



THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

REPORT

Monitoring the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010

Monitoring period: 29 September 2010 – 14 October 2010

Published on 14 October 2010



This project is implemented with technical and financial assistance from the United States Embassy in Moldova, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The opinions expressed in the report belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the donors.

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I. SUMMARY

Promo-LEX is conducting a long-term monitoring of the electoral period preceding the early parliamentary elections on 28 November 2010 within the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX will employ in the monitoring process 42 long-term observers deployed in all the districts of the country. The Promo-LEX observers received training on electoral procedures and instructions regarding the impartial and independent character of the monitoring effort. The recommendations of the monitoring mission are developed in good faith and aim to contribute to the improvement of the electoral process.

The present report refers to the period from September 29 – October 12 and describes the electoral environment, analyzes the electoral legislation and relevant regulations and presents the review of the field findings by observers. In the monitoring period, the mission found that the election authorities have showed an overall unbiased behavior and, with few exceptions, have met the deadlines prescribed by the legislation.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) developed a number of regulations and guidelines meant to clarify and enhance the electoral legal framework. The CEC established the electoral constituencies, approved the estimate of costs, and imposed a cap on the campaign financing. Also, the CEC authorized the first national observers.

The election campaign has so far been proceeding in low gear. The CEC established the place and time for submitting applications for the registration of the candidates in the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010. During the monitoring period, twelve political parties obtained registration with the election authority as electoral contenders. Some of the political parties kicked off their campaigns before obtaining formal registration.

The main findings formulated in the report concern the need to revise the Timetable with a view to bringing it in line with the provisions of the electoral legislation; to monitor how candidates observe the requirement to step aside from certain posts and warn those who fail to do so; to carry out information and electoral education campaigns to stimulate a high voter turnout, including on the eastern side of the Nistru River.

To exclude abuses of administrative resources in electoral purposes, the observation mission encourages the electoral contenders to ensure that the candidates on their lists step aside temporarily from their public posts for the duration of the electoral period.

II. PROMO-LEX MONITORING EFFORT

The monitoring of the early legislative elections, which will take place on 28 November 2010, is a project implemented by the Association Promo-LEX as part of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. “Coalition 2009” is a voluntary union of non-governmental organizations aiming to enhance the electoral process and raise public confidence in this process. The various programs of monitoring elections within the framework of the “Coalition 2009” are implemented by Promo-LEX as well as other member organizations.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort will include 42 long-term observers, who will monitor the electoral process in all the electoral constituencies in Moldova in the period from 6 October – to 6 December 2010. The observers will report their findings in a standardized form, based on direct observations, meetings with interlocutors and consulting official documents.

On election day, Promo-LEX will deploy short-term observers in all the polling stations opened across Moldova. Promo-LEX will carry a Parallel Count of Votes (PCV), a Quick Count, using a representative sample, and will observe the quality of the voting process. The activity of all the observers is coordinated by central groups responsible for Analysis, Network, Logistics, Communication and General Management.

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III. INTRODUCTION

On 29 July 2009, Moldova held early legislative elections. As a result of the vote, representatives of five political parties entered Parliament, as follows: the Moldovan Party of Communists (PCRM) – 48 MPs, the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM) – 18 MPs, the Liberal Party (PL) – 15 MPs, the Democratic Party (PD) – 13 MPs, and the Our Moldova Alliance (AMN) – 7 MPs. The last four parties formed a governing coalition which they called the “Alliance for European Integration” (AEI). By the unanimous vote of AEI component parties, Parliament elected the Speaker of the legislative body, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet members. However, the legislative body failed twice to elect the head of state.

On 5 September 2010, Moldova held its first ever constitutional referendum, in which the voters were asked to express their opinion about a legal proposal concerning the amendment of Article 78 of the Constitution, proposing a direct popular vote for the president. The referendum was intended as a solution to the constitutional deadlock following the double failure to elect the head of state.

