
ELECTION PROCESS MONITORING

Report No. 5

Monitoring period: February 16 – March 2, 2005

“Election process monitoring” is a project developed in association with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the League for the Defence of Human Rights in Moldova (LADOM) and the Association for Participatory Democracy (ADEPT) within the framework of the NGO’s Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections “Coalition 2005”, composed of over 150 organizations at the moment of presenting this report.

The present report reflects the monitoring results for the period of February 16 – March 2, 2005. The information was collected by long term observers (LTOs): one observer in each of the 32 rayons on the right bank of Nistru and 7 regional coordinators in Chisinau, Balti, Soroca, Orhei, Cahul, Comrat, and Causeni. The election process monitoring was conducted under internationally accepted standards and according to principles stated in the Project’s Code of Conduct and the Regulations of the Moldovan Central Election Commission (CEC) regarding the status of observers.

The information presented in this report was collected using a weekly questionnaire concerning the course of the election process, including central and local authorities’ adherence to the Election Code, state preparations for election administration, the conduct of campaigns, and press activities.

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Executive summary

During the referred period, February 16 – March 2, 2005, the following positive developments are noted: expired identification documents were accepted as valid documents for voting, additional broadcasting time was granted for organizing electoral debates, conditions were provided for Moldavian citizens from the localities on the left bank of Nistru to participate, and polling procedures were revised.

At the same time, there were several negative tendencies noted.

Despite previous comments on this issue, in a number of areas students and Moldavian citizens living abroad were excluded from the main lists of voters. The above-mentioned groups were not able to receive adequate information on how to receive absentee voting certificates. Measures were not undertaken to open additional polling places in countries with larger Moldovan populations. In addition, there was uneven implementation of the requirement to display voter’s lists at least 10 days before the election date. All these may cause a low level of participation from certain segments of the population during the March 6th parliamentary elections.

At this point, no electoral contestant has declared the amount of campaign financing and the appropriate measures for publishing the CEC decisions in *Monitorul Oficial* were also not undertaken.

Relative to the previous monitoring periods, this report highlights the increase in tensions between the electoral contestants and shows certain new deficiencies in the election process. These deficiencies include: pressure applied to businesses, attempts to inappropriately influence voters, church clergy participation in campaigning, and inadequate voter lists, including arbitrary exclusion of voters, especially those who are known to be living abroad.

Finally, previously-noted deficiencies continued. These include the following: public stigmatization of certain electoral contestants, voter intimidation, unauthorized involvement of police authorities in the electoral campaign, unequal opportunities for the electoral contestants to campaign, use of state resources for campaigning, distribution of humanitarian aid in order to influence voters, and lack of space for campaigning.

On the whole, the above-mentioned observations question the integrity of the election process. We especially express our concern that certain administrative obstacles might cause a low level of participation among certain groups of voters and the continued deterioration of relations among the candidates. This may influence overall political stability during the post-election period.

Findings

I. Central Public Authorities

For the referred period there were reported cases of unjustified involvement of police authorities in the electoral campaign, intimidation against an electoral contestant, unbalanced treatment of a candidate and use of public resources for campaigning. Comparing to the previous monitoring period, the involvement of police authorities in the electoral campaign continued to vary.

A. Involvement of police representatives in electoral campaign

- **Intimidation of businesses**

During the referred period, LTOs noticed some cases of abuses against economical agents involved in activities of printing, publishing and editing advertising leaflets at the order of certain electoral contestants.

On February 4, 5, 7, 8, 2005, workers of the Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC) made a book-keeping and technological control at the publishing house Elan-Poligraf from Chişinău. The reasons were different, but especially they concerned the activity of the publishing house with the election process. Until that moment, over the past seven years, the publishing house was never checked. The publishing house activates under contract bases for the leaflets of both the governing party and the opposition. From the actions undertaken by the CCECC, it results that they were more interested in the agreements with the opposition electoral contestants.

