

## ***Moldova Weekly – 7 October – Report on the current situation in Moldova in the weeks after the preliminary elections held on 29 July***

The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is a Brussels-based organization active in the field of democracy assistance which has Moldova as one of the target countries. Using our partner organizations in Moldova we try to bring current information from established international and Moldovan news agencies in order to provide an independent view on Moldova to the Brussels decision makers. Please address any questions or comments to [kristinaprunerova@eupd.eu](mailto:kristinaprunerova@eupd.eu).

### **Contents**

FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT .....	1
PACE ratifies lineup of Moldovan delegation to Strasbourg .....	1
Filat: EU conditions financial aid to Moldova on agreement with IMF .....	1
MOLDOVAN POLITICS.....	2
NGOs call upon new government to reform mass media .....	2
Parliament to set up commission to investigate 7 April events.....	2
Vote to elect head of state could take place on 23 or 26 October .....	2
Mihai Ghimpu speaks of head of state election issue.....	3
Premier promises greater local autonomy to regions .....	3
ECONOMIC SITUATION.....	3
Moldova to get 7 million euros from European Commission .....	3
GDP decline at 8% against projected 5%.....	4
EBRD to invest 80 million Euros in Moldova .....	4
China offers Moldovan army non-reimbursable support of half million euros .....	4

## **FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT**

### **PACE ratifies lineup of Moldovan delegation to Strasbourg**

The Council of Europe ratified the composition of the Moldovan delegation to the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which was approved by the Moldovan Parliament, but contested by the Communists Party, the Liberal MP Ana Gutu said at a news conference on Thursday. Only four of the six members of the Moldovan delegation went to Strasbourg. The Communist MPs Vladimir Voronin and Vladimir Turcan refused to go. Communist MP Grigore Petrenco also went to Strasbourg, but not as part of the delegation. He intended to challenge its composition. *IPN, 1 October 2009*

### **Filat: EU conditions financial aid to Moldova on agreement with IMF**

The European Union (EU) is conditioning potential financial aid to Moldova on the signing of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat has told on Thursday, after a two-day visit to Brussels. 'The negotiations and the signing of an agreement with the IMF is a test for Moldova. It is a precondition put forward by the EU for the offering of financial aid, and I don't mean loans, but donations', said Filat. He added that Chisinau has still a number of

unfulfilled commitments promised to the West, among which to ensure the functionality of state institutions, in particular the functionality of legal institutions and combating of trafficking in humans. However, Filat said he managed to inform the European authorities of the measures undertaken by the new government and received assurances that the EU would support Moldova on the path of effecting democratic reforms. Another subject touched on during his visit to Brussels was the liberalization of visa requirements for Moldovan citizens. Talking about the intention to replace the existing peacekeeping mechanism in the Transnistrian region with an international civil mission, the premier said this can only be done through discussions and compromise with all the parties involved. Commenting on the protests staged by Chisinau pensioners angered by raised tariffs, Filat said the Moldovan citizens are free to protest when they disagree with the decisions of the government as long as the protests are peaceful. *IPN, 1 October 2009*

## **MOLDOVAN POLITICS**

### **NGOs call upon new government to reform mass media**

Mass media NGOs submitted a road map on the work of mass media to the Head of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu and the parliamentary commission for culture, education, research, sport and mass media. The document contains five types of reforms proposed by the civil society: the reform of the public broadcaster, the reform of the Broadcasting Coordination Council, the denationalization of the press, policies to stimulate the development of the independent press and legislative reforms. The civil society considers that the legislature must work out and implement legal mechanisms so that the candidates for member of the Supervisory Board of the National Public Broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova (TRM) be selected not according to political criteria. The NGOs say that the state and political organizations should exert no pressure and should not interfere in the editorial policy of the TRM, including by ensuring the financial independence of the public broadcaster. The signatories say the Broadcasting Coordination Council must be obliged to take part in yearly parliamentary hearings and render reports on the Council's work, while the decisions made by the Council should be obligatorily motivated. The proposed legislative reforms are aimed at stimulating the development of the press in Moldova and at creating equal economic conditions for all the editorial offices: denationalizing the periodical publications, ensuring equal and transparent access to state publicity by organizing tender contests, providing subsidies and exempting the newspapers from paying VAT on revenues coming from editorial work. The signatories call on the new government to show devotion to the European norms on mass media and ensure the freedom of expression so as to strengthen the democratic process in Moldova. The road map was signed by the Independent Journalism Center, the Independent Press Association, the Association of Electronic Press, 'Access-Info' Center, the Journalistic Investigations Center, the Committee for the Freedom of the Press, the Center for Young Journalists, and the Journalists Union of Moldova. *IPN, 1 October 2009*

### **Parliament to set up commission to investigate 7 April events**

Speaker Mihai Ghimpu proposed creating a working group that would draft a decision to set up an inquiry commission that will investigate the 7 April events. The working group will consist of representatives of every parliamentary group: Valeriu Nemerenco (PL), Alexandru Stoianoglo, (PDM), Mihai Godea (PLDM), Ion Plesca (AMN) and Anatolie Zagorodnyi (PCRM). While in Brussels on a working visit, Prime Minister Vlad Filat asked the European organizations to delegate European experts to work as part of the given commission. *IPN, 2 October 2009*

### **Vote to elect head of state could take place on 23 or 26 October**

The members of the Parliament's Standing Bureau Monday voted for the inclusion of the decision on the creation of the special parliamentary commission for the election of the President of Moldova in the agenda of the 7 October sitting. They also agreed that the vote to elect the head of state will be held on 23 or 26 October. After the meeting of the Standing Bureau, the leader of the Democratic

