



Liga Apărării Drepturilor Omului din Moldova
League for Defence of Human Rights of Moldova

coalitia 2009



coalitia civică
pentru alegeri libere și corecte

CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS - COALITION 2009

LEAGUE FOR DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF MOLDOVA - LADOM

REPORT no. 2

OBSERVATION OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD. 2009 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Monitoring period: 23 December – 27 January 2009



The project „Observation of 2009 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova” benefits from technical assistance provided by National Democratic Institute (NDI). The project is financially supported by the Eurasia Foundation with resources from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida/Asdi), the British Embassy in Chisinau/Strategic Programme Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and the German Embassy to Moldova.

The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the donors.

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring period: 23 December 2008 – 27 January 2009

The 2009 parliamentary elections are of major importance for strengthening and development of the Moldovan democracy. The project „Observation for the 2009 parliamentary elections” is implemented by the League for Defense of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) within the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Coalition 2009. During the pre-electoral period LADOM through 6 regional coordinators and 37 long-term observers continue the monitoring of electoral bodies, of local and central public authorities, political parties and the media, as well as the respect for political rights and freedoms of the Moldovan citizens. The report covers a general overview on the evolution of all the actors that will be involved in the electoral process and aims to emphasize both positive and negative tendencies, as well as the shortcomings of the pre-electoral processes, that may affect the fairness, transparency and freedom of the elections.

The observation of electoral process is conducted in compliance with internationally recognized standards and principles, stipulated in the Observers’ Code of Conduct and the Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova. It is also based on the election observation experience since 1996.

The analysis and critics formulated in the current report are designed in good faith, in a constructive and realistic manner. The recommendations and practical suggestions are present in a spirit of professional cooperation with all the stakeholders concerned with the promotion of a modern, transparent and fair electoral process.

Pre-electoral context

During the observation period the pre-electoral situation remains without changes. Despite the fact that most of central and public authorities were preoccupied with winter holidays and vacation, and the executive authorities were involved in the resolution of the energetic crisis, the law enforcement bodies, political parties and CEC paid special attention to the electoral process.

The parliament went on vacation without assigning the election date. The MPs declared that the date of the elections will probably be set down during the first working days of the parliament from the spring-summer session, which points to the fact that the electoral period will be relatively short.

The political situation remains affected by the restrictive electoral legislation and is marked by limitations to the exercise of political rights and harassment of potential electoral competitors or their representatives, the law enforcement bodies being blamed for violations of human rights through the orchestration of criminal files and massive use of the administrative factor¹. Intimidation and menacing of politically active persons discourages the political involvement of citizens, creating an atmosphere of total indifference regarding the electoral process. The lack of diversity of opinions in the activity of the media, hampered by biased tendencies and mutual blames, creates a tensioned psychological atmosphere in the society, which is increasing as the parliamentary are approaching.

In this context the monitored period can be appreciated as being uncertain, a fact that creates premises for an incorrect electoral behavior, which may lead to increased risk of rigging the upcoming parliamentary elections.

¹ Civil servants reported that they are persecuted, intimidated and menaced, being in a permanent state of fear. It seems unlikely that they will participate in the political life: the persons with political functions are guided by the principle: „Who is not with us is against us”.

CONCLUSIONS

During this period LADOM observed a series of positive developments, but also negative aspects that may hamper the activity of electoral bodies and of electoral contestants, and could affect the integrity of the electoral process and the principles of free and fair elections.

Positive aspects:

- The Parliament reacts to the recommendations of the Coalition 2009 from the first Report only in the part related to the need to ensure transparency in assigning the election date;
- The CEC continues the preparation of the electoral process and accredited the long-term observers
- A transparent and constructive dialogue was established between NGOs and political parties
- Several media institutions engaged to reflect the electoral campaign in a balanced and unbiased manner, and the President of the Republic of Moldova ensured that the authorities will not exercise pressure the media
- The Broadcasting Council (CCA) launched the draft of the Concept on the coverage of the electoral campaign by the broadcasting media of the Moldova, which is to be debated.