On February 17, this year, 7 workers of the Police Station from Stefan-Voda rayon confiscated the equipment of the "Reclama Expres" Ltd. without good reason or authorization from the authorities.. In Teleneşti, on February 18, two SIS workers together with the chief of the Town Police Station, V. Cojocari, searched the office of "Reclama Expres" Ltd. and unreasonably suspended its activity, sealing up the main door. A similar case took place in Calaraşi. According the LTOs, the abuses of police workers and of SIS on these businesses is explained by the fact they published campaign materials for PŢCDM. It should be mentioned that in Călăraşi in this activity was involved a citizen of Russian Federation, Svetlana Reznic, who was deported from the Republic of Moldova together with another group of citizens of the Russian Federation.

- **Intimidation of some mass media institutions**

On February 24, 2005, a representative from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anatol Rusik, and another person who refused to introduce himself, entered the editor's office of "Moldavsckie vedomosti" stating they were looking for some female citizens of the Russian Federation. After the motiveless search, they

have not discovered anything. Before leaving, the editorial staff was threatened “that a grouping would be sent over”, without further specifications.

- **Electoral contestants intimidation**

Nicolae Ianuș and Valentin Afteni reported that Bureau on Crossborder Crimes and Information employees searched the Cahul premises of the PPCD and BMD. Lease agreements were checked. In the case of BMD, the workers were interested whether the representatives paid rent, verified the electoral advertising leaflets, and asked to be shown the source of the campaign finances.

- **Obstruction of electoral contestants in holding rallies**

On February 16, a group of PSDM activists was forbidden to hold a rally in Comrat. The driver accompanying the group had his driving license confiscated, and Elena Corjan, PSDM candidate, was taken at the City Police Station where she was reprimanded that the activists did not request approval from the local administration for holding the rally in the town.

LTOs reported cases when police removed electoral advertising posters. In Coșnița and Dubăsari villages the leaflets from opposition fractions were removed from the official advertising stands. A specific case was reported in Rîșcani town where police workers were tearing off electoral leaflets posted behind the main door of the PPCD premises from the town.

Also, a BMD supporter reported that that electoral advertising material in Chioselia and Cantemir villages was confiscated.

- **Documented activities of police authorities on the campaign events organized by electoral contestants**

LTOs report that on February 25 Serafim Urechean, BMD leader, was shadowed by police workers on the route between Rîșcani town and a local village. Being approached by Serafim Urechean, they admitted following him on orders from the police inspector.

B. Attack against an electoral contestant

Between 07.50 p.m. and 08.00 p.m. on February 20, “Moldova 1,” the only public TV-station with national coverage broadcasted a show titled “Tribuna electorală” (“Electoral Tribune”). This program was shown during the free air time for independent candidates Silvia Kirillov, Alexandru Bușmachi, Matei Ștefan and Tudor Tătaru. The show was inflammatory material directed towards the PPCD entitled “Opriți extremismul” (“Stop the Extremism”). The material referred directly to the PPCD President Iurie Roșca, who was associated with the spiritual leader of the terrorist movement Al-Qaeda, Osama Ben Laden, and with some of the most horrid atrocities committed by this terrorist network. PPCD vehemently protested against these accusations.

According to the statements of the candidate Ștefan Matei, he did not approve the broadcast of the film. Before the broadcasting he had a meeting on this issue with Sergiu Mocanu, counselor of the President of the Republic of Moldova. This fact suggests that one of the main central public institutions was involved in this attack against the PPCD.

C. Differential treatment of electoral contestants

The Ministry of Justice has complicated the registration of *Socius*, the PSDM press body. According to the communiqué from the PSDM, this affects the party’s ability to transmit its message to the electors and to execute its electoral rights.

The LTOs reported the disappearance of a portion of electoral advertising stand representing the PȚCDM within the Railway Station Bălți-Slobozia, while the other portion with electoral material representing the PCRPM remained untouched.

