



CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

LEAGUE FOR DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF MOLDOVA - LADOM

MONITORING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR THE GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

REPORT III

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RESUME AND CONCLUSIONS

The present report contains some findings on the unfolding of the electoral process during the monitoring period.

The electoral campaign was characterized by a series of major resonance actions carried out in four directions: 1. **The Central Election Commission and the Electoral District Councils** have concentrated their activity on organizing the elections and establishing the electoral procedures, training the electoral employees, supervising the implementation of the legal provisions in order to ensure the electoral rights; 2. **Electoral competitors** have organized their electoral campaigns in order to increase their final results; 3. **Coalition 2007 and NGO representatives** have launched civic education and electoral campaigns, continued to monitor the electoral process, recruited and trained over 2000 independent observers at elections. 4. **International elections monitoring missions** invited by the Chisinau authorities continued the monitoring of the electoral campaign on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The elections monitoring missions found out a relatively satisfactory legal framework for the general local elections process in the Republic of Moldova. Anyway, a number of gaps were identified in the normative acts regulating the process of elections. These refer to: activity of electoral bodies, procedure of candidates' nomination, voting procedures and counting the results of the elections, solving the electoral disputes, updating the voters' lists, etc.

Most people involved in the electoral campaign and on whom pressing has been applied or have been enticed by another party, usually by PCRM, do not want to make declarations about this in order to avoid possible professional, economic and private problems they could have after the Election Day.

The system of exercising the state power is founded on the control of the majority party over all the aspects of the social life. The local autonomy is strongly enframed by the installing of a vertical of the power, which means in reality the subordination of local authorities to the decision factors of the central government. The administrative staff is used by the central authorities in electoral campaigns. On one hand, the ruling party, using administrative resources, tends to control more and more segments of the electoral campaign, and the opposition, conducting some administrative units at a local and rayon level, tends to influence the electoral campaign in these administrative units.

LADOM registered a series of positive tendencies in the activity of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), in particular by taking legal attitudes and positions in relation to the electoral candidates and to the submitted suggestions, by training the electoral employees and involving in this process some qualified non-governmental organizations from Moldova. Likewise, the programs of public debates at local and national media institutions turned out to be efficient. Despite the fact that PCRM has publicly announced the refusal to participate in such programs, the public debates contribute most directly to information from the first source of the electorate regarding the electoral programs proposed by the electoral competitors.

In particular, LADOM expresses its concern about the following negative aspects of the electoral process:

- The large use of administrative resources by some electoral candidates in the virtue of their function or position;
- Intimidation of the electoral competitors from opposition, favoring one electoral candidate by the central public administration, lack of equal conditions for all electoral competitors.
- Lack of transparency and accountability in the financing of the candidates, as well as in relation to the expenses operated by them for electoral advertising;
- Direct void or hidden electoral advertising in public mass-media, placement of electoral posters in unauthorized places, not indicating the number of copies, the printing house, etc.

- The Competence conflict between the Central Electoral Commission and the District Electoral Councils on one hand and the judicial instances on the other hand, lead to delaying the requests and contestations examination on the decisions and actions of the district electoral councils, as well as on the actions of the electoral competitors.

The negative aspects outlined in this report can significantly influence the integrity of the electoral process unless properly removed.

1. Central Public Authorities

The President Vladimir Voronin got involved in the electoral campaign in favor of V. Iordan on 23 May in the Botanica sector, when the itinerary of trolleybus No. 4 was prolonged from Hristo Botev street on the Independence street until Dacia boulevard. The chief of the state said that due to the ruling party those two new trolleybuses, assembled in Chisinau, could be put into circulation. Many inhabitants were revolted that the chief of the state was involved in electoral campaign. The projection and construction works of the trolleybus line in Botanica sector were financed from the municipal budget; the supplier was Compania Electrica S.A.

