

Moldova Weekly – September 10 – 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.

Contents

MOLDOVA POLITICS	1
New parliament sitting scheduled for 10 September	1
AIE leaders: chances to have new parliamentary election are fifty-fifty	1
Democrats optimistic about finding 8 votes necessary to elect President	2
MCP insists on holding separate negotiations with AEI parties.....	2
Filat: New Government shall start from cancelling entry visas for Romanians.....	2
Constitutional Court: decision on electing Ghimpu as Speaker shall remain in force	3
Serafim Urecheanu elected first deputy speaker, legislature’s Standing Bureau formed.....	3
Greceanyi tenders formal resignation	3
Experts give advice for new government	3
FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT	4
Moldova election report submitted to EU Parliament foreign policy commission	4

MOLDOVA POLITICS

New parliament sitting scheduled for 10 September

The Parliament will come together for a new sitting on Thursday, 10 September. Such a decision was made by the leaders of the Alliance for European Integration (AEI) during consultations on 3 September. The leader of the Moldova Noastra Alliance (AMN) Serafim Urecheanu has said that the leaders of the AEI insist that the parliamentary sittings be held on Thursday and Friday, as has been the case until now. Asked about the agenda of the next meeting, Serafim Urecheanu said that it has not been decided yet. The AMN leader reiterated that the members of the Alliance will not participate in the meeting scheduled by the PCRM for 4 September. At the last parliamentary sitting, the Honourable President of the PDM Dumitru Diacov proposed holding the next meeting on 4 September. The party’s president Marian Lupu said that Diacov’s proposal is logical as it would be an occasion for all the MPs to meet and discuss. He also said that it would be reasonable to expect the Constitutional Court’s decision on the contestation filed by the PCRM. Constitutional law experts say that if the Constitutional Court rules in favour of the PCRM, the Parliament will have to start work from the very beginning. In such a case, the AEI could again field Mihai Ghimpu for Speaker. ‘We will elect him again,’ Serafim Urecheanu said. IPN, 3 September 2009

AIE leaders: chances of having new parliamentary elections are fifty-fifty

The leaders of the parliamentary majority Alliance for European Integration (AIE) believe that the probability of Moldova having another early parliamentary election [in early 2010] is currently estimated at fifty-fifty. On Friday, the leaders of the AEI’s constituent forces - the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM), the Liberal Party (PL), the Democratic Party (PDM) and the Moldova Noastra Alliance (AMN) - held four-way consultations, after which they made statements to the press saying that some Communist parliamentarians had lately undertaken attempts to make contact, but the AEI leaders refused to talk to

them. Liberal Democratic Party leader Vlad Filat stated that an address to the majority coalition with an invitation to start dialog has to be approved officially by the Communist Party leader - outgoing President, Vladimir Voronin. Without this, all such attempted contacts will simply remain unserious and unofficial, Filat stressed. The other AEI leaders nodded in agreement, adding that the Alliance would agree only to an open, official dialog with the PCRM faction as an entity, not with PCRM individuals. Democratic Party Chairman Marian Lupu stated that if things go as far as another early parliamentary election, the entire responsibility for this will be on the Communists. And Moldova Noastra Alliance leader Serafim Urechean said that, upon Voronin's official resignation as president, Mihai Ghimpu, as Acting President, will sign a decree nominating Vlad Filat candidate for premiership, after which Filat will start forming a new Cabinet. Infotag, 4 September 2009

Democrats optimistic about finding 8 votes necessary to elect President

The 8 votes that the parliamentary majority Alliance for European Integration needs to elect a new President of Moldova 'will necessarily come to us', Liberal Democratic Party leader MP Vlad Filat stated to the press on Monday following a consultative meeting of the leaders of the four AEI constituent parties. Filat emphasized moreover that the Alliance will not be running around begging the Communist Party faction or persuading its individual members. 'No, the Communist faction will themselves delegate 8 deputies to elect the President, otherwise the Communist Party shall bear responsibility for an adverse development of events in the Republic. I don't think it will take the Communists long to choose between remaining a faction of 48 and provoking an early parliamentary election, after which they may have an even smaller faction. Such a prospect is definitely not in their interests', said the LDPM leader. Democratic Party Chairman Marian Lupu stated once again that a dialog with the Communist Party is a vital necessity. He said that on Monday the AEI had discussed various aspects of the activities of the new Parliament and would-be Cabinet of Ministers. Infotag, 7 September 2009

