

Moldova Weekly – July 7 – 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

Editor: Kristina Prunerova, Programme Manager, EPD

Please address any questions or comments to kristinaprunerova@eupd.eu.

FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT

First installment of Russia's loan for Moldova to be issued after snap polls

Moldova will receive the first 150-million-dollar installment of a loan given by Russia after the early parliamentary election due on 29 July. The proceeds will be directed exclusively to infrastructure projects, and not for current consumption, as some opposition parties have said. A candidate for MP on the ticket of the Party of Communists (PCRM), Igor Dodon, made a statement to this effect on Monday. Dodon stressed that this credit will be given to Moldova's government, which will be designated after the 29 July polls. He said that the current leadership's task is to hold negotiations so that this loan could be borrowed. He that the talks to this end will be completed in July. The loan's borrowing requires the amendment of the legislation, which is possible only after the new parliament is elected. Moldpres, 6 July 2009

MOLDOVA POLITICS

'Pro Europa' president: 'Lupu' project managed by Voronin, criminal society

'The 'Lupu' project will be the last blow to Moldova that will lead to the reformation of the principle of constitutionality,' considers Boris Asarov, president of the Transnistrian Association 'Pro Europa'. Asarov said that Marian Lupu's joining of the Democratic Party (PDM) is a coordinated project between Lupu and Voronin. The statements were made on Wednesday. The leader of the NGO says that the 'Lupu' project, whose aim is to promote Marian Lupu to the post of President of Moldova by the vote of the Communists and Democrats, is managed not only by the Communist leader Vladimir Voronin, but also by an international criminal society. According to Asarov, the criminal society is headed by Mark Tkachuk and Oleg Reidman, who are candidates on the PCRM's list. He also said that the Christian-Democratic leader and new Deputy Prime Minister Iurie Rosca could be also involved. Rosca had the task of publicly criticizing the 'Lupu' project in order to create the impression that it has nothing to do with the PCRM, Asarov said. 'The project was coordinated at a high level, including by Israel and Russia, while Vladimir Voronin visited the two countries,' the NGO leader also said. He stressed that the Opposition leaders and the voters do not fully realize the danger that Moldova is in. Asked to comment on the given statements, the PDM leader Dumitru Diacov said: 'We have no emotions. These are

aberrations uttered at the instruction of Rosca and Tkachuk. In PDM, the project is called 'Lupu-Diacov' or 'Diacov-Lupu', full stop. Talks were held only between the two of us.' Source: IPN, 1 July 2009

Four PCRM members decide to join Democratic Party

At least four members of the Communists Party (PCRM) have decided to leave its ranks and join the Democratic Party (PDM). The statement was made on 1 July by Veaceslav Bastritchi and the Moldovan karate sportswoman, Silvia Pargaru. The two live in Sangera (Chisinau municipality) and say they worked a lot in the previous electoral race to bring as many as possible votes to the Communists in their town, managing to secure 32% of the ballots. They are unhappy that the former Communist, Marian Lupu, was not proposed by the PCRM to run for the office of head of state. 'We used to be told there was a successor, a worthy and experienced person. We understood they meant Marian Lupu,' said Veaceslav Bastritchi. He meant the messages conveyed by the central staff of the PCRM to the local staffs rolling the campaign in their localities. The two have been members of the PCRM for two years. 'I left because I see no growth in the PCRM,' said Moldova's karate female champion. 'All the decisions within the PCRM are made and controlled by the old skeleton from the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union),' Bastritchi said. Bastritchi expects that some 10 % of the PCRM members – backers of former speaker Marian Lupu – may abandon the ruling party. 'But many are afraid, they've got kids,' he said. Bastritchi and Pargaru have said other colleagues of theirs will also join the PDM, where Marian Lupu already is heading the list for the 29 July elections. Contacted over the phone, the PCRM's press service did not answer the calls. IPN, 1 July 2009