According to the CEC decision no.3531 of 9 September 2010 on the results of the poll, 818,476 people showed up to vote out of the total 2,662,052 eligible voters. The voter turnout amounted to 30.29%, 3 percent short of the one-third threshold required for the validation of referenda.

After the constitutional referendum failed, Acting President Mihai Ghimpu on September 7 issued a note requesting the Constitutional Court to formally establish the circumstances requiring the dissolution of Parliament. The note remarked that the current Parliament failed to elect the head of state in two attempts and that the interdiction to dissolve the legislature expired on June 16, one year after the previous dissolution. Consequently, the Constitutional Court's brief no.4 of 21 September 2010 confirmed those circumstances, providing the juridical basis for the dissolution of Parliament.

In conformity with the Court's brief, on September 29 acting President Mihai Ghimpu issued a decree with immediate effect to dissolve the XVII Parliament. Under the presidential decree, the date of the snap parliamentary elections was fixed for 28 November 2010.

IV. FINDINGS

A. Legal framework

The legal framework of the electoral process related to the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010 includes the Election Code, decisions, regulations and guidelines by the Central Election Commission.

In the period preceding the elections (by October 12), in conformity with Art.22 par.c of the Election Code, the Central Election Commission developed a series of regulations and guidelines aimed to improve the electoral procedures for the parliamentary elections on November 28, including the following:

1. **Regulation on media coverage of the electoral campaign preceding the early parliamentary elections**, adopted by the CEC Decision no.3614 of 8 October 2010. The regulation introduces for the first time the requirement for foreign broadcasters authorized to broadcast on Moldovan territory to observe the principles of unbiased, balanced and fair coverage of the parliamentary elections. It also establishes a deadline for broadcasters covering the campaign to submit a declaration on the editorial policies followed in the electoral period – 15 October 2010. However, the document doesn't

establish any sanctions for the failure to submit such declarations. The regulation also introduces a deadline for requesting airtime and newspaper space – 5 days from the registration of the electoral contender with the CEC.

2. **Guidelines on the packaging, sealing and transmission of electoral documents and materials** by the electoral bureaus of the polling stations and the constituency electoral councils, adopted by CEC Decision no.3615 of 8 October 2010. The CEC adopted such a set of guidelines for the first time in its history.

Temporary leave of office

Art.13 par.3 of the Election Code requires the following categories of candidates for Parliament to temporarily step aside from office during the electoral period:

- a) deputy prime ministers, ministers and deputy ministers, and *ex officio* members of the Cabinet;
- b) heads of central government bodies;
- c) heads of districts and their deputies;
- d) mayors and deputy mayors;
- e) heads of municipality districts (pretor) and their deputies.

According to art.1 of the Election Code, the election campaign of each electoral contender starts on the date of registration with the CEC and ends on the date of exclusion from the race or on election day. Accordingly, once registered as candidates for Parliament, the persons referred to in art.13 p.3 of the Election Code are due to suspend their activity in office. The following candidates of the parties with CEC registration are expected to temporarily step aside:

- **The Democratic Party:** Valeriu Lazar (Deputy Prime Minister and concurrently Minister of Economy); Marcel Raducan (Minister of Construction and Regional Development); Valentina Buliga (Minister of Labor and Social Protection), Gheorghe Brasovschi (Mayor of Singerei town), Oleg Tulea (Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport); Anatol Chetraru (head of Hincesti district); Dumitru Godoroja (Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry), Iraida Binzari (deputy head of Falesti district), Elena Beleacova (general director of the Office for Inter-ethnic Relations); Efrosinia Gretu (deputy head of Leova district); Vladimir Nicuta (deputy head of Soroca district), Ion Ceka (deputy head of Cahul district); Vasile Grosu (mayor of Filipeni village); Vasile Bitca (deputy mayor of Nisporeni town); Valeriu Pruteanu (mayor of Dubna village)

- **The Liberal Party:** Ana Vasilachi (Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection); Mihail Cirlig (head of municipality district in Chisinau); Sergiu Ciobanu (Deputy Minister of Economy); Stefan Chitoroaga (Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry); Nicolae Andronache (Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport), Stefan Vlas (mayor of Sarata-Galbena), Tatiana Ghilan (mayor of Tudora village), Ion Tulbure (mayor of Tirsitei).

