated 14 February 2017 and 14 June 2017, also the months of February (14,304 MDL), March (16,472 MDL), April (4,251 MDL), June (23,061 MDL), July (32,338 MDL) and August (11,918 MDL), total 102,304 MDL (est. 4,913 EUR).

87. Based on these notes, the subject's parents could have had a profit from the father's company's activity between 2004 and August 2017⁴ of total 576,948 MDL (est. 30,704 EUR), out of which only during 2012 – 2017 (after the father's return from Israel) it could have been of 511,987 MDL (est. 26,664 EUR). The Commission stresses that these figures are indicative and cannot be treated as established profits because the notes do not document operating costs, do not allow verification of the underlying transactions, and do not reconcile with STS data.

88. The subject has explained (R2-Q5) that during the company's activity, his parents also exchanged MDL to foreign currency (USD, EUR) for the residents of the village, who were receiving foreign currency from relatives working abroad. Consequently, according to the subject, the long-term savings (irrespective of the source of funds) were kept by his parents in foreign currency, mainly EUR, an assertion not supported by independent records. The Commission also notes that the handwritten notes presented by the subject include entries that appear to reflect amounts exchanged from foreign currency to local currency (for example: changed 2,050 \$ x 20,10 = 41,205 [MDL]; 2,000 € x 21,066 [MDL] = 42,132;

⁴ The Commission notes that the handwritten notes do not cover all the months in the period 2004 – 2017.

320 €, 320 \$, 1,000 RUB (Russian currency), 190 \$ + € from home), which are consistent with the subject's explanations. Foreign currency, alongside national currency, were also identified

(88,065 MDL, 250 EUR and 250 USD).

89. The subject indicated in written communication with the Panel that his mother worked for a while on the basis of an individual patent, which implied minimum record keeping and could explain the lack of profits reported by the father's company to the STS. However, the information on a potential patent for the subject's mother or father was not confirmed by the STS for the period of 2003 - 2017. The subject submitted additional information from STS after the first hearing of indicating that his mother had a valid patent in 2000, for half a year.
90. At the first hearing the subject provided additional explanations regarding the nature of the father's company, which had not been presented at this level of detail previously in written communication with the Panel. He explained that the company was in fact a family-run business that represented a shop-bar located in the center of his parents' village. The subject explained that the shop-bar sold food products and also provided bar-related services (serving various drinks). He further explained that, according to his recollection, villagers occasionally exchanged foreign currency received from abroad at the shop-bar, as his parents generally kept their savings in foreign currency and periodically exchanged profits from the shop-bar into foreign currency. The subject explained that the bar-shop consisted of a two-room building, with a terrace, located in the center of the village, popular among villagers and was constantly working throughout the years until August 2017. On that basis, the subject expressed the view that the business could not have been entirely non-profitable.
91. The subject also stated that his mother was primarily in charge of record-keeping at the company throughout its operation and that there was only one person outside the family who occasionally acted as a seller, while mainly the subject's grandmother and his mother were taking turns as sellers in the shop-bar, with the subject and his sister also helping occasionally. The subject presented a written statement of this person which provides information about the shop-bar consistent with the subject's explanations. At the second hearing, asked about the salary of the person that was helping in the shop-bar, the subject explained that he did not know, but he could ask that person. The subject was sure that the person was never officially hired and that, to his recollection, he was receiving some monetary remuneration but also food products sold in the shop. The subject explained that he was not working full-time in the shop but mainly during the subject's mother's school hours and when the grandmother was not working.
92. Regarding the company's profits, the subject explained that he did not participate in the management of the father's company and was not involved in its financial administration and therefore he did not have direct knowledge of its accounting records, being certain that it was run in line with the relevant legislation and that it was profitable.

Conclusions on income from the father's company

93. Regarding the income obtained from the subject's father's company, based on the information available to the Commission, the Commission cannot conclude on an exact amount of income, profits and possible savings. The Commission notes that the STS information does not support the conclusion that the business generated significant profits. At the same time, the Commission notes that the explanations on the nature of this business provided by the subject at the hearings add contextual information regarding the manner in which the business operated, which cannot be entirely ignored. A centrally located shop-bar in a rural village, which according to the subject operated continuously and was for a long period of time the only such establishment in the locality, would reasonably be expected to have generated at least some level of profit, even if limited. [REDACTED]

94. The Commission notes that the handwritten notes about the company's activity, presented by the subject, suggest that there has been a constant flow of bought and sold products, which is an indicator that there was on-going commercial activity. However, the Commission reiterates that the handwritten notes do not allow the Commission to draw conclusions on the exact company's profits or the periods when its activity was not profitable. At the same time, the Commission takes into account that the subject has provided consistent explanations regarding the nature of the father's company's activity. The Commission further notes that the funds identified [REDACTED] (88,065 MDL, 250 EUR and 250 USD) confirm that there was cash on the premises. However, these amounts, taken alone, cannot establish long-term profitability or the level of profits over years. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that it is plausible that the company generated some income and turnover beyond what was reflected in STS records, but the Commission cannot quantify that income.

95. Even if the company's reporting to the STS had not been accurate, this would not be attributable to the subject in a manner relevant to the subject's integrity assessment, because the inheritance was received by the subject only after the death of his parents. While the Commission cannot and does not draw a conclusion on a concrete amount which could have been saved from this company's activity, the Commission concludes that the information presented by the subject supports the existence of a continuous source of income, which could have covered operating costs of the shop-bar and current needs of the parents. This finding is relevant primarily to the question of whether the subject's parents could cover current expenditures without necessarily consuming all potential foreign earnings. This finding alone, however, is insufficient to establish that the parents accumulated 55,000 EUR. It is therefore assessed together with the other sources (mother's salary and father's work abroad).