ELECTIONS

CIJ report: national coverage TV and radio show series of deviations

Radio and TV stations enjoying national coverage have shown a series of deviations from professional and ethical principles, failing to cover the elections in a fair and equidistant manner. This conclusion was evinced on Thursday, 2 July, by a team of observers monitoring Moldova 1, Radio Moldova, NIT, Prime TV and EU TV, as they compiled their first weekly report (22-28 June). Interim manager of the Independent Journalism Center (CIJ) Nadine Gogu has said 'the public stations Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova observe, selectively, the principles of fair, balanced and impartial coverage.' 'Most of the election-related stories are not impartial, covering the events more from the perspective of the government and of the Communists Party (PCRM),' the observer said. Referring to the performance of the private television NIT, Nadine Gogu has stated 'NIT is conspicuous through its inclination to ignore some events and to highlight others, by rerunning the reports, and by selecting only the pieces of information putting the government in a positive light, and the political opposition in a bad light.' Executive manager of the Independent Press Association (API) Petru Macovei has said about Prime TV that 'it does not offer the public enough information about the elections.' 'By its decision not to get involved in covering the electoral race, this station with national coverage deprives its viewers from information, restricting their access to an event of such grandeur as the election is,' the expert said. 'EU TV covers, relatively impartially, the events linked to the race and electoral contestants. The large number of stories favoring certain electoral contestants and disfavoring others tell of a certain inclination of partiality on behalf of this station towards the actions of the Government, of the Communists Party and of the Christian Democratic People's Party (PPCD),' said API's director. The CIJ compiles these reports with the association of NGOs called 'Coalition 2009', in which other media monitors also participate with their projects. Those reports are, as a rule, criticized by the administration of the public company 'Teleradio-Moldova', which issues data displaying that this broadcaster would be granting

more time to the opposition, than to the ruling party. Petru Macovei considers as faulty the verification method of Teleradio-Moldova, which, he says, 'counts the appearances of the PCRM, on the one hand, and the appearances of all the other parties, on the other.' 'The balance is there, only it's a matter of positive or negative contexts,' said Nadine Gogu, referring to the quality of the presentations made to the PCRM and Government, on the one hand, and to the other politicians, on the other. The territorial coverage is the key-criterion in selecting the broadcasters monitored by the CIJ. Another reason was that namely these stations display more reluctance towards the legal provisions and the professional norms in ensuring political pluralism, according to previous monitoring reports compiled under Coalitions – 2009's aegis. IPN, 2 July 2009

AMN demands ISS, Prosecutor's Office, to interrogate first Vice-Speaker

The Moldova Noastra Alliance (AMN) demands from the Information and Security Service and General Prosecutor's Office (PG) the interrogation of First Parliament Vice-Speaker Vladimir Turcan in connection with organizing acts of vandalism on 7 April. AMN demands the institution of a suit against him on the basis of Article 341 of the Criminal Code: 'The Calls for the coup d'etat or the change of the constitutional order of the Republic of Moldova in a forced way. 'This statement is based on recordings, presented by JurnalTV, which documentarily show ex-Chairman of the standing committee for juridical affairs and parliamentary immunity, when the latter one was instructing provocateurs, planning to hoist the banners of the European Union and Romania over the buildings of the chief state institutions,' the release says. AMN considers it a paradox that the same Vladimir Turcan is the Chairman of the State Commission for the Investigation of the Commission on the Investigation of Disturbances of 7 April. This commission was set up by Communist President Vladimir Voronin. 'This decision was taken in order to block the investigation, which must clear out the truth about the organizational role of the Communist leadership in committing acts of vandalism in respect of the building of the Parliament and the Presidential Administration', the statement says. The entity considers that the insinuations on the opposition's participation in the planned attempt at a coup d'etat as a lie, these accusations are not supported by any evidence and finally lose their force in view of the recordings about Turcan. 'The AMN's appeals will also reveal the attitude of the General Prosecutor's Office and Information and Security Service to these events', the AMN thinks. Infotag, 6 July 2009