2. Central Election Commission (CEC)

Since the beginning of the campaign 75 complaints have been submitted by the electoral competitors. The CEC issued some public premonitions to the electoral competitors such as annulment of registration no. 1 on the electoral list of the PCRM electoral competitor in Balti municipality, premonition to the Public company "Teleradio-Moldova" informing it had favored the ruling party, the public recommendation to the President of the Parliament, Mr. Marian Lupu, in which it is mentioned he uses the high official position, as well as public means and goods for sustaining and promoting PCRM candidates. By the same decision CEC warned the Telenesti Rayon Council to ensure equal conditions to all the electoral competitors as meetings with voters regard. The rayon council was also warned on spending the public money and favoring PCRM. PCRM, as well, was warned not to use public means and goods for promoting and sustaining its candidates.

CEC adopted an attitude in the dispute between PCRM and PPCD on organizing some events on the Great National Meeting Square in the last campaign day, 1 June.

Although the candidates- registration for the mayors, local, rayon and municipal councilors was over one month ago, CEC does not have a statistics yet on the total number of candidates for the corresponding positions.

3. Use of Administrative Resources

The local public administration uses the gasification and water supply programs, road repair, hastily street pavement for electoral purposes.

The electoral competitors representing the former management from Balti, candidates on the lists of PCRM have advantages, as when they organize meetings with the voters they use technical means and buildings of the cultural and education institutions.

In Briceni humanitarian aid received in 2006 is distributed. The electoral competitor Vitalie Vrabie offered free services of taking baths to retired people. The bath from the town has been privatized 5 years ago and the prices are exaggerated.

The PCRM electoral competitors, the chief-doctor of the rayon and the chief of the General Rayon Department for Education, Youth and Sport Briceni have presented electoral platforms within the working meetings with the doctors and directors of educational institutions.

The President of the National House of Social Insurance Soldanesti uses the work car for electoral purpose.

In Causeni a concert was organized with the participation of the singer Gheorghe Țopa for sustaining the independent electoral competitor Mrs. Aurelia Repesciuc, where many viewers were transported free of charge with the route mini-buses of the town. At the indication of the Police Commissar of the Causeni

Police Station, Mr. Repesciuc, the husband of the mentioned electoral competitor, the routes of the public transportation have been modified in order not to impede the electoral concert organized by his wife.

In Falesti Mr. D. Gorodenschi, an independent candidate for the mayor function presents at the meetings with voters the receiving of a grant for roads repair by the town administration as a personal activity.

At the meeting with voters at the primary school in Dubasarii-Vechi the Communist deputy Vasile Iovv has honestly responded to some uncomfortable questions of the voters: if you vote PCRM, you will have repaired roads, if you don't - you will not have them. For the construction of the road segment about 4 mln lei are needed.

On 23 May in Briceni town a meeting with voters of Mrs. E. Ostapciuc, the president of the PCRM in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova took place. The local public administration obliged the staff of teachers, doctors, educators from kindergarten and personnel from other institutions to be present at this meeting. The working hours have been suspended as the meeting took place at 15:00.

The work car Niva, registration number BR AC 500 of the Rayon Council Briceni is used by the president of the rayon for electoral publicity in the villages.

On 15 May the opening of a camp for children took place in Larga village, where the vice-president of the rayon, Mr. V. Bejenaru, V. Ghies, the chief of the General Rayon Department for Education, Youth and Sport Briceni and L. Volosciuc, the mayor of Larga. Last year this camp was open on 10 June, this year it started its activity two weeks before the end of the school year.

At the meeting with the inhabitants of Sireuti village, Briceni rayon, the deputy on behalf of PCRM, Mrs. Stela Gherman, promised the gasification of the houses in the village for free.

Mrs. Valentina Mogus, mayor of Bogdanesti, relieved from her position, still works in the building of the village administration and uses the work car of the village administration. Also Mr. Toader Carlaşuc, mayor of Sireuti, candidate from AMN uses the car of the village administration model VAZ 2107, registration number BR AM 821 for electoral purposes. The Mayor of Pererîta, Mrs. Ciutac Valentina representing PPCD and the secretary of the village administration Mrs. Megalcian Victoria, candidate for the Mayor position on behalf of PCRM continue their activity in the premises of the village administration using the administrative resources.