PCRM insists on holding separate negotiations with AEI parties

The Moldovan Communist Party (PCRM) stands ready to enter into a dialog with the parliamentary majority Alliance for European Integration (AIE), but is insisting on holding separate negotiations with each of the four AEI constituent parties, MP Eduard Musuc of the PCRM parliamentary faction stated on Radio Free Europe. Musuc said he believed that the best variant of a coalition with the above right and centrist formations would be a union of the Communist Party, the Democratic Party and, possibly, the Moldova Noastra Alliance. 'However, if the AEI keeps on persisting, I guess a new early parliamentary election may well take place. But if a consensus can be reached, the Communist Party might provide the 8 votes necessary for electing a new president of Moldova', presumes MP Eduard Musuc. Infotag, 7 September 2009

Filat: New Government will start by cancelling entry visas for Romanians

One of the first decisions the would-be new Government of Moldova will take will be the cancellation of visa requirements for citizens of Romania coming to the Republic, Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM) leader Vlad Filat MP, who is seeking to become prime minister, stated in an interview with the Stirea Zilei portal. Filat reiterated as unlawful the visa regime slapped on Romanians by the Communist authorities on the day following last 7 April's riots in Chisinau. Vlad Filat stated that the visa regime will be annulled simultaneously with signing a convention on trans-border movement with Romania, which the Communists were going to conclude only upon signing a Basic Political Treaty and Border Treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Romania. 'Also, we shall solve the question of opening two Romanian consulates - in Balti and Cahul - to thus facilitate the procedure for Moldovan citizens wishing to obtain a Romanian visa', Filat said. He refuted speculations that the parliamentary majority Alliance for European Integration allegedly stands for Moldova's unification with Romania. He gave assurances that the rights of all Republic of Moldova's citizens shall be equally observed, irrespective of ethnicity. Infotag, 8 September 2009

Constitutional Court: decision on electing Ghimpu as Speaker shall remain in force

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova today put an end to examining the Communist Party's inquiry concerning the legitimacy of the election of Liberal Party Chairman Mihai Ghimpu as Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament. This means that the decision, passed by the parliamentary majority Alliance for European Integration last 28 August on electing the Speaker, shall remain in force. The consideration of the PCRM lawsuit lasted 3 hours on Wednesday, after which the six CC Judges recessed for deliberations that took another 1.5 hours. Eventually, the Judges announced their conclusion: the votes divided equally - three pro and three against. According to the legislation, in such case the decision, being the subject matter of the challenge lodged with the Court, remains in force. The CC verdict is final and without appeal. Infotag, 8 September 2009

Serafim Urecheanu elected first deputy speaker, legislature's Standing Bureau formed

The leader of the AMN Serafim Urecheanu was elected as first deputy speaker with the votes of the 53 MPs from the Alliance for European Integration. Iurie Tap, of the PLDM, and Marcel Raducanu, of the PDM, were elected deputy speakers. Speaker Mihai Ghimpu said that the third post of deputy speaker would belong to the PCRM. Maria Postoico, the chairwoman of the parliamentary group of the PCRM, said that the Communists Party needed a break to consider the next steps. Ghimpu said that during consultations with the parliamentary groups, the PCRM asked for the post of first deputy speaker.

Thirteen MPs will form part of the Parliament's Standing Bureau: the first deputy speaker, the three deputy speakers and representatives of the parliamentary groups. The members include four Communist MPs - Maria Postoico, Vladimir Turcan, Igor Dodon and Grigore Petrenco- and by an MP from the other parliamentary groups – Vlad Filat (PLDM), Anatol Salaru (PL), Marian Lupu (PDM) and Veaceslav Untila (AMN). The members of the Standing Bureau asked for a break to decide the number of permanent commissions and select the candidates for commission heads. Most probably, there will be nine permanent commissions.

