

Moldova Weekly – 20 July – Report on the current situation in Moldova in the weeks coming up to the preliminary elections to be held on 29 July

The European Partnership for Democracy is a Brussels-based organization active in the field of democracy assistance which has Moldova as one of the target countries and is concerned with the pre-election situation. It is difficult to assess the situation from Brussels and the decision makers should be able to hear various independent voices from Moldova. This is why the EPD is issuing this Moldova Weekly bulletin which:

- brings information from Moldova given by established international or Moldovan news agencies and other reliable sources
- raises awareness of the situation in this ENP and EaP country within the Brussels community
- brings proper unbiased coverage in the weeks leading up to the elections

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FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT

M. Macovei named president of EP Commission for Cooperation with Moldova

Romanian Liberal-Democratic MEP Monica Macovei became president of the Interparliamentary Commission for Cooperation with Moldova. The members of the European Parliament distributed the posts within the EP's specialized commissions at a sitting on 14 July, the daily Romania Libera says. Earlier, the European Parliament's Commission for Cooperation with Moldova was headed by the Estonian MEP Marianne Mikko. *Source: IPN, 15 July 2009*

CoE Commissioner for Human Rights criticizes police behaviour in Moldova

The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg has criticized the ill-treatment and police brutality in Moldova and the pressure exerted on the mass media and NGOs that reported allegations of human rights violations after the April 7 events. The findings are contained in a report on his visit to Moldova published on July 17, Info-Prim Neo reports. "There needs to be a prompt follow-up to the human rights violations, in particular the numerous instances of ill-treatment by the police. It is clear that there is a need to review not only the behaviour of individual police officers, but also the responsibility of their superiors" says Commissioner Hammarberg.

Furthermore, Commissioner Hammarberg stresses that "prosecutors, judges, senior police officers and lawyers should be attentive to allegations or signs of possible ill-treatment, and there needs to be proper screening, recording and reporting of injuries in police detention facilities." The Commissioner finds that pressure put upon media and non-governmental organisations involved in reporting on allegations of human rights violations is unacceptable. "Free expression and information should be protected, including in times of crisis. At the same time, media professionals should make a special effort to adhere to professional and ethical standards."

Finally, Commissioner Hammarberg recommends that thorough, comprehensive, independent, impartial, transparent and credible inquiries be carried out into the events. The whole report can be accessed at <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1469277&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FE65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679> *Source: IPN, 18 July 2009*

MOLDOVAN POLITICS

Marian Lupu suggests that PCRM was involved in the organization of April events

The leader of Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM), Marian Lupu, made everyone understand in an electoral discourse kept on Thursday evening, in Balti, that the Party of Communists of Moldova (PCRM) was involved in the organization of mass disorders from Chisinau, held in April, after the parliamentary elections, DECA-press Agency informs. PCRM rejects accusations, calling them “nonsense”. In the context of Balti communists’ attempts to compromise his electoral reunion from the locality, speaking in front of his fans, Marian Lupu wondered “Don’t you think that what happens behind the walls of this room is very much similar to what happened in April in Chisinau?”. „I noticed the same aggressive faces, the same persons with knives and the same criminal elements in time of the April events from Chisinau”, Lupu said. „As for the events from April, I have got many questions to address to PCRM and to Vladimir Turcanu about what happened then”, Marian Lupu said. The leader of Balti Division of PCRM, a person liked by Vladimir Voronin, the former communist Vladimir Vitiuk (seventh position on the list of communists), said for DECA-press that Lupu’s declaration is just nonsense and that he did not want to comment on it. At the same time, Vitiuk wondered “what was Lupu’s role at that moment?”. On Thursday, a group of young people, with an aggressive behaviour, armed with catch words and megaphones tried to stop the electoral meeting of Marian Lupu with Balti electorate. Suddenly, for about one hour, the room where the electoral event was held was cut from the electric power network. Local communists announced that their action of protest against Marian Lupu was punished by the local authorities. Among participants, there were some local leaders of PCRM, representatives of Balti Mayoralty, as well as the athletes of a sports club have been noticed. As for yesterday’s incidents, the democrats from Balti filed a complaint at the local District Electoral Council and at the Central Electoral Commission on Friday, by means of which they ask for the removal of PCRM from the electoral competition. Marian Lupu was born in Balti. *Source: DECA-press 17 July 2009*

ELECTIONS

Voters may check correctness of voter rolls starting from 14 July

All Moldovan eligible voters may check whether they were correctly included in the voter rolls starting from Tuesday till 24 July. The voters can notify the polling station’s bureau about their non inclusion in the voter rolls, as well as about other errors concerning data about them or other voters five days before Election Day, 29 July. Under the legislation, the voter rolls are made public 14 days ahead of the election at the latest. Changes in the rolls are made on the basis of the IDs and official certificates. *Moldpres, 14 July 2009*

Survey: 29.7% say to vote for PCRM

29.7% of the respondents of the sociological survey ‘Vox Populi’, which was presented on Wednesday, said they would vote for the Party of Communists (PCRM) if elections were held in Moldova next Sunday. The list of political

parties that have the greatest changes of entering the Parliament also includes the Liberal Party (PL) with 13.3% of the vote, the Liberal Democrat Party (PLDM) with 12.8%, the Moldova Noastra Alliance (AMN) with 7.9% and the Democratic Party (PDM) with 7.1%. The poll was carried out by the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of Moldova. According to the authors of the survey, the AMN's rating decreased compared with the previous polls, while the PDM strengthened its position, including by its activism during the electoral campaign. The parties come in the same order in the trust rankings, except that the PDM surpasses slightly the AMN. 22.3% of those questioned said they trust the head of state and leader of the PCRM Vladimir Voronin. 18.5% of the respondents would support the vice president of the PL Dorin Chirtoaca, 14.9% the PLDM leader Vlad Filat, while 13.7% the informal leader of the PDM Marian Lupu. They are followed by Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanii and the AMN leader Serafim Urecheanu at a small distance from each other. 32.4% of those polled said they trust no one. When asked to choose from the politicians proposed by the sociologists, 36% of the respondents said they trust Vladimir Voronin fully or to a certain extent, 31% selected Dorin Chirtoaca, 28% Vlad Filat, 24% Marian Lupu, 23% Zinaida Greceanii, while 20% Serafim Urecheanu. According to the sociologists, a new category of voters appeared besides the undecided voters the disappointed voters. The Moldovans' interest in politics remains rather low. 21.1% of those surveyed said they would vote in any circumstances, while one fourth said they will vote only if the elections were conducted fairly. However, over 67% of the respondents said they would go to the polls if elections were held next Sunday, while 18.8% said they would probably take part in the elections. The survey was carried out between 1 and 10 July and covered a sample of 1,592 respondents from 75 settlements. It was commissioned by the Association of European Election Officials and the Institute for European Integration and Political Science of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The margin of sampling error is plus-minus 2.6%. *IPN, 15 July 2009*