96. In light of the above, the Commission accepts that the father's company likely generated some continuous income but cannot quantify it. Taking into account the cash identified [REDACTED] the Commission concludes that, at a minimum, the shop-bar could reasonably have allowed the parents to cover current needs and thereby preserve the father's foreign income as savings (see below).

97. **Mother's income:** According to the information provided by the STS, the subject's mother's gross income for the period 1998 – 2017 was of 666,716 MDL (est. 32,000 EUR⁵). The mother's income for 2006 – July 2017 was 475,071 MDL (est. 22,800 EUR⁶). The Commission has calculated the subject's parents' Consumer Expenditure per Population ("CEP")⁷, for the period of 2006⁸ – August 2017 in total amount of 313,998 MDL (with the assumptions set out below regarding household size during the father's work abroad). These data allowed the Commission to conclude that, based on the mother's salary alone and under the CEP assumptions used, the family could have accumulated a net income of 161,073 MDL (9,430 EUR⁹) for the period 2006 – July 2017.
98. The Commission did not identify any significant purchases (such as real estate, cars, luxury goods) by the subject's parents during 2006 – 2017, except for two vehicles purchased by the subject's father in 2012 (Subaru Forester, m./y. 1999) and 2017 (Subaru Forester, m./y. 2009). The subject could not provide information on the prices of these two vehicles and the Commission was not able to identify the sales-purchase information on these vehicles in view of the fact that the PSA does not keep information from these periods. In view of lack of information on the exact prices paid by the subject's father to purchase the two cars, the Commission assessed based on public data that the price of the vehicle bought in 2012 could have been 3,440 EUR¹⁰ and that bought in 2017 could have cost approximately 11,370 EUR.¹¹ These are indicative estimates used only for plausibility assessment.

⁵ At the NBM average exchange rate for 2017.

⁶ At the NBM average exchange rate for 2017.

⁷ The consumption expenditures for Population (CEP) are determined and published on annual basis by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The exact amount per subject of evaluation is calculated by the Commission using the NBS data, taking into account the number of family members, residence area (rural or urban). The CEP for any year between 2006 - 2018 is calculated based on NBS methodology applied for the period of 2006 - 2018 (on the basis of "stable population" in the "discontinued series") and the method available on the NBS site. In this case, the indicator of Consumption expenditures by population according to purpose of expenditures, number of children and area 2006-2018 is chosen with the following variables: Year - Consumption expenditures total – Area (Urban/Rural) – Number of children (if no children, without children is chosen) – Lei, average monthly per capita for one person. The generated result is multiplied by the number of family members and 12 calendar months.

The CEP for any year between 2019 - 2023 is calculated based on NBS methodology and the method available on the NBS website. In this case, the indicator of Consumption expenditures by population according to purpose of expenditures, number of children and area 2019 - 2022 is chosen with the following variables: Year - Consumption expenditures total – Area (Urban/Rural) – Number of children (if no children, without children is chosen) – Lei, average monthly per capita for one person. The generated result is multiplied by the number of family members and 12 calendar months.

⁸ NBS does not provide information on CEP costs prior to 2006.

⁹ At the NBM average exchange rate for each year in the period 2006 - 2017.

¹⁰ The average current market value of similar vehicles is 2,275 EUR. Using an online vehicle depreciation calculator, and applying a reverse-depreciation approach, the observed average market value of approximately EUR 2,275 in 2026 was rolled back over a period of 14 years, using a standard annual depreciation rate of around 5%. On this basis, the reconstructed market value of the vehicle in 2012 is estimated at approximately EUR 3,440.

¹¹ The average current market value of similar vehicles is 8,300 EUR. Using an online vehicle depreciation calculator, and applying a reverse-depreciation approach, the observed average market value of approximately EUR 8,300 in 2026 was rolled back over a period of 9 years, using a standard annual depreciation rate of around 5%. On this basis, the reconstructed market value of the Subaru Forester (model year 2009) in 2017 is estimated at approximately EUR 11,370.

Conclusions on the mother's income

99. Considering the net income based on the mother's salary for 2006 – 2012, the cost of the vehicle purchased in 2012 by the subject's father could have been covered entirely by the income from the mother's salary.
100. As for the vehicle purchased by the subject in 2017, the net income from the mother's salary would have been insufficient. At the same time, the Commission notes that on 21 November 2016, the subject's father made three bank transfers to Italy to a person that the Commission could not identify, in a total amount of 2,924 EUR. In view of this, the cost of the vehicle (11,370 EUR) and of the transfer (2,924 EUR) were added to the expenses, amounting to a total of 14,294 EUR. The mother's salary for 2013 – July 2017 (253,937 MDL), deducted by the CEP expenses for two persons for the same period (209,268 MDL) had left 44,669 MDL (est. 2,140 EUR). If this amount is added to the potential amount of 26,664 EUR that could have been accumulated from the shop-bar of the parents for the period 2012 - 2017, the subject's parents could have saved up to 28,804 EUR by August 2017, which is sufficient to cover the cost of 11,370 EUR for the Subaru vehicle purchased in 2017 and of the 2,924 EUR transfers and to have extra savings of 14,510 EUR.
101. However, the Commission reiterates that the above calculations are scenario-based and not determinative, because they lack exact information regarding the purchase prices of the vehicles and the actual income from the shop-bar. The data on the mother's salary and the continuous running of the shop-bar only allow the Commission to conclude that the subjects' parents could have covered their daily living expenses and the current needs, including the cost of the two purchased vehicles in 2012 and 2017, from the mother's salary and the shop-bar, while the father's income abroad (examined below), could have been preserved as cash savings. Based on the available information, the Commission cannot establish significant savings from the shop-bar and the mother's salary, but also cannot exclude that some savings were possible.
102. **Father's income in Israel:** The subject explained that his father worked in Israel from 2003 to 2011 - 2012, with an estimative salary of 1,500 - 2,000 USD per month. In written communication with the Panel, the subject did not provide details about the exact type of work performed by his father in Israel. He informed the Panel that he does not have documentary confirmation regarding the exact salary received by his father but presented two written statements: one from a father's friend who worked in Israel during the same period, and one from the subject's sister. Both indicated that the father earned approximately 1,500 – 2,000 USD per month (R1-Q11).
103. The Panel requested additional information from the father's friend regarding both his own employment and the employment of the subject's father in Israel. The friend replied in writing, explaining that he had been legally employed in Israel between 2003 - 2012, together with the subject's father, as caregivers for elderly. According to his reply, they were remunerated with a fixed monthly salary of 1,500 USD and received accommodation and meals from their employers. He further explained that, to his knowledge, the subject's father also performed additional services during free time, earning on average 400 - 500