D. Use of public resources in electoral purpose

- **Use of administrative pressure**

Valeriu Calmațui, PCRM parliament deputy, threatened persons responsible for checking voters lists in Ungheni town with punishment if they would not present him detailed information on the electoral preferences of the voters, including government workers from the town. LTOs recognize the possibility that there may be post-election political repercussions against civil servants from this town for supporting other electoral contestants than PCRM.

LTOs reported that the mayor ordered distribution of electoral leaflets for the PCRM at the post office from Corlăteni village, Rîșcani rayon. At the post office from Grinăuți village, Rîșcani village, leaflets supporting the PȚCDM were distributed.

- **Electoral incitement during the civil servants' on-site official calls**

LTOs reported that on February 16, during a visit monitoring post office employees in the Telenesti rayon, Valerian Cristea, vice prime-minister and PCRM deputy candidate, asked the employees of ÎS "Poșta Moldovei" and Centre for Telecommunications to vote for PCRM.

On February 15, 2005 in Văratîc and Dumeni villages, the Minister of Health, A. Gherman, carried out an official visit within which he offered cases with medicines to medical workers for campaign purposes. The call took place according a schedule approved by the vice-minister Vasile Tar lev for 39 office holders, including Government members.

The February 25 President's, Vladimir Voronin, and Parliament Speaker's, Eugenia Ostapciuc, official visit to Cahul town and in Recea village, Rîșcani rayon, had a strong electoral character.

II. Local public authorities

For the referred period, there continued to be reported cases of electors' intimidation, deficiencies in voters' lists, cases of differential treatment to candidates, use of public resources for campaigning, as well as inadequacies in spaces designed for hanging campaign posters.

A. Candidate Intimidation

On February 22, the vice-mayor of Cupcini, Ion Tcaci, threatened to fire M. Berbeca, educator at the kindergarten No. 2 for having BMD promotional materials on her table.

B. Voter' lists

The LTOs noticed that there are certain localities where the process of drawing the voters' lists was burdened. Updates took place after the deadline of 10 days before the election date. Such instances were reported in Cantemir, Florești, Sîngerei and Ștefan-Vodă rayons.

In some areas from Anenii Noi, Bălți, Cantemir, Căușeni, Cimișlia, Dubăsari, Fălești, Ialoveni, Ocnîța, Ștefan Vodă, Telenești, Ungheni rayons, although the process of drawing the voters' lists ended within the terms foreseen by the legislation, their delivery to polling stations was delayed. According Article 30 Sec. a) of the Election Code the lists are to be checked from February 14-24, thus being possible to make them public with at least 10 days before the election date.

Giving this, LTOs note the potential for errors in the voters' lists, partially confirmed after an preliminary investigation of the voters' lists. This was reported in some localities, especially from Anenii Noi, Strășeni and Taraclia rayons. There were reported cases when persons under 18 years (e.g. Strășeni), or dead persons were included in the voters' lists. Also, there were reported cases of incomplete information on the voters' lists (lack of the year of birth, information from the identification documents etc.).

The researched emphasized that in a number of localities from Anenii Noi, Bălți, Briceni, Cantemir, Căușeni, Drochia, Edineț, Fălești, Glodeni, Leova, Rîșcani, Strășeni, Taraclia and Ungheni rayons, Moldovan citizens living abroad were excluded from the main voters' lists at the order of the CEC.

Arbitrary practices of including or excluding electors from the voters' lists were also reported, especially in Căușeni and Soroca rayons.

In this context, it was reported that in a number of areas in Drochia, Edineț, Fălești, Strășeni rayons, students were excluded from the main voters' lists, including those who do not hold a voting certificate in violation of the Election Code and the January 28CEC Regulation.

The LTOs noticed that the voters' lists were not presented with at least 10 days before the election date in a series of localities, especially in Anenii Noi, Bălți, Briceni, Cahul, Cantemir, Căușeni, Drochia, Florești, Ocnîța, Orhei, Strășeni and Telenești rayons.

