

## ***Moldova Weekly – September 16 – 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).

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## **MOLDOVA POLITICS**

### **President Vladimir Voronin resigns**

Vladimir Voronin addressed the Moldovan people, informing them that he would be leaving the post of head of state and thanking them for their support. In the communication published on 11 September, Voronin said that he and his team would move into Opposition, but promised they would return to power. The message starts with a summary of the results achieved by the government since 2001. Vladimir Voronin says that he hands power to the new administration with a heavy heart. 'I will be honest. I don't believe in the abilities of the politicians who formed an alliance only on the basis of emotions of denial and total denigration of their own country with the aim of distributing the posts and proposing a new positive program,' the head of state said, adding that he does not know a model of successful government based on the idea of destroying one's own country. 'However, I want to be optimistic, first of all because half of the Moldovan people voted in favor of continuing the reforms and transformations that we chose together with you, and secondly, because it is the people who decide how to develop (...),' the message says. The head of state has announced that the PCRM will shift to the Opposition. 'This is surely not the best variant of using our abilities and possibilities when the country is in such a difficult situation,' Voronin said. According to him, it is now the opponents' turn to show their capacity. 'It will be a dangerous mistake if they renounce this inheritance of the last eight years and will choose another development course,' Vladimir Voronin said. 'I'm convinced that the affluent times will return to our country. It cannot happen otherwise,' the president said. Vladimir Voronin had ruled the country for two terms, from 2001 until 2009. Vladimir Voronin has informed the legislative body about his decision to resign as President of Moldova. IPN, 11 September 2009

### **Parliament speaker appointed acting president**

The office of the Moldovan president has been declared vacant, and Parliament Speaker Mihai Ghimpu will take over the duties of acting head of state. The parliament's majority coalition adopted decisions in this respect, while the communist

faction opposed them. The MPs took notice of Vladimir Voronin's decision to resign from the post of head of state, given the incompatibility of this office with the office of MP. Subsequently, they put up for vote the issue of appointing an acting president. The communist MPs offered to discuss the appointment of an acting president following a notification by the Constitutional Court. The MPs of the Alliance for European Integration (AEI) spoke out for considering this matter on Friday, so as to rule out the possibility of a power vacuum. The parliamentary majority passed the decision appointing Speaker Mihai Ghimpu as acting president. The decision was submitted to the Constitutional Court (CC), so that it could confirm the circumstances justifying the temporary holding of the post of Moldova's president. Nevertheless, the Communists said that they would not recognize Mihai Ghimpu as head of state till the CC delivered its decision. Mihai Ghimpu told journalists that the principal task for him is to implement the AEI's programme, while the office of head of state is a temporary one. The next parliamentary meeting will be announced after the Permanent Bureau convenes. Moldpres, 11 September 2009

### **Mihai Ghimpu: We have an alternative, if head of state is not elected**

Speaker Mihai Ghimpu, who is also the caretaker head of state, said that they can use certain alternatives, if the Communists Party refuses to vote for the candidate for the presidency proposed by the Alliance for European Integration (AEI). 'The president will be elected constitutionally. We count on several legislative stipulations, which will make the PCRM support the Alliance's candidate,' Ghimpu said during the program 'In Profunzime' (In Depth) on ProTV Chisinau channel on Monday evening. It is not for the first time that Mihai Ghimpu has said that the AEI has solutions that could help elect the head of state, but never specifies what kind of solutions, even if the journalists insist. The Speaker also said that he had discussions with a number of Communist MPs and is convinced that more than eight of them will vote for the candidate fielded by the AEI. 'I cannot name those persons. It is not excluded that Vladimir Voronin (the leader of the PCRM) will also vote for the Alliance's candidate,' Mihai Ghimpu said. Representatives of the PCRM have repeatedly stated that they will not take part in the election of the head of state until they form a left-wing coalition. Members of the Alliance and Communist MPs say they do not want early parliamentary elections next year. But they do not rule out that early elections could again take place and accuse each other of responsibility for this. The president of Moldova is elected by the secret vote of at least 61 MPs. The Alliance for European Integration (PLDM, PL, PDM and AMN) hold 53 seats of MP, while the PCRM 48. IPN, 15 September 2009