USD per month. He indicated that no pay slips or bank documentation were issued by his employer and that he retained no documentary proof of his work and remuneration in Israel.

104. In response to the third round of written questions (R3-Q4), the subject provided copies of his father's passport containing visas stamps for Israel, including work permits. After the first hearing, he submitted a complete copy of that passport. Based on the copies provided, the father held work visas (working permits) for Israel between October 2007 and May 2012, in several continuous yearly segments (e.g., 3 November 2007 – 11 October 2008; 13 May 2009 – 13 May 2010; 16 May 2010 – 30 April 2011; 3 May 2011 – 3 May 2012), and in shorter segments in other periods (22 October – 21 November 2007; 13 November – 15 December 2008). The last visa in the provided passport was a non-working visa issued for 15 February – 15 May 2012. The passport was issued on 14 June 2007; therefore, no travel data prior to that date is contained in this document. The Panel requested information on previous passports from the PSA, which informed the Panel that the previous passport (valid until 6 March 2008) had been declared lost by the subject's father.

105. Consequently, the Commission has objective documentary confirmation of lawful work permits covering the period October 2007 – May 2012. Employment prior to mid-2007 remains plausible but not directly documented through available to the Commission documents. A transfer of 5,000 USD of 12 December 2006 by the subject's father from Israel provides indirect indication that the father was already engaged in remunerated activity abroad at that time.

106. Based on the information presented by the subject and collected by the Panel, the following transfers made by the subject's father (to the subject or the subject's sister), from Israel to the Republic of Moldova were identified (chronologically):

- 5,000 USD, 12 December 2006
- 100 USD, 12 March 2007
- 200 USD, 22 February 2008
- 300 USD, 17 May 2008
- 200 USD, 24 July 2008
- 750 USD, 27 October 2009
- 100 USD, 1 December 2009
- 350 USD, 31 December 2009
- 150 USD, 29 March 2010
- 100 USD, 9 March 2011
- 1,000 USD, 28 June 2011
- 150 USD, 28 July 2011
- 400 USD, 27 October 2011
- 4,000 EUR, 13 February 2012

107. In total, the Commission identified 14 bank transfers between 2006 - 2012 amounting to 8,800 USD and 4,000 EUR.

108. While the total amount of documented transfers is modest in comparison to the salary level claimed by the subject, the pattern of repeated remittances over several years constitutes objective corroboration that the father was generating remunerated income in Israel. At the same time, these transfers do not allow the Commission to determine either the full duration of employment or the total income earned.
109. At the first hearing, the subject provided additional explanations regarding his father's work in Israel, as well as his activity after returning to the Republic of Moldova in 2012. He explained that his father had been hired in Israel through an intermediary company, but that he was not able to provide any documentation in this regard, and that subsequent attempts to identify that company were unsuccessful. He explained that the father took care of elderly persons, working in assigned families, and was also carrying out other activities during weekend and free days. He explained that he recalls his father stating that his income was partially covered by the state of Israel and partially by the families he was assigned to. He was not aware of any bank accounts of the father in Israel.
110. The subject argued that his father worked in Israel for an approximate period of nineteen years, between 2003 and 2011/2012, usually with some breaks between acquiring new visas (R1-Q23; R2-Q5; R3-Q5 and the hearings). He also explained that his father worked usually for the full year, with one month paid vacation and traveled home usually once per year. At the first hearing, the subject explained that his father returned home because he was no longer allowed to work in Israel given the fact that he had been working there for ten years already. The subject referred to the wording of the last visa in 2012 indicating that employment was no longer permitted, which is consistent with his account that the father's work abroad ended in 2012.
111. The subject explained that his father was sending cash via friends and acquaintances that were traveling to the Republic of Moldova, amounts that were often picked up by the subject from the airport and transmitted to his mother for keeping. He also explained that his father usually had accommodation and meals provided in Israel, which would have reduced his living expenses and increased his capacity to remit funds. He explained that his father made several bank transfers as well, with smaller amounts (a few hundred dollars) intended for the subject or his sister for personal use, while larger amounts were intended to be transmitted to his mother for keeping. He also explained that, as far as he knew, his parents did not keep separate savings according to their source, but pooled together income from the father's work in Israel, the mother's salary, and the activity of the shop-bar.
112. The subject has further explained that after his father's return from Israel, he was not officially employed, but focused on household activities, including cultivating land and growing and selling rabbits, and assisted periodically with the operation of the shop-bar, though to a lesser extent in the last years preceding his death. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] were no significant acquisitions or investments in the shop-bar or their family after the father's return from Israel. He explained that the shop-bar did not need significant investments while his father was working in Israel. Based on the information available, the Commission concludes that the income earned by the subject's father while working in

Israel was not used in connection with the family business. In the absence of concrete indications of capital injections into the business, it appears that no link has been established between the father's income from Israel and investments in the father's company.