LADOM is particularly concerned about the following negative aspects related to the pre-electoral process:

- the Parliament did not react positively to the findings of the Coalition 2009 regarding the need to ensure respect for the political rights of citizens.
- The parliament does not react to the declarations of the Prosecutor General regarding the assassination attempt against the vice-chairman of the parliament;
- The police continues to limit the political rights of the citizens and gets involved in political activities;
- The law enforcement agencies are blamed by political parties for illegal involvement in the political process
- The political parties are in a situation to seek solutions to the legislative restrictions, which have a negative impact on the political processes in the society.

FINDINGS

1. Public authorities

The Parliament

The Parliament reacts to the recommendations of the Coalition 2009 from the first Report only in the part related to the need to ensure transparency in assigning the election date.

The election date will be examined during the first working days of the spring-summer session, in early February², as mentioned by officials from the Parliament. According to the parliamentary majority³ the date of the parliamentary election may be assigned for the 5th of April 2009. It is in this

² About the possibility of discussing on the election date during the first working first working days of the spring-summer session declared Vladimir Țurcanu, the Head of the Juridical Commission for Appointments and Immunities of the Parliament, BASA-pres, 13.01.09.

³ INFOTAG, 15.01.2009.

way that the parliament reacted to the criticism of the Coalition 2009 regarding the lack of transparency in assigning the date of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, the Parliament did not react positively to the findings of the Coalition 2009 regarding the need to ensure respect for the political rights of citizens. The parliament excludes the possibility of its intervention in correcting the legislative gaps⁴, invoking the Code of good practices in electoral matters.

The respect for the political rights of the citizens and equality of chances for all electoral contestants in the 2009 parliamentary elections begins with the quality of the electoral legislation, which should comply with the international standards and the good practices in electoral matters. The Moldovan electoral legislation has a series of deficiencies in this area, that were emphasized by experts and national and international organizations concerned specialized in elections⁵. The legislative shortcomings deal with the electoral system, electoral bodies and procedures, which can be considered as decisive factors in determining the results of the suffrage. Thus, the amendments operated to the electoral code in 2007 and 2008 hindered the electoral system and create the impression that the electoral rights are just a tool used by the governance, and the vote of the citizen is not any more the essential element that decides the results of the elections. In this context the civil society is concerned about the legislative inequity and continues to have doubts about the sincerity of the parliamentary majority's promises to organize free and fair elections.

It is recommended that the Parliament, while exercising its legislative activity, takes into account the whole spectrum of principles and good practices in electoral matters, not just some of them, with which the parliamentary majority favors the big political parties. Revision of the most vulnerable provisions could be a solution.

The parliament does not react to the declarations of the General Prosecutor regarding the assassination attempt against the vice-chairman of the parliament

The General Prosecutor, Mr. Valeriu Gurbulea, and the Vice-Minister of the Home Ministry Mr. Valentin Zubic, in their common declaration from 15 January 2009 alleged that leaders of AMN may have ordered the assassination of the vice-chairman of the Parliament, Mr. Iurie Rosca, with the potential involvement of Mr. Valeriu Pasat, Mr. Serafim Urecheanu (AMN leader) and Ion Plesca (AMN)⁶.

The shocking declaration of the General Prosecutor about the attempts of assassination, with the potential involvement of MPs, was left without attention by the parliament. The legislative institution did not consider necessary to organize an ad-hoc session and launch an investigation in this respect. Despite the fact that a group of MPs from the opposition asked for the demission of the General Prosecutor, the working bodies of the Parliament (Speaker of the Parliament, permanent Bureau, Juridical Commission or the Commission for security) did neither react to the declaration of the General Prosecutor nor to the those of the MPs. A group of MPs⁷ and some NGOs⁸ stated that

⁴ About the impossibility of operating amendments to the Electoral Code, in view of adjusting its provisions to the international standards and good practices requested by many organizations, declared the Head of the Juridical Commission for Appointments and Immunities of the Parliament, invoking the provisions of the Code of good practices in electoral matters, which does not recommend amendments to the electoral law at least one year before the elections.