Another factor contributing to poorly-maintained voters' lists is that the city administration lacks appropriate technical resources.

Differential treatment for electoral contestants

On February 15, Victor Cebanov, PCRM mayor in Cairaclia village, Taraclia rayon, impeded Serghei Fujenco, PȚCDM candidate from holding a meeting with the voters.

On March 2, the Mayoralty of Taraclia rejected the request of BMD to hold a meeting with voters in the Cultural Center ("Casa de Cultura"), indicating that a meeting could be organized no earlier than March 16, 2005.

On February 17, the BMD representative, Oleg Serebrian, was forbidden to hold a meeting with electors within the premises of the mayoralty from Telenești town.

PPCD and UCM activists met difficulties in carrying out rallies in Corjova and Criuleni villages. The BMD mayor, Gheorghe Ojog, forbade the PPCD to hang electoral posters on the electoral advertising stands. The PPCD activists were threatened and handled roughly by the district officer, Vasile Macarenco.

The mayor of Recea village, Rîșcani rayon, T. Grăjdeanu, prevented PPCD supporters, D. Lupașcu and I. Rotăraș, to hang a poster announcing a visit from the PPCD vice-president, Vlad Cubreacov.

On February 22, the Singerei administration refused to give the local cultural center for a meeting Serafim Urechean, BMD leader.

On the streets of Ungheni a minibus equipped with sound amplifier system repeatedly spread the message of the mayor Vitalie Vrabie to vote for PCRM.

The LTOs also observed that the Zăicani village administration offered free space for a meeting for Eugenia Ostapciuc, a PCRM deputy candidate. In the case of such a meeting with the PPCD, the mayoralty proposed a 150 MDL fee.

C. Use of administrative resources in electoral purpose

• Use of administrative pressure

On February 18, the chief of the rayon polyclinic ordered the employees to come to a campaign meeting with PCRM representatives. A similar case was reported in Bălți city, where the teachers from school No. 21 were required by the principal, Valentina Goiman, to attend a campaign meeting with PCRM representatives that took place within the school No. 13 from the city.

Officers from the Riscani rayon council were forbidden to participate in a February 25 rally with Serafim Urechean, BMD leader. In the case of a similar meeting with Eugenia Ostapciuc, PCRM deputy candidate, pressure was applied to attend the meeting.

The mayor of Căușeni town, Anatol Zarembo, asked his employees to attend the electoral meeting with Vadim Mișin PCRM candidate.

- **Use of public resources**

Because the premises of the BMD staff from Ialoveni is located in the rayon council building, and the PCRМ from Balti city is situated within the Informational Technology Department (DTI), the LTOs consider it possible that office space and communication services may be used from public resources in either situation.

- **Use of official vehicles**

On February 20, PCRМ activists traveled by ambulance in Zabriceni village, Edineț rayon, to distribute campaign material. On the same day, Boris Cebotari, chief of the Educational Department of the Falesti rayon council, and PCRМ activists, used the council's Finance Department car to conduct campaigning activities.

The LTOs point out that Pentelei Cuiumju, vice-mayor of Taraclia town, and two other local government employees used an official vehicle during the working hours to distribute PCRМ campaign materials.

D. Spaces for electoral advertising

The LTOs have noticed that there are still a large number of areas where special spaces for electoral advertising have not been set up. Such localities were noticed in the following rayons: Rîșcani and Ștefan Vodă.

In addition, there are places where stands were not set up for campaign advertising. Such a problem was noticed in Anenii Noi, Drochia, Rîșcani, Strășeni, Ștefan-Vodă, Taraclia, Telenești and Ungheni rayons.

Another problem is that in certain areas the spaces for campaign advertising are inadequate (Cahul town, Orhei town, a series of localities from Drochia, Fălești, Ialoveni, Orhei, Strășeni and Ungheni rayons).