In Larga village electoral materials on behalf of PCRM were distributed, having as attachments the balance sheet of the Association of Gas-makers and the list of projects won by the Larga village. The candidate for the mayor position in Larga village, Mr. A. Josan, PSL representative informed the observer on the fact that the humanitarian aid received by Larga village administration was distributed to many families in need such as Burlădean, Digolean etc.. in order to favor the electoral competitor Lidia Voloşciuc, candidate on behalf of PCRM. The representatives from the Department for Social Assistance from Briceni have distributed humanitarian aid in Criva village; they were accompanied by Mr. Vadim Gorobcov, candidate for the Mayor position on behalf of PCRM. The Mayor of Larga L. Voloşciuc (PCRM) has distributed blankets to the kindergartens from lots of humanitarian aid received in 2006.

The President of the District Electoral Council Mărcăuţi no. 6/20, Mrs. Galina Teleucă, makes electoral publicity in favor of the Mayor of Mărcăuţi Oleg Lisiuc, candidate on behalf of PCRM. The other two independent candidates, Mr. Vladimir Cara and Mr. Dumitru Chistol are denigrated.

The vice-president of Briceni rayon, V. Spatari, obliged Mr. O. Burdujan, accountant in the Briceni Rayon Council, to submit a request of dismissal, because he sustains PDM.

In Cahul there have been registered cases when the employees of post offices distributed money in envelopes for retired, disabled people, veterans, saying that was a material help from the PCRM representatives. In Ungheni, the State Enterprise "Posta Moldovei" distributes electoral materials.

On 24 May in Glodeni, after exercising political pressing and blackmail, the dismissal of the chief-doctor of the rayon, Mr. M. Popa was accepted, who is a candidate on behalf of UCM.

There have been registered many cases in which the representatives of the Republican Popular Party (PPR) visited the inhabitants of Sângerei town at their home and asked for signatures as a confirmation that they will vote for PPR.

The campaign organized in Căușeni by the representatives of AMN is characterized by aggressiveness and tough critics of PCRM, often intolerable terms, and in district no. 8 of Balti city activists of PSD have compromised the meeting of the candidate from PCRM V. Panciuc through outcries, whistles and scansion of indecent phrases.

The Criuleni District Electoral Council adopted the decision to dismiss the president of the District Electoral Council from Răculești village, Mr. Vasile Burciu on the ground that his sister-in-law, Angela Burciu is a candidate from AMN. Mrs. Angela Burciu has withdrawn her candidacy before the case was examined at the Council's meeting. The Central Election Commission, after the submitted contestations by AMN, has obliged the Council to re-establish her rights.

Mr. Ghenadie Dabej, independent candidate for the Mayor position in Cimișeni village, former Mayor, has insistently convinced Iurie Sturza and Alexei Mihai (PCRM) to withdraw their candidacies from the lists of councilors.

The candidate for the Mayor position in Alcedar village, Șoldănești, holder of agricultural plots rented from the owners, makes the processing of these plots dependent on the results of the villagers voting.

There have been registered cases of calumny of some electoral competitors in Elizaveta village, Bălți.

4. Electoral Boards

The monitoring group is worried about the fact that in most localities the space reserved for placing the electoral materials is not enough or not suitable. The posters placed in authorized places are damaged by malevolence of people that remain unknown to the bodies responsible for ensuring public order. The electoral board of the competitors is destroyed daily in Anenii-Noi. In Sângerei the posters of hammer and sickle were placed on PSL's posters, and the PPCD posters are placed on the poles and windows of a private house. Cases have been registered, when there was no indication of number of copies, printing house, date, etc.

In Criuleni the place for the electoral posters is not enough and the electoral materials are placed everywhere, being extirpated immediately after having been placed. In Basarabasca such electoral materials are placed on the shops' windows, buildings and poles by the representatives of PCRM, PD, and PDS.