Conclusions on the father's income in Israel

113. Based on the information available to the Commission, it cannot determine a clear and precise amount that the subject's father earned in Israel, both due to insufficient information on the exact period of work in Israel, as well as the exact amounts earned by the subject's father in Israel.
114. Regarding the period of work, the subject claims that his father worked in Israel for a period of nine-ten years, usually full years with some breaks in certain years between acquiring new visas. At the same time, the Commission notes that it was presented only with passport copies that show visas, with various durations, from October 2007 until May 2012. The Commission notes that it has no other evidence of the subject's father's travel and work to Israel prior to the year of 2007, except a transfer of 5,000 USD by the father from Israel to the Republic of Moldova on 12 December 2006. The Commission also notes that the copies of the visas do not provide a full and comprehensive picture of travel and work, with some not being very clear and some containing overlapping dates. The Commission further notes that the copy of the presented passport only has information from 2007 because the passport was issued in June 2007. The Commission admits that the father might have traveled and worked before 2007 in Israel, but notes that it has no information to rely on. At the same time, the Commission cannot ignore the bank transfers made by the father from Israel to the Republic of Moldova, including prior to 2007, as there is no other reasonable explanation of such transfers besides the fact that the father was working in Israel.
115. In this context, the Commission takes into account both the available information from the passport on visas issued for the subject's father to travel and work in Israel, as well as the information on bank transfers made by the subject's father from Israel to the Republic of Moldova between 2006 – 2012, and concludes that the available information indicates that the subject's father did work and earned income in Israel for at least a total of five years and six months (66 months) between 2006 and 2012. These conclusions are based on the following main corroborated available data:
 - 6 months in 2006 – based on the transfer of 5,000 USD on 12 December 2006 (the subject's father needed a minimum of five months to work to collect that amount and it was transferred mid-December);
 - 12 months in 2007 – based on one bank transfer on 12 March 2007, as well as the next working permit visa issued for 3 November 2007 – 11 October 2008, which indicates that the previous visa could have been for a year and this explains the transfers of December 2006 and March 2007;

- 12 months in 2008 – based on the working permit visa for 3 November 2007 and 11 October 2008, one for 13 November – 15 December 2008 and three bank transfers on 22 February, 17 May and 24 July 2008;
- 8 months in 2009 – based on the working permit visa for 13 May 2009 - 13 May 2010, as well as three bank transfers on 27 October, 1 December and 31 December 2009;
- 12 months in 2010 – based on the working permit visas for 13 May 2009 – 13 May 2010 and 16 May 2010 – 30 April 2011, as well as bank transfer of 29 March 2010;
- 12 months in 2011 – based on the working permit visas for 16 May 2010 – 30 April 2011 and 3 May 2011 – 3 May 2012, as well as bank transfers of 9 March 2011, 28 June 2011, 28 July and 27 October 2011;
- 4 months in 2012 – based on the working permit visa for 3 May 2011 – 3 May 2012, the non-work visa for 15 February – 15 May 2012, as well as the exit stamp of 2 July 2012.

116. Regarding the exact amount of the remuneration of the subject's father in Israel, the Commission notes that it was not presented with any direct evidence like copies of work contracts, pay slips, bank statements etc. At the same time, the Commission acknowledges that the father made several bank transfers to the Republic of Moldova which is a strong indication that he was being paid while in Israel. The Commission also takes into account the fact that the father was issued work permit visas for several years, as outlined above. In view of Israel's strict visa policy, the work permits and bank transfers from Israel are strong indicators that the subject's father worked and received remuneration in Israel.

117. In written communication with the Panel and at the hearings, the subject indicated that his father was receiving a monthly salary of 1,500 USD - 2,000 USD, concluding on an average of 1,750 USD monthly salary. In addition, the subject stated that his father worked for nine-ten years and accumulated income throughout the period. As explained above, the Commission accepts a maximum of 66 months for the father's work in Israel. In view of a lack of any indication regarding the exact salary that the father was paid, the Commission cannot automatically accept the subject's claim about the monthly salary. Instead, the Commission resorts to public information available on programs for caregivers implemented by Israel in the late 2000s – 2012, according to which the minimum wage for foreign caregivers was approximately 1,000 USD per month, including paid minimum two weeks' vacation.¹²

118. Based on these data, for a total of 66 months accepted as work in Israel, the Commission concludes that the subject's father could have earned a total salary of 66,000 USD between 2006 and 2012. The Commission notes that this is a conservative calculation based on publicly available data on the minimum wage.

119. The Commission further notes that the modest level of remittances identified in paragraphs 106 - 107 does not contradict the above plausibility estimate, given the subject's

¹² Conclusion made based on several sources of information regarding the caregivers' programs implemented in Israel in late 2000' – 2012, including: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3561228/>; www.kavlaovcd.org.il/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/06/Caregivers-Zchutonim-English.pdf.

consistent explanation that part of the father's earnings was transmitted informally as cash through acquaintances. While the Commission does not treat informal remittances as established, it takes this possibility into account when assessing the overall plausibility of accumulation of cash savings, particularly in light of the claimed provision of accommodation and meals in Israel.