⁵ Reports of Coalition 2005 and 2007; LADOM reports

⁶ OMEGA, 15.01.2009

⁷ „Депутаты предложили Гурбуле уйти в отставку”, Молдавские Ведомости, 21.01.2009

⁸ “ONG acuză organele de drept de încălcarea principiului prezumției nevinovăției în cazul unor politicieni”. DECA – press, 19.01.2009

through his declaration the General Prosecutor violates the Constitution, creating the possibility to attribute political biases to this fact.

It is recommended that the parliament requests explanations from the General Prosecutor and, if necessary, to request the Prosecutor not to compromise the institution of the Prosecutor, through involvement in political actions.

Police

The police continues to limit the political rights of the citizens⁹.

Among the approximately 30 cases of limitations of political rights during the pre-electoral period, there were cases characterized by intimidations and inadequate behavior of police against some leaders of NGOs concerned with human rights and Media, which organized a protest on 25 December in view of supporting the political rights in Moldova¹⁰. The representative of the Home Ministry intimidated and used a violent language against the protesters, calling them “leftovers of the society, etc.”. Other protesters were not allowed to come to Chisinau to support the freedom of media¹¹.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Internal Affairs undertakes urgent measures to stop illegal practices that impede the exercise of political rights in Moldova; not to admit compromising behaviors of Home Ministry employees, which spoil the image of the institution; to ensure the respect for policemen’s Code of Ethics.

The police influences the Orhei rayon councilors to vote for the demise of the administration of the rayon

On 30.12.2008 the rayon Councilor, Mr. Veceslav Rusu (PDM), was invited to the Police Commissariat and was menaced through various methods to vote during the session of rayon council for the demise of the rayon’s administration. Otherwise, he could face penalties and be fired from his job. The respective councilor works as insurance agent at the Orhei branch office of the „Moldasig” company. The next day he was obliged to leave the office that he was renting from the Orhei Traffic Police. He was also called by the administration of the insurance company, which told him to sign the declaration and vote for the demise of the rayon administration.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Internal Affairs initiates an internal investigation and undertakes urgent measures in order not to admit the involvement of Ministry’s employees in illegal actions that may lead to the collapse of the local authority.

⁹ During the conduct of an opinion poll in Sarata Noua village, Leova rayon, Mr. Neghină Azisov was stopped by the sector policeman, Mr. Constantinescu. The latter made a protocol on administrative offence grounded on electoral advertising

¹⁰ “Mars de protest cu masti de porc si magari pe strazile Chisinaului” DECA-pres, 25.12.2008

¹¹ On 21 December 2008 in Balti, 4 buses with members of PLDM were stopped by the traffic police and who did not allow them to go to Chisinau to the public event in support of fundamental rights and freedoms, in support of a mass-media and of the PRO TV, action organized by PLDM. On the same day, in Glodeni, the traffic police from Glodeni did not allow the PL representatives from Glodeni to go to Chisinau (approximately 50 persons), to attend the meeting organized by PL on the Great Assembly Square in support of independent media and right to freedom of expression and information

Police forces the homeless people to protest against the mayoralty of the Capital

On January 13, 2009 the police imposed the homeless people from Chisinau to orchestrate a protest against social policy of the Chisinau mayoralty¹². When the protesters were offered jobs, the homeless persons ignored them and disappeared immediately from the place of the protest.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Internal Affairs uses its employees strictly according to the law, not in actions with a political connotation.