There are no delimited places for electoral posters in Tudora, Carahasani, Antonești, Ermoclia villages.

In Căușeni the materials with electoral character are distributed also in the shoes shop, being placed in the boxes with shoes. When food products are sold in the "Aroma" shop, electoral materials about the candidate Vitalie Vrabie is distributed, who represents "Patria-Rodina - Ravnopravie".

An electoral poster of PCRM has been placed in the waiting room of the Sângerei city hall, which served as a ground for PCRM representatives to submit a contestation to the District Electoral Council.

5. Incidents

On 22 May approximately between 13.00 and 14.00 2 electoral competitors, Petru Reniță and Ion Strătilă had a fight. Reniță suspected Strătilă, interim mayor, of using administrative resources for electoral purposes and paid him an "information" visit, wishing to collect proofs. Following the incident Reniță had his photo camera broken and Strătilă was hospitalized.

On 11 May 5 members of PSL from Coteala, Larga, Hlina, Trebisăuți and Bălăsinești villages, candidates for the position of rayon councilors have been imposed by V. Ghieș, the chief of the General Rayon Department for Education, Youth and Sport, to withdraw their candidacies from the lists.

Three candidates for the position of local councilors in the local council Tabani: V. Burea, A. Moldovan, M. Duplache have been imposed to withdraw their candidacies from the list of local councilors, being frightened they will be dismissed by Găină Gheorghe, former mayor and actually candidate for the same position on the PCRM lists. Also V. Spatari has imposed 6 members of PSDM, candidates in the Berlineț local council: Svera Valentina, Tihonciuc Vasile, Beliciuc Roman, Cazac Eduard, Curahiuc Alexei, Tatarciuc Vasile to withdraw their candidacies from the list of local councilors in Berlineț, being threatened to be fired.

In Coteala village, Briceni, at the meeting of the Communist Party, A. Cebotari has been nominated as a candidate for the position of Mayor, being sustained by the president of the local organization of PCRM Leonid Sitcom. The President of the rayon did not agree with this candidacy and proposed A. Franț as a candidate. Leonid Șitcov expressed his disagreement with this decision and committed suicide. As a result A. Cebotari has left PCRM and is included on the list of PPCD, and the candidate of PCRM is A. Franț.

In Tabani village the candidate for the position of mayor from AMN, M. Zaporozjan intends to participate in the elections without the list of local councilors, who were imposed to withdraw their candidacies.

6. Conflicts of Interest

Mrs. Tatiana Fedorișin is the vice-president of the Electoral Bureau of the voting section no. 1 from Edinet, and her husband is a candidate in the rayon council on PCRM lists.

CEC in Făleşti (electoral district no. 17) received 6 contestations mentioning that in village administrations of Năvârneț, Pruteni, Catranîc, Bocani, Musteața villages there are members of the electoral councils of the voting sections who are relatives of the I and II degree of the candidates..

In most localities the activism of the electoral competitors increased. The most active parties are PCRM, AMN, PSD, PPCD, and PD. The competitors prefer the discussions between the candidate and voters, avoid the participation of more electoral competitors in the elections and are afraid to talk about intimidations. The relieved mayors have more chances, the inhabitants of the villages perceive them as working mayors, and the short terms (from registration to the election day) does not allow all the voters to get acquainted with the electoral programs of the electoral competitors. The transparency of the electoral bodies strictly depends on the insistency of the electoral competitors.

7. The Electoral Lists are not Checked and Do Not Correspond to the Real Situation

According to the provisions of the existing legislation, the electoral lists are prepared by the local administration. Traditionally the electoral lists are superficially checked and do not correspond to the real situation. In the conditions of a massive exodus of population, there is no strict record keeping of the citizens that are on the territory of the Republic of Moldova on the Election Day. Voting on additional lists brings many possibilities for electoral frauds. The electoral lists have been displayed 20 days before the Election Day in 60 per cent of the city halls. The electoral lists have not been displayed in 8 localities of Ștefan Vodă.