In some cases, the spaces for campaign advertising have been set up in official buildings (such as cultural centers and city administration buildings), thus limiting voter access to these stands. Such cases were noticed in Râșcani rayon.

If dedicated space doesn't exist, this tends to lead to improperly-placed campaign posters and subsequent official pressure on campaigners. There were several attempts to punish people for improper campaign poster placement noticed in Ialoveni rayon. Administrative cases were filed against 6 PPCD supporters, who received fines of 180 MDL for incorrectly placing campaign posters, without taking into account that no dedicated space existed in those areas.

III. Election Administration

During the referred period, positive developments included additional broadcasting time for debates was granted, vote tabulation procedures were revised. Problems included difficulties guaranteeing voting rights, deficiencies in local electoral organizations, and poor transparency in the process of election administration.

A. Election Campaign Coverage

The "Election Process Monitoring" project welcomes the February 23 CEC decision to change the Concept and Regulation on mass media campaigning. We welcome the additional 90 minutes, including Sunday time, for organization of electoral debates on public TV and radio stations.

At the same time, we express our sorrow that the debates were not launched at the beginning of the electoral campaign. The additional time for these debates was accepted only at the end of this campaign, which brought prejudices for voters to adequately and objectively familiarize themselves with the main stages of the campaign.

B. Vote tabulation procedures

Reconsideration of the vote tabulation procedures, in accordance with Venice Commission advice, is another positive development noted within this election process period. The display of ballots one by one to the other members of the polling committee and to the observers present during counting will increase the transparency of the process. Welcomed is also the decision to recheck invalid ballots by the members of the polling station committees.

C. Warranty of the right to vote

• Voting for the persons with expired identification documents

One of the most important decisions adopted by the CEC during this period was the decision on March 6 to permit voting using expired identification documents. In this context, we are satisfied that the responsible authorities followed the recommendations of "Coalition 2005" for providing conditions so that those with expired identification documents may vote.

But, we regret that the necessary measures were not incorporated to clarify the voting procedure those who do not live at their registered address. This may lead to voters being in two separate voters lists at once.

• Students' voting

Although a new procedure for students to vote was adopted, the number of students who came to pick up their certificates for the right to vote could be very low. The responsible authorities did not undertake sufficient measures to organize an information campaign for this voter group on how to receive these certificates and of exercising the right to vote. One of the direct consequences of this state might be the reduced participation of students at the elections.

• Voting of Moldovan citizens from the left bank of Nistru

During the referred period, it was reported the approval by CEC of the decision that regulates the participation at the Parliament Elections of the Republic of Moldova for Moldovan citizens living on the left bank of Nistru and in Bender city. Taking into consideration the guarantee of minimal conditions for this category of citizens to participate at elections, the LTOs express their continued insistence for repeated recommendations made by the civil society to provide transport means for these voters at the polling places in areas under Chisinau control, as well as conducting a mass informing campaign on how to vote.

Similarly, not providing additional support for the Moldovan citizens from the left bank of Nistru to participate might cause a low turnout at the elections.

• Moldovan Citizens Voting Abroad

The same risk of low participation at elections exists also in the case of Moldavian citizens who are abroad. Under the conditions that on February 22 it was decided to open only 23 polling places abroad, only near the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova. In this context, the LTOs believe that the responsible authorities should search for measures to open some additional polling places at least in the states where the number of Moldavian citizens is large, such as Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, and so on).

From this perspective, we express our sympathy towards the March 6 Resolution of the European Parliament for the Republic of Moldova, requesting more EU member states to search for the means to allow to open on their territory some additional polling places to simplify the participation of Moldovan citizens at the Parliament Elections. Since European institutions have offered support, it is unclear why Chisinau has not made requests for support in receiving ballots from abroad.