120. At the same time, the Commission notes that this amount is comparable with documented amounts transferred from the work in Israel by other Moldovan nationals during comparable periods, for example a total amount of 52,240 EUR and 4,000 USD, transferred between 2008 – 2014.¹³
121. Regarding expenses and other income earned by the subject's father while working in Israel, in written communication with the Panel and at the hearings, the subject explained that his father was provided with accommodation and full board by the families he was assigned to work for. The subject also indicated that, in addition to the salary received, his father was doing also weekend work, such as gardening, for which he was paid additionally. The Commission does not have any concrete information on the amounts received, nor on expenses incurred by the father. At the same time, the public information on caregivers' programs implemented by Israel in late 2000' – 2012 also indicate that foreign caregivers were provided accommodation and food by the families they were working for. In view of this, the Commission concluded not to take into account the additional income that the subject's father could have earned for working on weekends, taking into account that he must have incurred at least some daily expenses besides the food provided and accommodation. The Commission notes that this is a reasonable concession considering lack of any direct information on the additional income and incurred expenses, including travel expenses.
122. In view of the fact that the Commission cannot establish the income and potential savings from the shop-bar run by the parents, but with relevant indirect evidence showing that the business was running and most probably was profitable, the Commission proceeded to examine the amount of potential inheritance the subject could have received in 2017 based on the total minimum income that the father could have made while working in Israel, namely a total of 66,000 USD (est. 47,830 EUR¹⁴) and the potential impact of such calculated inheritance on the subject's financial balance in the period 2017 - 2023. Again, this approach is deliberately conservative: where the Commission cannot establish additional earnings or precise savings, it makes reasoned assumptions which avoid overestimating the inherited amount. Further, in arriving at these estimates the Commission gives the subject the benefit of certain doubts and did not subtract from the total estimated savings the cost of the father's travel to Israel, or any costs for incidental and daily expenses. At the same time, the Commission also disregarded the subject's claim about additional income received by his father during weekends and holidays.

¹³ See for details Decision No. 1 of 25 October 2022, Pre-Vetting Commission, available at <https://vetting.md/prevetting/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Decision-MITROFAN-redacted.pdf>, as well as the hearing during which the country Israel is mentioned: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UET1q0uqyKs>.

¹⁴ Converted at NBM average exchange rate for each year in the period 2006 – 2012.

123. The subject explained that he and his sister inherited in total 75,000 EUR, which was divided as follows: 55,000 EUR (73%) to the subject and 20,000 EUR (27%) to the subject's sister. We note that the existence of the claimed amount of 75,000 EUR is not established by the Commission's review of all available evidence of the father's work in Israel. What can be established from available evidence is a lower total potential monetary inheritance of 47,830 EUR, of which the subject's share would have been 73%, or 34,916 EUR. This amount, together with other subject's income in the period 2017 - 2023, is sufficient to cover all the expenses identified by the Commission in the same period to the extent that no negative balance exceeding the threshold provided by art. 11 para. (3) lit. a) Law No. 252/2023 is established.
124. In conclusion, the Commission notes that it was presented with a complex situation in which limited direct information was available to confirm the amount of funds inherited by the subject in 2017. However, taking into account the cumulative weight of the indirect evidence, the overall consistency of the subject's explanations regarding this issue and the exceptional circumstances of the inheritance, [REDACTED] the Commission has examined the plausibility of the declared inheritance and the impact of the accepted plausible amounts on the subject's financial capacity to buy an apartment in December 2018. The evidence presented to the Commission does not allow the Commission to confirm the exact figure of 55,000 EUR declared by the subject as inheritance and used as the main source for purchasing an apartment in December 2018. However, taken cumulatively, the evidence is sufficient to dispel serious doubts that the subject lacked lawful resources to finance the December 2018 acquisition. Based on a plausible income of 66,000 USD earned by the subject's father in Israel, the Commission concludes that the subject could have received an inheritance of 34,916 EUR in August 2017. This amount, together with the subject's income, was sufficient for the subject to buy the apartment in December 2018.
125. In view of the specificity and complexity of the case, the Commission reiterates its main arguments for proceeding to analyze the plausibility of the subject's parents' income despite a lack of direct evidence on the income received by the subject's father in Israel:
- a. The subject has declared the inheritance as income in his annual declaration for 2017, submitted on 26 March 2018. He explained the "fate" of these funds and declared them accordingly at the relevant time, not post-factum or as an explanation to the Panel's questions within the evaluation process;
 - b. The subject presented copies of his father's passport indicating his father's travel to Israel for work purposes. In view of Israel's strict visa policy, the work permits for Israel are a strong indicator that the subject's father worked and received remuneration there;
 - c. The Commission identified at least 14 bank transfers from Israel from the subject's father to the subject and his sister, in the period 2006 - 2012, which are also a strong indicator of the income received by the father in Israel;
 - d. The Commission has not identified any significant investments or purchases by the subject's parents during the evaluation period that would indicate that the

father's earnings in Israel could have been spent on such expenses rather than accumulated;

- e. Lastly, the Commission notes that the inheritance was received [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This explains the plausibility of the accumulation of savings for their own use rather than drawing a will or other documentation.

126. In light of the above, the Commission concludes that regarding the issue of the sources of funds for the purchase of his apartment in December 2018, the subject has mitigated the Commission's doubts regarding the sources of funds, and, therefore, the subject meets the criterion of financial integrity under art. 11 para. (3) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023.