At the general local elections of 3 June about 2.5 million voters are expected to come to the ballot-boxes, who are registered in the electoral lists for local general elections, with approximately 300 thousand more than for the general local elections in 2003.

Most voters: 580 thousand, are expected at the elections in the Chisinau municipality, where there will be 285 voting sections, out of which 233 in Chisinau city. The highest number of voters is in the Botanica sector: about 128 thousand, followed by Rîșcani sector: almost 122 thousand, then those from Buiucani sector: about 82.5 thousand voters on the lists; Ciocana: about 80 thousand and Center sector, in which about 74 thousand voters are registered. In the capital's suburbs about 94.6 thousand voters have been registered in the lists.

Over 100 thousand voters are registered in the lists of Bălți municipality, followed by Orhei, Cahul and Hâncești rayons with about 80 thousand voters each.

At the local elections from 2003 the elections participation rate was of 58.68%. The most active voters were those from Basarabeasca, Cantemir and Ocnița, where over 75% of voters came to the ballot-boxes. In Bălți and Chișinău the participation rate amounted to 35 and 45% accordingly, the lowest in the Republic of Moldova.

8. Involvement of Ecclesiastics in the Electoral Campaign

On 19 May after a current renovation the church "Saint Apostles Peter and Paul" was blessed, although the church's holiday is celebrated on 12 July. During the ceremony the bishop of Cahul Anatolie, who participated in the ceremony, handed out a church order to the mayor of the Căușeni town, Zeremba A. and the vice-president of the rayon Andrieș N., who is a candidate for the rayon and town Councils. The decoration ceremony was accompanied by appeals to keep such people in the management of the rayon and of the town in the future. The local television has repeatedly broadcast this event during the week.

The priest from Drășliceni, Criuleni, during divine services makes electoral publicity in favor of the PCRM candidate Nicolae Efros, and calls the faithful not to vote for women-candidates (PL and PD) for the position of mayor of the village. We mention that previously N. Andronic addressed the patriarch Alexei II of Moscow and of whole Russia and asked not to allow the priests to get involved in earthy issues.

9. Contestations

The Christian Democrats won the appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice in litigation with the Communist Party that also intended to organize an electoral event on the 1st of June on the Great National Meeting Square. The leader of PPCD accused the Communist Party of infringing the electoral legislation, obliging the employees from the City Hall to sustain their candidate, Veaceslav Iordan, and said that this attitude of the power questioned the correctness of the local elections.

Vladimir Filat, the candidate of the Democratic Party for the position of Mayor of Chisinau Municipality, accuses the state institutions of active involvement in the electoral campaign "on behalf of the electoral candidate that represents the ruling party". He distributed a declaration to the press affirming that "during the electoral campaign for local elections of 03 June, a partial attitude of the police bodies could be felt". "Among the extraordinary cases we can mention the interdiction to place legally an electoral board on Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, close to the building of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the order to demount the electoral board from the bill board at the entrance into the city. In both cases the police acted on the basis of the orders of the superiors, having no legal basis", Vladimir Filat mentions. He affirms that "many people were penalized administratively, with a fine, as they were legally distributing leaflets and folders in many sectors of the capital". "Numerous cases of verbal intimidation by the police employees are registered", the candidate sustains. Filat paid attention to the inadmissibility of involvement of state bodies in such actions, particularly bodies that should ensure the legality. "Intimidations and tendentious application of legislation compromises the electoral campaign and undermine the efforts of founding a functional democratic system", Vladimir Filat adds.

The Party of Social Democracy sustains that Veaceslav Iordan, the candidate of the Communist Party for the position of General Mayor of Chișinău municipality, would have asked more employees from the City Hall, including the interim mayor, Nicolae Manastîrli, to submit dismissal requests. PDS affirms that Veaceslav Iordan intimidates the employees of the municipal administration for the fact that these decided to give PDS the right to organize a protest concert on the Great National Meeting Square. "PDS insists to stop the 'red gloves' disorder and the persecution of people, who acted according to the existing legislation" is mentioned in a press release of PDS. The party asks the embassies accredited in Chisinau, the European and international bodies that monitor the electoral processes in the Republic of Moldova to adequately appreciate the abusive actions of the representatives of the ruling party in order to determine them „to strictly respect the national legislation and European and international norms regarding the correctness of the electoral processes".