D. Electoral bodies

• Creation of polling station electoral councils

The LTOs seized infringements of the electoral schedule regarding the deadline (February 14) for creating electoral councils of the polling places in Riscani rayon.

The LTOs also report the insufficient training of some members of the electoral councils of the polling places. This issue was noted for certain councils from Căușeni, Râșcani and Taraclia rayons.

- **Support by some members of electoral council**

Between February 17 and 24, Larisa Zgardan and Lilia Popa, members of the electoral council of the polling place No. 46 from Redi-Cereșnovăț distributed BMD campaign material, and on February 27, Gavriiliuc Galina, member of the polling station election council No. 2 from Edinet town, distributed PCRM campaign material.

- **Technical capacity of electoral organizations**

The LTOs reported that more territorial electoral councils do not have a computer and limit themselves at keeping their decisions only in printed form, which can create difficulties for the observers to have access to the decision of the respective electoral bodies.

E. Reduced transparency of the election process

It is unfortunate that from the time of the Second report on election process monitoring until the present there have been no measures undertaken to publish CEC decisions in *Monitorul oficial*. This continues to question the transparency of the election process.

During this period it was reported the refusal of the President of CEC from Floresti to present to the observers the decisions issued by this council and to allow their access to some sessions of CEC from Floresti.

IV. Electoral contestants

During the referred period, the LTOs noted the straining of the relationships of the main electoral contestants, infringements of the CEC Regulation on declaring financial means of electoral contestants, cases of distributing cash and humanitarian aid for campaigning, as well as continuing violation of the provisions foreseen for dedicated campaign advertising space.

A. Relationships between the electoral contestants

Once the electoral campaign comes to an end, the relationships between the main electoral contestants worsened dramatically. PCRM and BMD are accusing each other of entangled relationships with underworld groupings, the reports between the PCRM and PPCD worsened after the attempts to publicly stigmatize the last, those between the PCRM and PSDM worsened while the social-democrats faced an increasing number of problems during the electoral campaign, and those between the PPCD and BMD are shadowed after mutual attacks addressed towards the moral profiles of their leaders.

On the evening of February 19, in Balti city, Vladimir Vitiuc, candidate for deputy function from behalf the PCRM, and Andrei Ciornii, city counselor from behalf the PCRM, have physically aggressed Denis Podoprigora, BMD representative. Arriving at the scene, police workers did not undertake any measures.

B. Electoral funds of electoral contestants

The LTOs report that until now no electoral contestant did respect the obligation foreseen by Article 38 Para. (1) Lett. a) of the Election Code to declare in press during one month after the initial of the electoral campaign of the financial resources and other means of material support of their activity.

C. Distribution of cash and humanitarian aid for campaign purposes

According to the LTOs, the BMD representatives donated money to more churches from Telenesti rayon. The prime-minister, Vasile Tarlev, PCR candidate, made donations in form of medicines in Cuşmirca and Vadul Raşcov localities, Şoldăneşti, also offering a TV-set to the lyceum from the last locality.

At a voters meeting with the prime-minister Vasile Tarlev in Basarabasca town on February 19, within some teachers from Sadaclia village complained about the local school's conditions. On February 22, items were brought to the school: sport equipment, 300 slates and 5 m³ of boards.

The LTOs revealed that at the end of the meeting with the electors organized by UMPR at the cultural center in Edinet, the persons present at this meeting were handed envelope with 50 MDL.

In all these cases it was violated Article 38 Para. (7) of the Election Code .

D. Advertising electoral leaflets

The majority of electoral contestants do not respect the obligation to hang the advertising electoral leaflets only in the purposely equipped places for electoral advertising. Leaflets representing PCR, PPCD, BMD, PSDM, BEPR, UMPR, PŢCDM, PDSEM, independent candidates Silvia, Matei Ştefan, Tătaru Tudor could be noticed in unauthorized places. In certain cases, responsible for this situation are more likely the local public authorities which did not offer yet such spaces or disposed the equipment of certain places for electoral advertising of small dimensions. In the other cases, the electoral contestants are responsible for violating the Election Code.