Issue 3: Possible deflated purchase price of an apartment bought in December 2018

127. The subject bought a 65,6 sq.m. apartment in Chişinău municipality, on 24 December 2018, which was registered as his property on 26 December 2018. The cadastral value of this apartment is 424,230 MDL (est. 21,630 EUR as of December 2018). The subject declared in his annual declaration for 2018 the purchase price of the apartment as 674,400 MDL (34,000 EUR). According to the information provided by the Public Institution "Cadastral of Real Estate", the subject's apartment was previously acquired by M.B. on 5 May 2016 through a contract of assignment of the claim. According to this contract, S.R.L. "TRONEX-COM" has ceded to M.B. the right of claim against S.R.L. "INTELINVEST" under contract on capital investment in housing construction of 22 February 2016, for the amount of 34,060 EUR.
128. The Panel discussed with the subject the issue of potential deflated purchase price of the subject's apartment purchased in December 2018 in written communication and at the two hearings.
129. According to the sales-purchase contract of 24 December 2018, a copy of which was presented to the Panel by the subject, the apartment's price was 34,000 EUR (est. 674,400 MDL). In reply to the first round of written questions (R1-Q28), the subject explained that he bought the apartment in a renovated condition (repaired), with furniture in the kitchen, a bed and a sofa, and without household equipment. He also explained that he did not carry out any construction or renovation works during 2018 – 2021 but completed the furnishing and equipping the apartment gradually. Specifically, in reply to the first round of written questions (R1-Q28), the subject listed the approximate amounts spent on furnishing and equipping the apartment. For 2018, he indicated an approximate amount of 5,000 MDL for minor initial procurements and for 2019 an approximate amount of 40,000 MDL for technical equipment (a total of 45,000 MDL, est. 2,250 EUR).
130. The subject was also asked, in the second round of written questions (R2-Q3), about the differences between the cash savings declared in his annual declaration for 2018 (15,000 EUR) and in reply to the first round of written questions (R1-Q3), (15,000 EUR and 350,000 MDL). In reply, the subject explained that he had expenses for furnishing and equipping his apartment at the end of 2018/beginning of 2019, before the annual declaration

was submitted (on 28 March 2019). In his reply (R2-Q3), he listed an approximate amount of 50,000 MDL for furniture, household appliances and services for their installation, 20,000 MDL for curtains, and an approximate amount of 40,000 MDL for kitchenware and other items (bed linen, a rug, window blinds with installation services), thus a total of 110,000 MDL.

131. The subject was subsequently asked to explain, in a third round of questions, the different amounts indicated in reply to the first and second rounds of questions (R1-Q28 and R2-Q3) as expenses for furnishing and equipping the apartment at the end of 2018 – 2019. The subject explained (R3-Q1) that the answer provided in the second round of questions is more detailed as it contains additional expenses he only recalled while completing the answers to that new round of written questions, in order to provide a complete picture of the actual expenses from that period. He explained that he further “recalled” that he also bought in the same period the table and chairs in the kitchen, adding another 14,000 MDL, which he recalled from the photo sent in reply to the second round of written questions.

Concerns about the declared value of the apartment

132. According to the information provided by “LARA” Real Estate Agency (“LARA company”), the average market value for a square meter of a 65 sq.m apartment on the same address as the subject’s apartment, in 2018, was as follows: a) without repairs (white version) - between 11,905 – 12,105 MDL and b) with repairs - between 13,890 – 14,090 MDL. Based on this information, the average market value of the apartment acquired by the subject in 2018 varied between 773,825 MDL (est. 39,000 EUR) for a non-renovated (white) version and 902,850 MDL (est. 45,506 EUR) for a renovated version. As noted above, the subject’s apartment was a renovated version.
133. The subject was asked, both in written questions and at the hearing, to explain the substantial difference between the average market price – est. 45,500 EUR – and the price that he declared to NIA and included in the sales-purchase contract of 34,000 EUR. In his written answers (R3-Q7), the subject claimed that the price was lower than the market prices because the building had several shortcomings and that it had no parking spaces. The subject also explained that M.B. sold the apartment at this price because she urgently needed funds because she bought another apartment and had started renovating the new apartment. At the hearing, the subject also noted that the apartment he purchased was not in a central location and was not fully furnished.
134. At the second hearing the subject explained that he was not actively looking for an apartment in 2018. He noted that before his parents’ death in 2017, he had no money to afford one. Later, after his inheritance, he started occasionally looking for one, but he was not actively searching for an apartment. When he first saw the apartment in question, he did not like it very much and therefore did not immediately conclude the transaction. He agreed to buy the apartment later but insisted on the price of 34,000 EUR. He suggested that perhaps the M.B. agreed to the price because she had not found another buyer after

more than a year. He paid for the apartment in cash, in EUR, just before concluding the sales-purchase contract.