Towards the end of the electoral campaign cases of pressing and intimidations are registered more often, especially for the position of rayon councilors, regarding their withdrawal from the electoral campaign. This fact is registered in the questionnaire of the long-term observer, but also informed to the CEC by the electoral competitors.

The Central Election Commission (at the contestation of PSDM) has annulled the Decision of the Electoral Council of the Briceni Rayon Electoral District no. 6, through which the list of the candidates for the position of councilor in the Rayon council no. 6 on behalf of the Social-Democratic Party from Moldova has been excluded. The Briceni District Electoral Council no. 6 adopted decisions no. 6/1-1, nor. 6/1-2, no. 6/1-3, 6/1-4, 6/1-5 of 11 May, 2007 and 7/1-1 of 15 May, 2007, by which it had excluded people from the list of candidates of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova for the position of councilor of the Briceni Rayon Council, thus exceeding its attributions, because according to provisions of art. 46, par. (6) of the Electoral Code, the right to withdraw the candidacy belongs to the candidate and not to the electoral body.

In this case the electoral competitor is the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova, a subject of electoral law that has the right to make changes in the registered lists, and namely to withdraw its candidates from the registered lists.

Also the Briceni Electoral Council has excluded from the electoral campaign the list of candidates of the Social-Liberal Party for the Briceni Rayon Council on the ground that they do not conform to the conditions of par. (1) of art. 26 of the Electoral Code. The author of the contestation submitted to CEC, PSL, considers that through its actions the District Electoral Council no. 6 from Briceni has exceeded its attributions when it advanced the demarches of the citizens Balan Valeriu, Mistrean Alexandra, Cimpoeș Aurel, Chifeac Elena, because according to stipulations of art. 41 par. (2) lett. a) of the Electoral Code, the corresponding candidates have been nominated by the Social-Liberal Party, the latter being an electoral competitor under the conditions of par. (6) of art. 46 of the Electoral Code and accordingly, of a legal subject in case of withdrawal of candidacies from the registered list.

The objector indicates that the 4 above-mentioned people were subjected to harassments and intimidations by Mr. Vasile Ghieș, chief of the Briceni Rayon Department for Education, as they were employed in the educational field. The demarches of the mentioned people were submitted to the Electoral Council of the Briceni Rayon Electoral District no. 6 personally by Mr. Vasile Ghieș.

In order to confirm the mentioned facts, PSL submitted as a proof the written explanation of the citizen Balan Valeriu. Therein it is mentioned that following the registration in the list of candidates for the position of rayon councilors in which he was included too, and namely on 7 May at about 10:30, at the gymnasium from Hlivna village, where he works as a teacher, Mr. Vasile Ghieș came and invited him in the sport hall for a confidential discussion. During this discussion Mr. Vasile Ghieș using his position has intimidated him and asked him to give him a written demarche to the Electoral Council of the Briceni rayon electoral district no. 6 mentioning he wanted to withdraw his candidacy from the position of rayon councilor. Valeriu Balan had to write such a demarche according to the model, dictated by Vasile Ghieș, and namely, invoking the reason of going abroad to work. Vasile Ghieș did the same with his work colleague, Mrs. Mistrean Alexandra, who has written an identical demarche, invoking the same reason – leaving for abroad.

Only after a few days Balan Valeriu found out what the purpose was and what role was played by the demarche of withdrawing his candidacy from the list – due to this fact the Social-Liberal Party was excluded from the list.

With this explanation Balan Valeriu declares on his own responsibility that the demarche on withdrawal of his candidacy from the position of rayon councilor in Briceni was written against his will that is why he asks that this demarche not be taken into consideration.