- **United Moldova Party:** Vasili Gaidarji (mayor of Taraclia town).

- **The Christian Democratic People's Party:** Igor Turcanu (deputy head of Hincesti district); Constantin Ionita (deputy head of Straseni district), Liuba Stavinschi (deputy mayor of Rezina town); Claudia Bejenaru (mayor of Neculaeuca village), Sergiu Fintina (mayor of Marandeni village).

- **Moldova's Patriots' Party:** Alexandru Snegur (mayor of Speia village).

- **For Nation and Country Party:** Gheorghe Susarenco (Deputy Minister of Justice).

- **Our Moldova Alliance:** Victor Osipov (Deputy Prime Minister); Valeriu Cosarciuc (Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry); Leonid Bujor (Minister of Education), Alexandru Oleinic (Minister of Communications and Information Technology); Mihai Furtuna (deputy mayor of Chisinau); Sergiu Muravschi (deputy head of Orhei district); Ion Munteanu (head of Nisporeni district); Valeriu Tizu (mayor of Petreni village), Valentin Burduja (deputy head of Floresti

district); Seghei Nagherneac (mayor of Prodanesti), Victor Capatina (mayor of Cojusna village); Ludmila Guzun (deputy head of Ungheni district); Tudor Serbov (mayor of Varnita); Ion Corjan (mayor of Taraclia de Salcie); Constantin Postaru (mayor of Hojinești); Oleg Cojocar (mayor of Zaluțeni).

- **The Party of Communists:** Vasili Panciuc (mayor of Balti municipality); Gheoghe Anghel (mayor of Stefan Voda town); Efim Strogoteanu (mayor of Ecaterinovca); Valeriu Ciorici (head of Rezina district); Gheorghe Stancev (mayor of Egorovca); Mariana Bezer (mayor of Ciuciuleni); Igor Grozavu (mayor of Gribova); Piotr Baranetchi (mayor of Cuconestii Noi); Mititiuc Victor (deputy head of Donduseni district); Veaceslav Groapa (mayor of Holosnita); Valentina Celacus (mayor of Dolna).

Implementation of recommendations from the European Commission for Democracy through Law (The Venice Commission)

On 15 October 2009, the Moldovan Parliament adopted Decision No.39-XVIII on the establishment of a special Parliamentary Commission for the improvement of the electoral legal framework, which was tasked to develop and propose amendments to the Election Code and other relevant pieces of legislation.

The Venice Commission welcomed the intention expressed on 15 October 2009 by the Moldovan government to modify the legislation through the Bill on the amendment and supplementation of the Election Code. Some of the recommendations formulated by the Venice Commission were reflected in the new Election Code:

- The right to vote, which was previously denied, was ensured to the people convicted of serious and very serious offenses;
- Electoral blocs were reintroduced and the electoral threshold was lowered, to 7% for the blocs consisting of 2 parties and/or sociopolitical organizations, to 9% for the blocs consisting of 3 parties and more, to 4% the parties running separately, and to 2% for the unaffiliated candidates;
- An innovation of the Election Code is the allotment of a minimum amount of free airtime by the public broadcasters for electoral advertising;
- In line with the Commission's recommendations, the regulations on voting abroad were amended so as to allow the establishment of other overseas polling stations in addition to those traditionally accommodated by the Moldovan diplomatic missions and consular offices abroad;
- It was established that the requirement to temporarily step aside during the election campaign shall apply not only to ministers, but also to the deputy ministers, so as to avoid misuse of administrative resources;
- It was decided to establish an Ongoing Training Center on electoral matters as a subdivision of the Central Election Commission;
- Greater freedom in conducting and covering electoral campaigns for the media and clearer competences for the bodies authorized to examine complaints and appeals.