E. Lack of information foreseen by Article 47 (5) of the Election Code on electoral leaflets

The observers reported that the electoral leaflets representing PCR, BMD, BEPR, MSPRR, UCM, UMPR, PŢCDM, PDSEM do not contain information on the date of publishing, number of copies and editor house that published them. These data miss also from the leaflets of the independent candidates Matei Ştefan and Andrei Ivanţoc.

V. Miscellaneous

During the referred period, there were noticed first cases of church involvement in the election process and a case of electoral disputes.

A. Involvement of church in the election process

The LTOs reported that during the divine service, the priest of the church from Vinogradovca village, Taraclia rayon, campaigned for PCR, while in the church from Vadul-Leca village, Teleneşti rayon, in favor of BMD.

B. Electoral disputes

Dumitru Duca, member of the polling place No. 2 from Cimişlia town, was dismissed in his absence from this quality during the session of the Town council from February 2, this year, under Article 33 Para. 6 and Article 33 Para. 2 of the Election Code. According to the LTOs, this decision was determined by a request from January 31 of the Communist Counselors addressed to the Cimişlia mayor, by which they requested to exclude Dumitru Duca from the staff of this polling place.

The decision of the Cimişlia Town Council was appealed at the district court. Although, there were not brought conclusive proves confirming that Dumitru Duca would have violated Article 32 Para. 6 of the Election Code, the judge Nicolae Scurea pronounced himself in favor of Cimişlia Town Council.

In this context, the LTOs remark that on February 28, the PCR counselors within the Cimişlia Town Council were called at the local premises of this fraction by Iosif Chetraru, depute in Parliament from behalf the PCR, examining together all those 73 persons proposed for the Town Council in quality of members of polling places.

Concerns

The deficiencies and issues, as presented, raise serious concerns in assuring a free and integral character to the electoral process. The most problematic issues include:

- **Warranty of the constitutional right to vote for all the electors** – the students and Moldavian citizens with residence on the left bank of Nistru were not familiarized with the procedure of their participation at election, there is no clear obligation on guaranteeing transport means to the electors from the Transnistrian region at the polling places from the localities under the subordination of Chisinau, there were not undertaken measures to open additional polling places abroad for a more plenary capitalization of the ballots of the Moldavian citizens who are abroad. All these may cause a low level of participation of these categories at the Parliament elections from March 6;
- **Relationships between the main electoral contestants** – worsening of these relationships might compromise the political stability in the country during the post-election period;
- **Corruption of electors** – existence of such examples at the end of the electoral campaign announces their probability also during the election date;
- **Fairness of electoral workers** – during the period of election process monitoring there were reported more examples with electoral workers whose fairness might be questioned;
- **Unjustified involvement of police authorities in electoral campaign** – given the large number of such cases reported by the LTOs during their activity of election process monitoring, we express our worry that during the election day some new incidents incited by police workers might arise;
- **Use of financial and material means for campaign purpose** – the insignificant level of transparency in using financial resources in the electoral campaign makes us question the fairness of financing the electoral contestants;
- **Warranty the secrecy of vote and transparency of the process of poll counting and tabulation of results.**

Recommendations

On the bases of the above-mentioned findings and concerns, the implementation working group of the “Election Monitoring Project” recommends the following:

- **To act immediately and appropriately in cases of corruption and intimidation of electors, as well as in cases when electoral workers violate the election law;**
- **To solve the electoral disputes in reasonable terms and in strict conformity with the legislation in force;**
- **To allow the presence of police workers at the polling places only upon the request of the chiefs of the polling places;**
- **To register the results of poll counting in large reports distributed to all polling places;**
- **To declare the financial and material means used by electoral contestants, according Article 38 Para. (1) Lett. a) of the Election Code.**