135. The subject also presented a written statement of M.B. (R3-Q7). According to the statement of M.B., she sold the apartment to the subject for 34,000 EUR because of several shortcomings she identified only after she bought the apartment and during renovation, such as lack of car parking space and the impossibility to make changes to the walls (she wanted a bigger kitchen). As a result, she bought another apartment in white walls version, had started renovations on the same, and urgently needed funds for renovation. She explained that she had intended to sell the first apartment for 38,000 EUR and had found a buyer at that price, who gave her a 3,000 EUR down payment, but later changed his mind. As a result, she kept the 3,000 EUR. M.B. stated that she and the subject initially negotiated through mutual acquaintances; she intended to ask 38,000 EUR for the apartment, which she said was the market price, but the subject was firm on 34,000 EUR. As she could not identify another buyer, and due to the urgent need for money, she agreed to the subject's offer of 34,000 EUR.
136. The Commission notes that in October 2025, it also sent a request for average market prices to the "Pro Imobil Grup" Real Estate Agency ("Pro Imobil company"), but received no response. Only after the subject himself contacted the Pro Imobil company did it respond, in January 2026. Pro Imobil company sent initially sent the Commission incomplete information on 12 January 2026 then recalled that information back as „wrong" and sent "corrected" information the next day, on 13 January 2026. In their "wrong" information of 12 January 2026, they indicate a price of 38,000 – 39,000 EUR for a 65 sq.m. apartment in December 2018 in the apartment building where the subject's apartment is located, without differentiating between white walls and with repairs. Notably, on 12 January, Pro Imobil company sent, directly to the subject, different, lower price estimates, namely in their reply to the subject, of 12 January 2026, they provided a price of 31,000 – 32,000 EUR for a white walls version and a price of 34,000 – 35,500 EUR for an apartment with repairs. In their "corrected" version, sent to the Commission on 13 January 2026, Pro Imobil company lowered their estimates of price to 30,500 – 32,000 EUR for a white walls version and a price of 33,000 – 35,500 EUR for an apartment with repairs. Asked to explain the different answers provided by Pro Imobil company, the subject explained that he himself did not understand the replies of Pro Imobil company sent by the Panel, as he had received just one reply from Pro Imobil company. He explained that he sent his request by email (and provided a copy to the Panel) and that he has never dealt with Pro Imobil company before in his personal or professional capacity.
137. The Commission notes that the information on average market prices provided by the two real estate agencies, LARA company and Pro Imobil company, on apartments (with and without repairs), of a similar size and located in the same apartment building as the subject's apartment building, varies significantly. LARA company provided a price quote of 45,500 EUR for apartments with repairs, while Pro Imobil company provided initially a price quote of 38,000 – 39,000 EUR, without differentiating between repairs and non-repairs versions. Later, they corrected this price quote to 34,000 – 35,500 EUR for an apartment with repairs. In view of divergent information sent to the Commission and to the

subject from Pro Imobil company, the Commission cannot rely on it as sufficiently credible information. At the same time, it cannot entirely ignore it. As a result, the Commission is unable to determine, with any certainty, the real price that may have been paid for the apartment.

138. Considering the various explanations of the subject about the shortcomings of the apartment, the Commission accepts that the actual price could have been lower than the 45,500 EUR estimate provided by LARA company. While the Pro Imobil company's initial estimate (38,000 – 39,000 EUR) corresponds broadly with M.B.'s stated intention to sell for 38,000 EUR, the Commission ultimately notes that the existence of divergent professional estimates of the apartment's value significantly reduces the probative value of any single valuation. The real price - and the actual value - of the apartment was most likely somewhere between 34,000 EUR and 45,500 EUR.

Concerns about the sales-purchase transaction – not an arms-length transaction

139. M.B. bought the apartment in 2016 in a white-walls version for 34,060 EUR and sold it to the subject in December 2018 with renovation for 34,000 EUR. Although the subject explained that the renovation was a modest one and M.B. explained she kept a downpayment of 3,000 EUR from a failed transaction, which contributed to her agreeing to the sales price of 34,000 EUR, the Commission had concerns about the nature of this transaction.

140. At the first hearing, the subject was asked if he knew M.B. prior to purchasing the apartment and the subject replied that he knew M.B. and that they had common friends. Asked how he found out about the sale of the apartment, the subject explained that he was not really looking for an apartment but found out about this apartment through friends.

141. [REDACTED] Asked at the first hearing if the subject had provided goods, gifts or favors to M.B., he denied this. He also denied paying for any meals for M.B., unless maybe when going out with common friends. Asked if he had ever traveled with M.B., the subject replied that he did not recall having traveled with M.B., maybe in a bigger company of common friends. Asked where he might have traveled with M.B. in a bigger company, he replied that he does not recall but perhaps in a trip to Spain but he was not sure, and it was not just with M.B. Asked if he covered any costs of M.B. during their possible trip to Spain, he denied this, explaining that each person was covering their own costs. The subject claimed that he never provided any services, favors or valuable gifts to M.B. and they were just part of a group of common friends.

142. [REDACTED] The subject also confirmed that they traveled together in the period 27 June 2016 – 4 July 2016, but that each of them paid their share, similarly to how they usually were doing when going out with friends. He indicated that there were other friends on that trip and provided their

names. He also again stated that he did not provide any valuable services to M.B. prior or after the sales-purchase transaction, except possibly having paid for some meals when they were dining out. [REDACTED]

143. [REDACTED]

144. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He insisted that the price of the apartment as included in the sales-purchase contract is the real price that he paid for the apartment. [REDACTED]

145. Asked whether the subject discussed with M.B. the issue of capital tax increase as a reason for purchasing it for the same price as purchased in 2016, he denied this and explained that he was firm on the price and M.B. agreed.

Conclusions

146. Based on the available information, the Panel had serious doubts whether 34,000 EUR was the real price paid by the subject for the apartment. As noted, the objective evidence from the real estate companies is contradictory but clearly posits a higher value. In addition, the Panel's concerns about the sales-purchase price of the apartment were strengthened by the fact that the subject was vague in his explanations about the nature of the relationship with M.B. Accordingly, while the doubts that the contractual price may have been deflated have not been fully mitigated, the Commission cannot establish this as a fact based on the evidence available. It was in this context that the Commission further analyzed if this matter falls under the financial and ethical integrity criteria under Law No. 252/2023.