### **Ex-president claims USA and Romania supported opposition parties victory**

The leader of Party of Communists of Republic of Moldova (PCRM), Vladimir Voronin, ex-president of Republic of Moldova, declared in an interview given to the Russian station 'Echo Moscv' that, the USA and Romania had supported the victory of the opposition parties in the anticipated parliamentary elections. According to the Moldovan ex-president, the USA was interested in removing the Communists from power in Moldova. 'If they provided funds for the abolition of the former Soviet Union, it was not a problem for them to allocate a few million dollars for buying the votes in the Moldovan elections', Vladimir Voronin also said. 'Emissaries from Bucharest and Washington forced those from the current democratic-liberal coalition to form the Alliance for European Integration', Voronin declared. Vladimir Voronin resigned from President on 11 September, after two mandates beginning with 2001. In his message addressed to the nation, he spoke about the achievements of communists throughout eight years of governing. Moreover, he made everyone understand that PCRM would come back. The interim president of the Republic of Moldova is the liberal leader Mihai Ghimpu, speaker of Parliament. DECA-press, 14 September 2009

### **PCRM asks Constitutional Court to interpret law**

The parliamentary group of the PCRM lodged an application with the Constitutional Court, asking it to interpret three articles from the Constitution of Moldova about the appointment of a caretaker head of state. The application was filed on Tuesday morning by the representative of the PCRM Sergiu Sarbu. 'The problem resides in the fact that these articles have never been put into practice in Moldova's constitutional practice and history. That's why there appeared to be divergences as to the moment when the caretaker president should be named: when the decision is made, or after the Constitutional Court gives

its consent. 'We do not challenge the holding by Ghimpu of the post on an interim basis, but want everything to be done in accordance with the Constitution and the legal norms,' Sarbu said. The PCRM considers that the acting head of state should take over after the CC gives its consent. 'The Parliament must make such a decision only after the Court analyzes the evidence and says what steps should be taken,' Sarbu said. On Monday, the Head of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu submitted a set of documents to the Constitutional Court, asking that it confirm the legality of holding the post of head of state on an interim basis. Mihai Ghimpu was named caretaker president of Moldova under a Parliament decision after the post fell vacant. Dumitru Tara, spokesman for the Constitutional Court, said that both of the applications might be examined at the same meeting as they have a common subject. He also said that the Court could meet by the end of this week. IPN, 15 September 2009

### **PCRM suggests two consensus schemes to AIE**

The Communists Party (PCRM) proposed two consensus schemes to the Alliance for European Integration (AIE). They center on the fight against the economic crisis and the resolution of the Transnistrian dispute. The former head of state, the Communist leader Vladimir Voronin spoke about their proposals on Tuesday. One of the basic principles of the PCRM is to keep the growth rate of salaries, increase the pensions and allowances for disabled and deprived families, Voronin said. Speaking about the Transnistrian conflict, the leader of the PCRM reiterated their intention to grant the region the status of republic as part of the Republic of Moldova. 'If we renounce the status of neutrality, we will cause separatism in the country,' Moldova's third president said. Vladimir Voronin also said that the two consensus schemes will be submitted to the Parliament for consideration. IPN, 15 September 2009

### **Prosecution delays examination of dossiers of persons maltreated in April**

The dossiers of persons beaten by the police representatives in time of the April riots are being delayed. General Prosecution is not providing any information on this subject, and the victims expect that the new authorities will hurry the investigation. Among those who filed complaints in this context, there are also 12 young people, represented in the trial by Moldova Helsinki Committee jurists. In the context of delay of examination of dossiers, the head of Helsinki Committee, Stefan Uratu said for Radio Free Europe that these dossiers are not being examined because of political instability. 'The examination of cases is being delayed because it is not clear yet whom the power of the country belongs to', Uratu said. At the beginning of July 2009, over 90 cases of maltreated persons have been recorded at the Prosecution. Only four dossiers of them were opened. The Prosecution refuses to provide any information relating to the number of dossiers and their examination. Deca-press, 11 September 2009

## **FOREIGN ENGAGEMENT**

### **PACE calls on new coalition and opposition to enter into meaningful dialog**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) may well demand that efficient measures be taken to break the deadlock between two hostile camps in the new Moldovan Parliament and to ensure the election of a new president. In a draft resolution adopted last Wednesday at a meeting in Paris, the Monitoring Committee called upon the new dominant coalition and the opposition in Moldova to enter into meaningful negotiations to break the deadlock and bring about the election of the President. 'Once the new state institutions are put in place, they should straightaway work on a far-reaching reform, including constitutional amendments if relevant, in order to establish genuine democratic safeguards against similar institutional and political deadlock situations', the co-rapporteurs on the functioning of democratic institutions in Moldova, Josette Durrieu (France, SOC) and Egidijus Vareikis (Lithuania, EPP/CD) stressed. Their report will be debated on 29 September by PACE during its plenary session. Infotag, 11 September 2009