Law of 18 June 2010 on the amendment and supplementation of the Election Code

A number of amendments were brought to the Election Code of the Republic of Moldova on 18 June 2010, which were published in the Official Gazette on 29 July 2010 and took effect on the publishing date (except for several provisions which are due to take effect in 2011 and 2013).

One of the adopted amendments states that the political parties which receive financing from abroad will face removal from the race. According to the legal procedures, the Central Election Commission will submit a request to the Court of Appeals to annul the registration of

the candidate in question from the electoral race. Furthermore, the voters who will engage in multiple voting will be liable to criminal punishment.

Also, a new method was introduced to appoint members on the Central Election Commission. The central election body will be composed of 9 members – one appointed by the President and eight by Parliament, with the principle of proportional representation of the majority and opposition respected. In case the term in office of the CEC members expires in the middle of an electoral campaign, it will be automatically extended for 90 days until new members are appointed.

Additionally, an Ongoing Training Center in electoral matters was created, so that in the future only holders of qualified training certificates issued by this Center will be eligible for appointment to election bodies of all levels (in effect from year 2013).

The procedure of voting abroad was regulated so as to allow Moldovan citizens to exert their right to vote irrespective of whether they stay abroad legally or not.

Previously, the Code gave a greater proportion of remaining votes to the largest party in Parliament and a smaller share to the smallest. But after the amendments, the votes won by the candidates that didn't pass the threshold will be distributed equally between the parties which made it to Parliament. In addition, the MP seats will be allotted according to a new equation, whereby the number of mandates obtained by a party will be determined by dividing the votes won by the total number of valid votes, multiplied by the total number of existing mandates.

Law no.216 of 17 September 2010 on the amendment and supplementation of the Election Code

On 17 September 2010 another set of amendments was adopted to the Election Code; the amendments were published in Moldova's Official Gazette on 1 October 2010 and took effect on the publishing date.

The amendments specify the time limit for examining complaints against DEC or EBPS actions or decisions, as well as the time limit for examining complaints against the actions/failure to act of the electoral contenders, expressly fixed at 3 and 5 days, respectively, but no later than election day.

Voting procedures were introduced for the students studying at educational establishments located elsewhere than their formal place of residence or domicile.

Under the introduced procedures, these students can vote at any polling station opened in the respective town, provided they can produce a set of papers (including the student ID). This change is welcome, because it eases the voting procedures for the students, yet it omits some possible consequences.

For example, one omission is that this amendment creates discriminatory conditions for other categories of persons in similar situations, like the postgraduate students, workers on building sites, other persons without permanent domicile in large cities, or voters from the Transnistrian region. Second, under the amendment, the students will vote on secondary electoral lists, increasing suspicions concerning the quality of the electoral lists. Third, this mechanism might allow room for unverifiable cases of multiple voting.

B. Development of Timetable for the early parliamentary elections

The Timetable for the organization and conducting of the early parliamentary elections on 28 November 2010 was adopted by CEC Decision no.3552 on 29 September 2010. Although it is stated that the Timetable was developed in line with the Election Code, it contains a number of deficiencies and contradictions with the electoral legislation:

1. It was erroneously stipulated that the voters who changed their address are to declare their new address in order to be able to vote until October 28 inclusive (that is, no later than 30

days before the date of elections). In fact, this is a provision introduced through an amendment (to art.39 p.8 of the Election Code, adopted on 18 June 2010) which will take effect in 2011. Until then, the previous rule remains in place, according to which the deadline for the declaration of the new address should be 13 October 2010 inclusive (that is, 45 days before the date of elections).