The police blames the Democratic Party for being involved in the organization of illegal migration

The Ministry of Internal Affairs announced the discovery of a case on illegal migration within the Shenghen space by the Democratic Party, insisting that the party facilitated¹³ the issuance of visas for a group of young men who went to France and did not come back. On the other hand, the Chairman of the Democratic Party accused the Ministry for orchestration of political files.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Internal Affairs ensures the unfolding of the investigation in compliance with the law and abstains from declaration on criminal or administrative offences throughout the electoral period.

Prosecutor's Office

The political parties blame the law enforcement bodies for illegal involvement in the political process

During the pre-electoral period the law enforcement bodies are getting seriously involved in the political process. The Prosecutor's Office¹⁴, Ministry of Justice¹⁵, Ministry of Internal Affairs¹⁶, CCCEC¹⁷ and SIS are permanently harassing the political parties in opposition and are intimidating their members, starting and reanimating criminal files¹⁸, stimulating expropriations, thus violating the fundamental human rights and freedom of the press.

It is recommended to the Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anti-Corruption Centre (CCCEC) and the Security Service (SIS) to discharge their responsibilities in strict compliance with the laws and the Moldovan Constitution; to respect and guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and not to admit the involvement of these bodies in the political process during the electoral period.

¹² "Polițiștii au adus boschetarii la primărie". Timpul din 13.01.2009

¹³ OMEGA, 14.01.2009; BASA-pres, 15.01.2009

¹⁴ AMN declares that the General Prosecutor's Office commits execution acts of the governing party, Info-Prim Neo, 14.01.2009; similar declarations of PLDM, PPR etc.

¹⁵ The Ministry of Justice does not register the People's Popular Republic Party (PPR) in order to distract it from political activities (N. Andronic, Chairman of the PPR);

¹⁶ leader of the Democratic Party accused the Ministry of Internal Affairs for orchestration of political files. OMEGA, 14.01.2009; BASA-pres, 15.01.2009

¹⁷ PLDM declaration dated 16.01.2009

¹⁸ Svetlana Chifa, Head of the Municipal Department for the protection of Child Rights and member of AMN, on 13 January 2009 was detained for several hours. Her house and job place were searched. The act was committed within a file started before the 2005 parliamentary elections, as a result of allegations on wrongs in adoption. The investigation was cancelled due to the lack of evidence

2. Central Electoral Commission (CEC)

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) accredited the long-term observers

On 13 January CEC accredited 44 long-term observers from the League for Defense of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM). The observers will watch the integrity of the electoral process, by monitoring the behavior of public authorities and of the electoral bodies. Observers will monitor potential violations of the electoral law, the updating of voters' lists, formation of DEC and PECs, registration and behavior of electoral contestants, unfolding of the electoral campaign, situation of the media etc. the election monitoring will be conducted during the pre-electoral, electoral and post electoral period.

The CEC continues the preparation of the electoral process

During the monitored period CEC continues to undertake efforts to ensure the good unfolding of the parliamentary elections, a fact noticed by the LADOM observers in the fields, acknowledged by NGOs and political parties. CEC approved a series of documents necessary for electoral contestants, observers and other actors who will be involved in the electoral process (the badges for observers and interpreters, the draft of the Declaration of income and assets of the persons who run in the electoral campaign 2009, draft of the subscription lists in support of the independent candidate etc.). Up to now CEC approved the Code of Behavior in elections, signed by 13 political parties and 15 media institutions.

3. Political parties

During the winter holidays the political parties organized activities meant to congratulate the citizens

During the winter holidays the political parties were present in most of territorial administrative units, with congratulations and gifts for various categories of citizens. During these actions the parties reminded citizens about their intentions to participate in the electoral campaign. The political parties launched activities with an electoral character, a fact that point to the fact that most of political parties launched unofficially the electoral campaign¹⁹.

A transparent and constructive dialogue was established between NGOs and political parties

The political parties showed openness to the LADOM request to cooperate during the electoral period in order to ensure free and fair elections. Many parties informed LADOM observers about the abusive behavior of public authorities.