Analyzing the materials received from the Electoral Council of the Briceni rayon electoral district no. 6, it has been found out that the proof presented by the objector is confirmed with documents received from the mentioned electoral body. The submitted requests by candidates Balan Valeriu and Mistrean Alexandra contain the same reason – leaving for abroad, fact that confirms the invoked reason by the objector that these people were intimidated and impeded by Vasile Ghieș to exercise the constitutional right to be elected.

The Electoral District Council from Ștefan-Vodă Rayon Has Registered an Electoral Competitor Infringing the Electoral Legislation

The objector asked the annulment of the decision of 8 May, 2007 on registration of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova as an electoral competitor for electing the Rayon Council Ștefan-Vodă and withdrawal of this electoral competitor from the electoral campaign. By the decision of 8 May, 2007, adopted by the Electoral Council of the Ștefan-Vodă Rayon Electoral District, the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova has been registered as an electoral competitor for electing the Rayon Council Ștefan-Vodă. The number of candidates registered by the party and registered by the Council amounted to 17 people. Meanwhile it was found out that no. 4 on the list, the candidate Mrs. Șeremet Nina, born in 1957 and candidate no. 10 Bolteanco Nina, born in 1957 is the same person. Before marriage her surname was Șeremet, after marriage – Bolteanco. According to the official database “Registru”, Mrs. Bolteanco Nina, born in 1957, holder of the identity card A 34055509, lives in Ștefan-Vodă town, str. Victoriei 33, is married to Mr. Bolteanco Dumitru (candidate no.1 on the list of the above-mentioned electoral competitor), her parents being Șeremet Feodosie and Șeremet Ana. The identity card series A 34040419 mentioned by Șeremet Nina in her biographical data belongs to Mrs. Rusu Natalia, born in 1985, resident in Olănești, Ștefan-Vodă.

The facts mentioned above denote that the list of the Social-democratic Party of Moldova, submitted and registered by the Electoral Council of the Ștefan-Vodă Rayon Electoral District contains only 16 candidates, which is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the foreseen mandates for the corresponding electoral district. Under such circumstances, following the provisions of art. 44 and 126, par. (1) of the Electoral Code, the Electoral Council of the Ștefan-Vodă Rayon Electoral District had no right to register the list of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova as an electoral competitor.

CEC has annulled the decision of 8 May, 2007, adopted by the Electoral Council of the Ștefan-Vodă Rayon Electoral District, protocol no. 9 “On the registration of the Social-Democratic Party of Moldova as an electoral competitor for the elections of the Rayon Council Ștefan-Vodă”.

CEC obliged the Electric Transportation Administration to exclude for one day in the public transportation of public proprietorship the electoral publicity. CEC warned all the electoral competitors and the Electric Transportation Administration on the necessity of respecting the CEC decision no. 512 of 20 April, 2007 “On approving the Regulation on the way of placing the electoral publicity on publicity boards”. CEC also obliged the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova to declare the amounts paid for the purpose of printing and placing the electoral publicity of the candidate from the Communist Party of the Republic of Moldova for the position of the General Mayor of the Chisinau municipality, Mr. Veaceslav Iordan, placed in the public transportation vehicles, as well as to include them in its electoral fund.