The Parliament decided to set up nine permanent commissions that will be composed of 11 members. Only the commission on human rights and inter-ethnic relations will consist of 12 members. The PCRM asked that the chairpersons of the commissions be named at the next sitting of the Parliament set to take place on Friday, 11 September, starting at 14.00. IPN, 10 September 2009

Greceanyi tenders formal resignation

Acting Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanyi announced formally her resignation on Wednesday in connection with the incompatibility of the post with the seat of Member of Parliament, which she holds following the recent elections. Similar resignations were tendered by the deputy prime ministers Igor Dodon and Victor Stepaniuc; the ministers Vasile Sova, Violeta Ivanov and Galina Balmos; deputy economy minister Iurie Muntean; Licensing Chamber chairwoman Zinaida Chistruga; and the head of the national forestry agency Anatolie Papusoi. Zinaida Greceanyi extended her gratefulness to everybody 'for their cooperation and team spirit'. Greceanyi added that in order to ensure the continuity of the government's activity she will inform the Acting President, who is to appoint a caretaker prime minister from among the Cabinet members. According to the law, the newly elected MPs have 30 days to decide whether they quit their former job and take up the new office. Until the next government is installed the current Cabinet takes care only of administrative matters and has no right to issue legislation. IPN, 9 September 2009

Experts give advice to new government

Fourteen experts formulated recommendations for the new government and included them in the book 'Government Priorities 2009', which was launched on 9 September. It is a project implemented by the Association for Participative Democracy ADEPT. The work focuses on civic and political rights, implications of the budgetary-fiscal policy on the

management of public finances, the investment climate and other issues. 'The book is intended for the new government, and we hope that they will take into account experts' recommendations and conclusions. It is designed to promote the democratic values and the active participation of the people in public life,' said the director of ADEPT Igor Botan. The leader of the Moldova Noastra Alliance (AMN) Serafim Urecheanu welcomed the appearance of the book, saying it is the product of cooperation between civil society and the politicians. 'I am confident that before adopting a decision, the legislative body will consult the civil society first. Such publications are welcome as they remind us that we must be impartial,' the politician said. The Liberal MP Corina Fusu said that a part of the recommendations will be taken account of when finalizing the anti-crisis and government programs and adopting new laws. 'No matter what happens later this year, 2009 will remain an exceptional year in Moldova's history as it saw deep crises,' it is said in the work. 'The way in which the central authorities dealt with the April 6-7 events, the protests against the election outcome and the mass violation of the human rights by the police aroused people's distrust in the Moldovan democratic institutions.' According to project coordinator Elena Prohnski, the publication was planned as a source of policy analyses that could help the political parties and the ordinary people understand the acute problems faced in Moldova. The book includes 12 chapters that focus on economy, justice and human rights. It is a retrospective study of the developments in these areas during 2001-2008. IPN, 9 September 2009

FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT

Moldova election report submitted to EU Parliament foreign policy commission

The Report on the 29 July early parliamentary elections in Moldova was submitted to the European Parliament commission for foreign policy on Wednesday. Presenting the document, the head of the EP observer mission, Marian Jean Marinescu, said it reflected both the drawbacks revealed and progress achieved in the Republic of Moldova between the two elections of 5 April and 29 July. The Republic needs to further improve its electoral legislation and to abide by genuinely democratic rules concerning the holding of elections. The European deputy said that the irregularities in drawing up voter lists, reported from the 5 April elections, had not been eliminated by 29 July. However, citizens were more active in reporting such irregularities. Marinescu confirmed that the Moldovan Communist Party used administrative resources and pressed on political rivals and their supporters. He thinks European Union institutions should assist Moldova at the earliest opportunity. Infotag, 3 September 2009