The political parties continue to seek solutions to the legislative restrictions

¹⁹ PCRM, PLDM, AMN, PPCD, PD, PSD, etc. launched unofficially their electoral campaigns and are present with various actions in many localities of the country. In Ungheni, Criuleni, Leova, Anenii Noi, Ialoveni, Chişinău, Ştefan Vodă and other localities activities with an electoral character were conducted

Some political parties continue to seek solutions to participate together in the parliamentary elections²⁰, stating that the Law on political parties is a restrictive one and has a negative impact. According to them, the law allows the instauration of dictatorship of the Ministry of Justice in the area related to the administration of political parties, a fact that may annihilate the activity of any party²¹.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Justice ensures an adequate and coherent application of the Law on political parties by using the doubt principle in the favor of political parties.

The central public authorities have a discriminatory behavior against some political parties

The central and local authorities (especially the law enforcement bodies) treat the political parties in a discriminatory way, refusing to offer the rent of halls for party conferences, blocking the halls rented by political parties, refusing to offer premises and ignoring the execution of judicial decisions²², exercising psychological pressures²³ against some party members, launching political files²⁴ against them.

It is recommended to the public authorities not to exercise pressures on political parties in the electoral period and to treat the political parties in a non-discriminatory way all the political parties in the administration of their responsibility areas

Some political parties are accusing the special bodies of interception of telephonic calls, of the e-mails and surveillance of their headquarters, as well as of intimidation of economic agents that support the political parties.

Some political parties are accusing the special bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for surveillance of their offices, intercepting the telephone calls and controlling their e-mails²⁵. Many economic agents faced sanctions²⁶ because they supported specific political parties. Some directors of enterprises were menaced with sanctions, others were fired²⁷.

It is recommended that the law enforcement agencies discharge their functions according to the law, without political involvement.

4. Media

The Association of Independent Press (API) engages to reflect the electoral campaign in a balanced and unbiased manner

²⁰ The European Action Movement, PNL and the Ecologist party are negotiating to participate together in the parliamentary elections. PL proposes to the parties of liberal orientation not to participate in the elections but to orient themselves to participation in the governance after the elections

²¹ PPR, UCM, MAE and other parties, during the last months are in conflict with the Ministry of Justice, a fact that generated judicial filings

²² PPR cannot obtain an office from the Chisinau mayoralty. Despite the fact that the mayoralty is obliged to through judicial decision, issued three years ago, to provided an office, the decision has not been executed yet

²³ Active members and leaders of UCM from Glodeni, Rîșcani, Sîngerei, Cahul, Soroca and Chișinău are facing pressures, intimidation, dismissal, criminal cases etc. Same pressures applies to members of PPR

²⁴ Criminal cases were launched against the active members f AMN, PPR, UCM, PD, PLDM, UCM, etc.

²⁵ The office o the PPR is object of surveillance by the Special Missions Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who are parking their cars in front of the office. The telephone calls and e-mails are intercepted.

²⁶ Some economic agents who supported UCM were menaced with sanctions from the law enforcement bodies.

²⁷ The director of the mine from Cosăuți and other 8 workers of the enterprise were fired because they are members and support the PPR.

The politically non-affiliated media institutions, members of the Association of Independent Press (API), declare²⁸ their commitment to reflect the electoral campaign in a balanced and unbiased manner. API members signed the Charter on Free and Fair Elections, developed by Coalition 2009 and encourage all the media institutions from Moldova to follow their example.

It is recommended to the media to sign the Charter on Free and Fair Elections developed by the Coalition 2009 in view of ensuring a balanced coverage of the electoral campaign.