2. The electoral rolls shall be made public at the polling stations 20 days before the date of the poll, according to art.40, with the correct date being November 7, and not November 8 as fixed in the Timetable.
3. Parties and other organizations represented in Parliament shall present candidates for DEC, for the establishment of EBPS, no later than 7 days before the expiry of the deadline for the establishment, the correct date being October 26 inclusive, and not October 25 as fixed in the Timetable.
4. Ballots shall be printed no later than 3 days before the date of elections, which is supposed to be November 24, and not November 25 as established by the Timetable.

C. List of candidates

Political entities

According to the legislation, the electoral campaign starts when the election participants are officially registered with the CEC. By October 12, the CEC has confirmed the status of election contender for 12 political entities.

On 4 October 2010, the CEC held a draw to establish the preliminary order in which the political parties, which submitted their applications for registration as election contenders before this day, are to appear in the ballot.

On 11 October 2010, the CEC has registered the candidates within the legal term and has confirmed their order in the voting ballots as follows:

1. National Liberal Party
2. Democratic Party of Moldova
3. Political Party "Liberal Party"
4. "Moldova Unită-Единая Молдова" ("United Moldova") Party
5. Christian Democrat People's Party
6. Miscarea Actiunea Europeana (European Action Movement) Party
7. "Patriotii Moldovei" ("Moldova's Patriots") Political Party
8. "PENTRU NEAM ȘI TARA" ("For the nation and the country") Political Party
9. Republican Party of Moldova
10. "MOLDOVA NOASTRA (Our Moldova) Alliance" Political Party
11. Humanist Party of Moldova
12. Communists' Party of Moldova

On 11 October, the CEC has received the documents for the registration of PLDM as electoral contender. CEC has preliminarily established the registration of the party in the ballot on the 13th position.

According to the Election Code, the CEC registers the candidates for the elections within 7 days after receiving their documents. The order of registration in the ballot is considered final only after the approval of the CEC decision on the registering of election competitors for the early parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2010. The list of election candidates will be published on the web-page www.voteaza.md.

At the same time, the CEC registered the logos of election participants as well as the representatives of election contenders at CEC. The candidates for the MP office, who fall under

the provision of Article 13 (3) of the Election Code, are to submit to the CEC, before 14 October 2010, the documents that prove the suspension of their office.

Independent candidates

According to the Election Code, the CEC registers the candidates for the elections within a 7-day term from the date the documents were submitted.

Up until 12 October Valeriu Plesca was the only person to submit his file for running in the elections as an independent candidate. At the same time, the following persons announced their decision to run independently in the early parliamentary elections: Maia Laguta – leader of the “Salvgardare” Association, Gabriel Stati – businessman, Victor Stepaniuc – ex-member of the “Moldova Unita” (United Moldova) Party and Sergiu Banari – Balti Municipal Councilor.

According to the press some twenty plus persons announced their intention to run for office in these elections as independent candidates.

D. Election authorities

Elections in Moldova are organized by a system of electoral bodies. This system comprises the permanent Central Electoral Commission; district electoral councils (DEC), formed 50 days before the date of the elections; and the electoral bureaus of polling stations (PEB), established 25 days before the elections. The DECs approve the list of the polling stations 35 days before the date of the elections, based on the proposals of the local public administration.

Performance of election authorities

In the period of the monitoring, Promo-LEX found that the CEC is following, with few exceptions, the deadlines prescribed by the electoral legislation and is performing its duties in an unbiased manner.

In its meeting on 29 September, the CEC has established the schedule and the place for receiving the documents for the registration of candidates for the position of MP within the early parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2010.

In the same meeting, the CEC established the Timetable for the implementation of actions¹ prescribed by the Election Code for organizing and conducting the early parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2010 and the list of parties and social-political organizations entitled to participate in the elections. The CEC has also established 37 second-level electoral districts in the administrative-territorial divisions of Moldova and has approved the estimate of expenses for the organization of the elections, equaling 43 132 060 lei.

At the same time, based on the information provided by the Ministry of Justice, the CEC has published the list of parties and social-political organizations entitled to take part in the early parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2010, comprising 31 political entities.