Party Marian Lupu said that on 7 October they will also discuss the candidate proposed by the Head of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu for the post of Prosecutor General. He refused to name the candidate, saying this is the prerogative of the Speaker. The candidate for the post of National Bank governor is to be examined at one of the next sittings of the Parliament. *IPN, 5 October 2009*

### **Mihai Ghimpu speaks of head of state election issue**

In an interview given to Radio Free Europe, the Republic of Moldova interim president Mihai Ghimpu is sure that PCRM faction from the Parliament will vote for the democrat Marian Lupu as head of state. According to Mihai Ghimpu, if the PCRM members do not vote for Marian Lupu and cause anticipated elections, communists risks to get no more than 15 places in the Parliament. This is due to the fact that, all Moldovan citizens from abroad, that represent an anti-communist clear electorate, would vote at the anticipated elections. Mihai Ghimpu warned communists that there may be some possibilities to cancel the anticipated elections for a period of 4 years. 'I said that PCRM should elect at this moment – either Ghimpu will be interim president for 4 years or they elect Lupu as president of state', Mihai Ghimpu declared. According to the interim president of Republic of Moldova, the timeframe according to which he has to dissolve the Parliament is not stipulated in the Constitution. Referring to the relations with the Russian Federation, Mihai Ghimpu declared in the same interview that no matter 'what Moscow says or wishes us, we will have to defend the interests of Republic of Moldova state first of all'. 'The removal of the Russian army from the territory of our country remains one of the key problems and we have assumed this responsibility and the change of peace-building forces too: this is a problem we should solve and the Russian Federation should understand that', the interim president Mihai Ghimpu also said. *Deca-press, 5 October 2009*

### **Premier promises greater local autonomy to regions**

Moldova's Prime Minister promised the Bashkan of Gagauzia Mihail Formuzal that the Autonomous Territorial Unit will be offered autonomy in accordance with the law. At a meeting with district heads on 6 October, Vlad Filat said that the cooperation between Chisinau and Comrat should be sincere so as to not allow those that want so much to create tension over the national identity and spoken language to speculate on this. Asked if they plan a territorial-administrative reform, Filat said that the Government will implement a legal norm on regionalization resulting from Moldova's commitments to the European organizations. According to the Premier, this will create strong autonomous regions. 'The local public authorities will play a greater role in the administration of these regions. We will modify the legislation so as to ensure greater autonomy. The legislation on local public finances and local public property will be also amended,' Filat said. Mayor General of Chisinau Dorin Chirtoaca said that reforms are needed at all the levels and the local authorities should engage in their formulation and implementation. The head of Cahul district Gheorghe Vasilache proposed holding such meetings once a month. *IPN, 6 October 2009*

## **ECONOMIC SITUATION**

### **Moldova to get 7 million euros from European Commission**

The European Commission will provide Republic of Moldova support of seven million euros for institutional expertise in such fields as: public acquisition, competition, state aid, intellectual property rights, the commissar for foreign relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, declared on Wednesday. The European Commission has already provided Republic of Moldova financial support

of 45 million euros for the year 2009, especially for sewerage and potable water projects. *Deca-press, 1 October 2009*

### **GDP decline at 8% against projected 5%**

The reviewed decrease in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year is 8%, as against 5% as predicted earlier. Minister of Economy Valeriu Lazar told that the most serious mistake that determined this decline is the adoption of a too optimistic budget for 2009, while the promoted budget policy was rather risky, even hazardous. The economic decline might stop in 2010. *IPN, 1 October 2009*

### **EBRD to invest 80 million Euros in Moldova**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will sign projects of investments in Moldova worth 80 million lei till late 2009, according to a press release by the EBRD Office in Moldova. The proceeds are meant to back Moldova's economic development through investments in the transport field, municipal infrastructure, as well as in energy efficiency projects. The press release said that the investment projects will also be aimed at helping the financial sector cope with the difficult conditions caused by the global crisis. The EBRD will contribute to enhancing the level of financial mediation in Moldova's economy through new credit lines given to banks and micro-financing institutions by crediting small and medium-sized enterprises. The communique also said that the EBRD director for Caucasus, Moldova and Belarus, Paul-Henri Forestier, is on a 5-7 October 2009 visit to Moldova. During the visit, the official is to meet Moldovan authorities, including Prime Minister Vladimir Filat, acting President and Parliament Speaker Mihai Ghimpu and Deputy Governor of the National Bank Marin Molosag, etc. Within its activity in Moldova, the EBRD invested over 300 million euros in infrastructure, as well as in the corporative, bank and energy sectors. The EBRD-financed projects wooed additional investments worth 235 million euros in Moldova's economy. *Moldpres, 5 October 2009*

### **China offers Moldovan army non-reimbursable support of half million euros**

The Ministries of Defence in Chisinau and Beijing signed an agreement by means of which China would provide a non-reimbursable support to Moldova of about 500 thousand euros. The agreement was concluded in Beijing in time of the official visit of the division general Ion Coropcean, commander of the National Army to China, in the period between 21 and 28 September. The spokesman of the Ministry of Defence, Mr Alexandru Josanu, communicated that, at present a commission of the National Army develops a list of needs. After that, they will decide what they will use the funds from China for. The Moldo-Chinese cooperation in the military field is based on an agreement between the Ministries of Defence of the two countries, concluded in 2002. *Deca-press, 1 October 2009*