The President of the Republic of Moldova ensured that the authorities will not exercise pressure the media

The President of the Republic of Moldova Vladimir Voronin, within an official meeting with foreign ambassadors declared that the authorities support the freedom of the Media in Moldova and will not discharge pressure on journalists who activate legally. During the meeting the ambassadors expressed the interest of their countries for the conduct of free and fair parliamentary elections. The year 2008 was a pre-electoral year and the media experts stated that during this year the pressure on some media had an intensity without precedent, sensitizing the international public opinion in this respect. In this context EU, OSCE and the Council of Europe expressed their interest to discuss with President Vladimir Voronin about the „recent matters related to the freedom of the media in Moldova ”.

The Broadcasting Council (CCA) launched the draft of the Concept on the coverage of the electoral campaign by the broadcasting media of the Moldova

The Broadcasting Council (CCA) launched the draft of the Concept on the coverage of the electoral campaign by the broadcasting media of the Moldova. The draft is criticized by political parties²⁹, which perceive it as a tool in favor of the communist party and their allies, as well as by the NGOs and media³⁰, which think that the project is too restrictive and does not regulate the behavior of the broadcasting media, but of the electoral contestants. A set of proposal was submitted to the Broadcasting Council to amend the Concept.

It is recommended that the Broadcasting Council (CCA) considers thoroughly the comments and recommendation of the broadcasting media with the view to ensuring a qualitative regulation of the broadcasting media in the elections.

Three members of the Central Electoral Commission requested the he Broadcasting Council (CCA) to examine the case of “political biases of the EU TV”.

The Central Electoral Commission, due to lack of jurisdiction in the pre-electoral period din, did not take attitude regarding the activity of the EU TV, but three members of this institutions requested from the he Broadcasting Council (CCA) to take attitude regarding this TV station, which violates the provision of the Broadcasting Code and behaves like a partisan TV³¹.

²⁸ Declaration of API members (API), 16 January 2009, on the 2009 parliamentary elections.

²⁹ PLDM considers that the draft of the Concept on the coverage of the electoral campaign by the broadcasting media of the Moldova, developed by CCA, is designed to favor the Party of Communists and its allies in the electoral campaign.

³⁰ APEL (local NGO) presented a series of comments and proposals for amending the text of the Concept.

³¹ Members of the CEC, Nicolae Gîrbu, Vasile Gafton and Mihai Busuleac accused EURO TV of behaving like a partisan TV and offers most of the broadcasting time to PPCD leaders, denigrating their political competitors.

It is recommended that CCA ensures the observance of the broadcasting Code (broadcasting legislation) by the broadcasting media

Violation of the Broadcasting Code and Journalist's Code of Ethics

During the monitored pre-electoral period the messages of many public and independent media continue to focus on the electoral process. Some political parties accused the public and independent media of discriminatory behavior, informational blacking and spreading of denigrating information³².

The activity of media does not ensure the diversity of opinions and is seriously affected by partisan tendencies mutual blames³³, a fact that does not comply with legal framework enshrined in the Broadcasting Code. The lack of correct information with the respect for pluralism of opinions misinformed the public opinion, depriving citizens of the right to objective information. Such a situation leads to the undermining of the electoral process and may influence the results of the elections, raising doubts about the fairness of the elections.

It is recommended to public and independent media to respect the provisions of the Broadcasting Legislation and of the Electoral Code; to ensure a balanced coverage of the electoral process and electoral actors.

5 Electoral lists

Preparation of electoral lists remains one of the most important issues

CEC continues to process the databases in order to prepare the Electronic Voters' Registry and the electoral lists. According to the long-term observers, the first version of the electoral lists was provided to the local authorities to be checked and updated. Until the 1st of March 2009, the local authorities are under the obligation to check the electoral lists, and inform the CEC about the identified errors in order to update the voters' registry.

CEC mentioned that citizens will be able to vote in the locality where they will be on the Election Day.

According to CEC, during the parliamentary elections 2009, citizens will be able to vote in the locality where they will be on the Election Day, not necessarily in the locality where they have domicile or residence. This will be possible upon submission of a declaration to the respective local authorities, during the first 15 days of the electoral campaign³⁴.