On 5 October 2010, the CEC approved the templates of election documents for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010, established the number of electoral competitors' trustees, agreed on the number of members of the election bodies who can be relieved of their official duties at their permanent work place, as well as the period of this relief, approved the staff of the DECs' operational units for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010 as well as amended a range of regulations.

In its meeting on 8 October, the CEC approved the Regulation on the media coverage of the electoral campaign for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010.² The Regulation establishes the rules for offering free-of-charge and paid media advertising,

¹ Decision No. 3552 on approving the Timetable for the implementation of actions for organizing and conducting of the early parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2010

organization of electoral debates and the principles, which must guide the coverage of the election campaign by the media, Internet and mobile communication companies.

On 5 October, the CEC has established the upper limit of the financial resources that can be transferred in the electoral funds of the competitors for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010 and provided accreditation to the first observers, which will monitor the elections this year. According to the CEC Decision no.3566,³ the financial limit for political parties, social-political organizations and electoral blocs is 21 664 445 lei (0.5 eurocents multiplied by the total number of voters registered on the electoral rolls), and for independent candidates – 2 166 444 lei (0.05 eurocents multiplied by the total number of voters registered on the electoral rolls).

E. Electoral period

According to the Election Code, in the electoral period the campaigning starts when the CEC formally registers the competitors. Promo-LEX observers reported instances of electoral campaigning in four out of the 32 districts of the country, which took the form of meetings with groups of voters. No other campaigning methods were reported.

In the monitoring period the political parties AMN, PDM and PCRM have organized election activities before being registered as competitors by the CEC (11 October).

On 6 October, at 10.30 AM, PCRM conducted a meeting with the party members from the Taraclia District, with the participation of candidates Vadim Misin and Oleg Babenco. The event brought together representatives of district and town public authorities: Mayor of Taraclia, Vasile Graișdan; Mayor of Cairaclia, Maria Danu; Mayor of Cialak, Veaceslav Cambur and Mayor of Vinogradovka, Tatiana Turcan. The meeting took place on a working day during the working hours of the public administration representatives.

On 8 October, between 3.30 and 5.00 PM, AMN held a meeting with the voters in Cahul, on the occasion of the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Cahul Industrial Pedagogical College, with the participation of the MP candidate, Minister of Education Leonid Bujor. In his speech before the AMN members, Leonid Bujor abstained from campaigning for his party, but encouraged the audience to communicate with the voters from the region. Also, Bujor criticized some political parties, by referring to the leaders of PDM and PLDM as those who had voted for the presidency of V. Voronin in 2005. On the other hand, Bujor spoke about the negotiations between AMN, PLDM and PDM on the possibility of creating electoral blocs, which failed because of the low-rank places on the joint list of the possible blocs offered to AMN representatives during the negotiations. The minister visited Cahul on the governmental car, with the number plates “RM G 015”.

On 10 October, at 12.00 AM, the representatives of PDM - Marian Lupu, Ion Stratulat and Vladimir Rotaru had a meeting with the voters in Orhei. The event was held in the meeting hall of the Orhei City Hall. Around 300 persons took part in the meeting. The participants included the mayor of Orhei as well as town and district councilors, members of PDM.

On 11 October, at 4.00 PM, PCRM held a meeting with the voters in the Dubasari District. More than 600 persons participated in the event. The PCRM president Vladimir Voronin delivered the main speech. Among the participants there were the mayors of villages of the Dubasari District. The event was recorded by the "NIT" TV station. PCRM performed several electoral activities: distributed red balloons bearing the “VOTEZ” (I’m voting) inscription and the PCRM logo and screened the film "Un an negru pentru Moldova" (“A black year for Moldova”), which criticizes the parties of the Alliance for European Integration.