147. Ultimately, for all of the reasons outlined above, the Commission cannot determine with certainty the amount actually paid by the subject for the apartment. In assessing financial integrity, however, even if we assume that the subject paid the full average market

price of 45,500 EUR for the apartment in December 2018, while at the same time acknowledging that the subject could have had an inheritance of 34,916 EUR (as concluded by the Commission at paragraph 123 above), the subject would still have had sufficient funds to cover the price of the apartment and would have a negative balance of 50,263 MDL for the period 2020 – 2021, which is significantly below the threshold provided by Law No. 252/2023.

148. The Commission also looked at the subject's actions from an ethical perspective, particularly as relates to his ethical duties under art. 6.6^{1.7} of the 2016 Prosecutors' Code of Ethics to ensure full and truthful disclosure in his annual declarations. The Commission notes that the subject indicated a purchase price of 34,000 EUR in the sales-purchase contract signed on 24 December 2018 and declared this same price in his annual declarations submitted to the NIA for 2018 - 2023. The Commission further notes that the contract was concluded in December 2018 and that the annual declaration for 2018 was submitted in March 2019. These dates fall outside the five-year period relevant for the assessment of ethical integrity under art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023, as determined pursuant to art. 24 para. (3) lit. b) of the Commission's Rules; therefore, the Commission does not assess, for the purposes of ethical integrity, the subject's conduct in this regard.
149. At the same time, the Commission notes that the annual declarations for 2020 – 2023 fall within the relevant five-year period and may therefore be examined under the ethical integrity criterion to the extent they reflect the same asset and its declared value.
150. In this context, the Commission recalls that, under Law No. 252/2023, the distortion or misrepresentation of information regarding assets may be relevant not only to financial integrity (including unjustified wealth), but also to ethical integrity. Pursuant to art. 6.6^{1.7} of the 2016 Prosecutors' Code of Ethics, prosecutors must ensure full and truthful disclosure in annual declarations. The obligation to file accurate annual declarations, as regulated by Law No. 133/2016, serves not only the objective of transparency, but also the prevention and detection of the acquisition and holding of assets from illicit or otherwise unjustified sources.
151. In assessing ethical integrity, the Commission focuses on whether any inaccuracy or omission is clearly established, material, and of sufficient gravity to meet the "serious violation" threshold under art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023. The Commission notes that Law No. 252/2023 provides the "serious doubts" standard for the financial violations but not for ethical violations.
152. Under art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023, only serious ethical violations may lead to an adverse conclusion under the ethical integrity criterion, and such violations must be clearly established. The Commission further notes that not every irregularity or instance of incomplete declaration reaches the gravity required to justify dismissal from office (*Nikëhasani v. Albania*, 13 December 2022, § 117; *Sevdari v. Albania*, 13 December 2022, § 85; *Thanza v. Albania*, 4 July 2023, § 153).

153. In the present case, the Commission has not identified unjustified wealth that would lead to the subject's failure under art. 11 para. (3) of Law No. 252/2023. While the Commission has maintained concerns as to whether the contractual price of 34,000 EUR fully reflects the economic reality of the transaction, the evidence available does not allow the Commission to clearly establish either the existence and amount of additional payment or that the difference would have been covered from unlawful or otherwise unjustified sources.
154. At the same time, the Commission acknowledges that the persistence of the same declared value in the annual declarations for 2020 – 2023, which fall within the relevant five-year period, may raise concerns as to the accuracy and completeness of the information reported. However, in the absence of clearly established facts demonstrating a materially deceptive declaration (in particular, an undisclosed payment or another concrete benefit), and in the absence of a link to unjustified wealth, the identified concerns do not meet the high threshold of a serious ethical violation within the meaning of art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023.
155. In light of the above, the Commission concludes that, regarding the issue of a possible deflated price of an apartment purchased in December 2018, the subject meets the criteria of financial integrity under art. 11 para. (3) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023 and ethical integrity under art. 11 para. (2) lit. a) of Law No. 252/2023.

VI. Conclusion

156. Based on the information it obtained and that was presented by the subject, the Commission proposes that Alexandru MACHIDON passes the external evaluation made according to the criteria set in art. 11 of Law No. 252/2023.

VII. Further Action and Publication

157. According to art. 17 para. (5) of Law No. 252/2023, this evaluation report shall be sent by e-mail to the subject and the SCP within three days of its approval, and on the same day the Commission will publish on its official website the information on the result of the evaluation.
158. Under art. 17 para. (6) of Law No. 252/2023, the Commission will submit to the SCP, within three days of approval of the evaluation report, a hard copy of that evaluation report, along with an electronic copy of the evaluation file of the subject.
159. Under art. 17 para. (8) of Law No. 252/2023 the evaluation report, in full, will be published on the Commission's official website, with appropriate precautions to protect the privacy of the subject and other people, within three days from the expiry of the deadline for appealing the SCP's decision (pursuant to art. 18 para. (3) lit. a) and c) of Law No. 252/2023) or from the date of issuance of the Supreme Court of Justice's decision (pursuant to art. 19 para. (5) point 1) and point 2) lit. c) of Law No. 252/2023).

160. Pursuant to art. 17 para (3) of Law No. 252/2023, this evaluation report was approved unanimously by Commission members and signed by the Chairperson of the Commission.

161. Done in English and Romanian.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris L', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher LEHMANN
Chairperson
Prosecutor Vetting Commission