This statement raises the need to ensure coordination of the provisions of Article 39 (2) of the Electoral Code with Article 1, and Article 53 (3) that impose the presentation of the residence in the supplement of the ID. The certificate on the right to vote is an alternative to the stamp certifying the

³² UCM, PPR, PSD and other parties stated that Moldova 1, Moldova Suverană, Nezașisimaia Moldova, EU TV and other media, including those who benefit from public funding, are restricting the access of opposition parties in those media institutions.

³³ In Leova, Ion Mititelu, editor of the local newspaper "Cuvîntul liber", publishes articles designed to denigrate the editor-in-chief of "Curierul de Leova", Ms. Ana Butuc, emphasizing that she speaks "without respect and should speak Romanian". The rayon newspaper "Curierul de Leova" calls it "Curierul de Hîncești" thus diminishing its authority and image.

³⁴ Declaration of the Secretary of the CEC from 29 December 2008, INFOTAG, 29.12.2008.

residence/domicile, but the declaration of the place where the citizen will be on the Election Day is not a confirmation that will ensure the right to vote in case of potential errors committed by the local public authorities. In this case, it will not be possible to exclude the multiple voting. The electronic voters' registry may be the only guarantee against multiple voting, and the functioning of the registry has not been tested yet.

It is recommended that the CEC develops and approves the procedure on the declaration of the place where the voter will be on the Election Day, in conformity with article 1, in view of ensuring the right to vote and avoiding the multiple voting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account the findings presented above, we recommend:

To the Parliament:

- while exercising its legislative activity, to take into account the whole spectrum of principles and good practices in electoral matters, not just some of them, with which the parliamentary majority favors the big political parties; to revise the most vulnerable provisions.
- to request explanations from the General Prosecutor and, if necessary, to request from the Prosecutor not to compromise the institution of the Prosecutor through involvement in political actions.

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs:

- to undertake urgent measures to stop illegal practices that impede the exercise of political rights in Moldova; not to admit compromising behaviors of Home Ministry employees, which spoil the image of the institution; to ensure the respect for policemen's Code of Ethics;
- to initiate an internal investigation and undertake urgent measures in order not to admit the involvement of Ministry's employees in illegal actions that may lead to the collapse of the local authority;
- to use its employees strictly according to the law, not in actions with a political connotation;
- to ensure the unfolding of investigations in compliance with the law and abstain from declarations on criminal or administrative offences throughout the electoral period.

To the Ministry of Justice:

- to ensure an adequate and coherent application of the Law on political parties by using the doubt principle in the favor of political parties.

To public authorities:

- not to exercise pressures on political parties in the electoral period and to treat the political parties in a non-discriminatory way all the political parties in the administration of their responsibility areas;
- law enforcement bodies should discharge their functions according to the law, without political involvement.

To the media:

- to sign the Charter on Free and Fair Elections developed by the Coalition 2009 in view of ensuring a balanced coverage of the electoral campaign;
- to respect the provisions of the Broadcasting Legislation and of the Electoral Code; to ensure a balanced coverage of the electoral process and electoral actors.

To the Broadcasting Council:

- to consider thoroughly the comments and recommendation of the broadcasting media with the view to ensuring a qualitative regulation of the broadcasting media in the elections;
- to ensure the observance of the broadcasting Code (broadcasting legislation) by the broadcasting media.

To the Central Electoral Commission:

- to develop and approve the procedure on the declaration of the place where the voter will be on the Election Day, in conformity with article 1, in view of ensuring the right to vote and avoiding multiple voting.

To the law enforcement agencies:

- Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anti-Corruption Centre (CCCEC) and Security Service (SIS) should discharge their responsibilities in strict compliance with the laws and the Moldovan Constitution; to respect and guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and not to admit the involvement of these bodies in the political process during the electoral period.