² Decision No. 3614 of 8 October on approving the Regulation on the media coverage of the electoral campaign for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010, <http://www.cec.md/i-ComisiaCentrala/main.aspx?dbName=Activity2>

³ CEC Decision No. 3566 of 5 October on the establishment of the upper limit for financial resources which can be transferred to the electoral fund in the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010, <http://www.cec.md/i-ComisiaCentrala/main.aspx?dbName=Activity2>

Meetings were held in several communities of the district. The population from the villages was transported to the meetings with the vehicles offered by the Dubasari District Council.

Also, on 11 October Promo-LEX observers reported that electoral ads of AMN were displayed in unauthorized places of the Botanica District of Chisinau.

Civil Society

At least two groups of nongovernmental organizations expressed their intention to monitor the elections of 28 November 2010.

On 12 October, 17 civil society organizations announced about the continuation of the work of the “Civil Control” Coalition, which was also active in the electoral campaign of 2009.⁴

The “Civil Control” Coalition announced that it intends to perform the following activities in the period of the election campaign: media monitoring; information of the society on the progress of the election campaign; monitoring of voting on the election day. The group will periodically publish monitoring reports with information on the violations identified. The reports will be published on the website www.electoral.md. The “Civil Control” Coalition will train 300 independent observers who will monitor the elections on 28 November at the polling stations throughout the country.

On 12 October, the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, operating since 2005, announced that it would monitor the way the principles of free and fair elections are respected in the election campaign for the early parliament elections of 28 November 2010. The Coalition will publish the results of the monitoring at the end of the elections.⁵ (<http://alegeliber.md>)

F. National and international observers

On 5 October 2010, through its decision no.3567, the CEC has accredited 42 national observers, representing the Promo-LEX Association for the monitoring of early parliamentary elections on 28 November 2010.

Through its decision no.3617 of 8 October 2010, the CEC accredited 105 persons as national observers, representing the Moldovan Institute for Human Rights (IDOM) for the monitoring of early parliamentary elections on 28 November 2010.

On 8 October, the CEC has registered an international election expert of the Latvian Central Electoral Commission, who, according to the CEC Decision no. 3168, will monitor the compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Election Code and the Regulation on the status of observers and the procedure of their accreditation.

Earlier monitoring efforts have shown that the majority of international and national observers are registered with CEC 2 to 3 weeks before the election day, in compliance with the provisions of the Election Code and the approved Timetable.

G. Transnistrian region

In the period before 14 October, the CEC did not adopt any decisions on the creation of the District Electoral Council no. 3 in Bender and the establishment of the District Electoral Council no. 37 for the communities on the left bank of the Nistru River.

Also, in the monitoring period, neither the central administration nor the electoral authorities initiated any discussions on the improvement of conditions for the participation of the citizens from eastern districts of Moldova in the electoral process. In spite of the numerous impediments, abuses and intimidation to which the Tiraspol administration subjected the population on the eastern side of the Nistru during the constitutional referendum of 5 September

⁴ Press Release, <http://www.electoral.md/>

⁵ Appeal for respecting the principles of free and fair elections, <http://alegeliber.md/?p=670>

2010, the constitutional authorities hesitate to develop and implement efficient measures for ensuring the enjoyment of the right to vote by the voters from the Transnistrian region.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Central Electoral Commission:

1. Revise the Timetable in accordance to the provisions of the electoral legislation;
2. Monitor and warn contenders regarding the failure of some representatives of the parties included in the lists of candidates for the future elections to temporarily step aside from public posts.
3. Conduct information and electoral education campaigns to ensure increased participation in the election, including on the eastern side of the Nistru River.
4. Establish the District Electoral Council no. 3 in Bender and the District Electoral Council no. 37 for the communities on the eastern side of the Nistru River.

To central public authorities:

5. Discuss, identify and develop efficient measures to ensure and facilitate the enjoyment of the right to vote by the citizens on the eastern bank of Nistru River.

To election participants:

6. The persons running for MP seats should temporarily step aside from certain government posts in order to prevent potential abuses in the utilization of administrative resources for electoral purposes.

To mass media:

7. Fully comply with and implement the Regulation on the media coverage of the electoral campaign for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010.