Analyzing the submitted materials, CEC has found out that the **Advertising Agency “Artmaster & Tel Group”** has placed, against the provisions of p. 11 of the Regulation on the way of placing the electoral publicity on advertising boards, inside the trolleybuses no. 1268 and 1229, electoral publicity in favor of the candidate from the PCRM for the position of general mayor of Chisinau municipality Mr. Veaceslav Iordan. The trolleybuses circulate on the **route no. 22 and 14** belonging to trolleybus park no. 1. it was also found out that the electoral publicity of the same competitor is placed in trolleybus no. 2138 that circulates on the route no. 8 and belongs to the trolleybus park no. 2. At the same time, the Central Electoral Commission has asked the **Advertising Agency “Artmaster & Tel Group”** on 23.05.2007 to inform it about the number of copies, model and total cost of the publicity materials referring to the candidate for the position of the General Mayor of Chisinau municipality, Mr. Veaceslav Iordan (electoral posters, leaflets, transfer pictures, etc.), as well as all the corresponding pertinent information, including the copies of the agreements of printing works and of rendering advertising services, with the concrete indication of the places of its placement. **The Advertising Agency “Artmaster & Tel Group”** sent on 24.05.2007 an answer saying it has not rendered printing services to the candidate Veaceslav Iordan and has not concluded an agreement on placing the corresponding advertising, and all the agreements regarding rendering advertising services were concluded between the corresponding candidate and the Electric Transportation Administration. Taking into account all the mentioned facts, as well as the fact that the information on the amount and source of the expenses made referring to the placed advertising material, the electoral competitor PCRM should urgently take the necessary measures

to declare the paid amounts for printing and placing the corresponding publicity, as well as include them in its electoral fund, according to the provisions of art. 38 of the Electoral Code.

10. The Electoral Campaign in the Administrative Territorial Unit „Gagauz Ery”

The independent experts and the representatives of the electoral bodies remark an increased interest of the citizens from this region for the eligible function at the general local elections. In particular it is the case of independent candidates for the positions of mayors, municipal and rayon councilors that amount to 42 people. Additionally, more than half of the registered parties as electoral competitors have nominated their own candidates for the position of councilors and mayors in Gagauzia. The relatively large number of candidates determined a very long voting paper. A massive attendance to the ballot-boxes is expected from the Gagausian electorate.

11. Paradoxes

In Bălți the 8th edition of the PDS newspaper was distributed. Discussing with many people it has been concluded that other editions never existed, from 1 to 7, or at least have not been distributed in Bălți.

12. Monitoring the Voting Process

A series of major problems mark the voting process in Moldova.

The presence of the police in the voting sections is an element of voters' intimidation. Additionally to this are the delayed dissemination of the preliminary results and the long duration of presenting the protocols (18 hours) to the Electoral District Commission. This provision also leaves possibilities for fraud. The problem is as follows: the weak observing of the voting process; voters' intimidation, publicity on the Election Day, delayed dissemination of the preliminary results and long duration of presenting the protocols (18 hours) to the Electoral District Commission leaves possibilities for fraud.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account all findings and the concerns expressed in this report, the monitoring group, responsible of the project implementation “Monitoring the electoral process” recommends:

- to react promptly and adequately to the cases of voters' corruption and intimidation and towards the electoral officials breaking the electoral legislation;
- to solve the electoral disputes within reasonable time and in strict conformity with the current legislation;
- to declare the financial and material means used by the electoral candidates in accordance with art. 38 par. (1) p. a) of the Electoral Code

Non –discriminatory Treatment of the Electoral Candidates

- Ensuring adequate conditions in the voting sections;
- Objective and complex informing of the public opinion about the electoral process by the public media;

Public authorities:

- Ensuring equal conditions for all electoral candidates;
- Appropriate up-dating of the voters' lists.

Electoral candidates:

- Ensuring the electoral legislation.

Mass-media:

- Objective and ample information of the public opinion regarding the electoral process

Coalition 2007 draws attention to some possible issues that we could face on the elections day and that need to be removed immediately. Late opening of the voting sections; inadequate placement of voting sections; electoral publicity in the vicinity of the voting section; reduced capacity of the voting sections and their refurbishment not according to the legal requirements; presence of the police officers inside the voting sections; partial presence of the members of the Electoral Councils; Incorrect sealing of the ballot-boxes; non-ensuring the right of expressing the secret vote; Possibility of exercising a multiple vote or of electoral tourism; voting without an identity card; more people in the secret voting cabin; irrelevant identity documents; influencing and intimidation of voters by the local authorities; attempts to fraud the elections by a massive voting according to the principle “at the place of location”; interrupting the elections; hostile attitude towards national observers.