



THE COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

REPORT

Monitoring the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010

Monitoring period: 13 October – 25 October 2010

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Monitoring report No. 2 on the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010

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I. SUMMARY

This report refers to the October 13 to October 25 period and describes the electoral environment, analyzes the electoral legislation and relevant regulations and presents the review of the findings made by the field observers. The report also formulates recommendations for the electoral stakeholders.

In the monitoring period, the mission found that the election authorities have shown an overall unbiased performance and, with a few exceptions, have met the time limits prescribed by the legislation. The Central Election Commission (CEC) registered new candidates and national observers. Also, the CEC received the first financial statements submitted by the electoral competitors.

The intensity of the election campaign in the first two weeks varied from region to region and depended largely on the activity of the electoral competitors. Observations showed that a small number of electoral competitors held activities of electoral nature. The first electoral incidents and the first instances of misuse by the competitors of administrative resources were recorded in this period.

The negative patterns of the electoral process identified by the observers were related to the conflict situations registered in a number of electoral districts; to the deficient financial reporting on the campaign expenses made by the candidates; to the insufficient number of places for the display of outdoor campaign advertising and violation of the advertising display rules by the electoral competitors; to the inadequate information efforts made by the local authorities concerning the possibility to verify the electoral rolls; and cases of aggressive treatment of voters by certain competitors.

The main recommendations formulated in the report concern the need for the CEC to settle differences within local election bodies, to create conditions for the display of electoral advertising; to carry out information and civic/electoral education campaigns to stimulate a high voter turnout, including on the eastern bank of the Nistru River; to run awareness campaigns for the candidates about the importance of a peaceful and civilized behavior in the electoral process.

Promo-LEX carries out the long-term monitoring of the electoral period preceding the 28 November 2010 early parliamentary elections, within the framework of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX deployed 42 long-term observers covering all the districts of the country. The Promo-LEX observers received training in the field of electoral procedures and instructions regarding the impartial and independent character of the monitoring effort. The recommendations of the monitoring mission are formulated in good faith and aim to contribute to the improvement of the electoral process.

II. PROMO-LEX MONITORING EFFORT

The monitoring of the early parliamentary elections, to take place on 28 November 2010, is a project implemented by the Promo-LEX Association within the framework of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. "Coalition 2009" is a voluntary union of non-governmental organizations with the mission to enhance the electoral process and raise public confidence in this process. The various programs of election monitoring within the framework of the "Coalition 2009" are implemented both by Promo-LEX and other member organizations.

The monitoring effort by Promo-LEX 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 using standardized forms; the findings are based on direct observations, meetings with interlocutors and analysis of official documents.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort is not an investigation body and has no intention of documenting with hard evidence the observed findings. The biweekly reports developed by the

Promo-LEX monitoring effort are exclusively based on the standardized reports which are filled in by the observers immediately after events of electoral nature occur and which are submitted for analysis to the central team. Before starting their activity, the observers involved in the monitoring process signed a Code of Conduct of the Promo-LEX Independent Observer. The key obligations set out in this Code are good faith, political nonpartisanship and promptness. The text of the Code is available on the Association's website at www.promolex.md.

The Promo-LEX monitoring effort is not an electoral contender, nor it is a political rival to any party or organization involved in the early parliamentary elections. The monitoring effort assigned a stakeholders liaison officer for contacts with the central election bodies and the candidates, who attends all the CEC's meetings and who is open to collaboration (within the limits of the Code of Conduct and the existing legislation) with all the candidates standing for election in the Parliament. The statements and remarks of the electoral competitors are included in the monitoring reports only if independently confirmed by the observers' reports filed after interviews with the other parties involved and the witnesses of the event in question.

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

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III. 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.

According to the Timetable for the organization and conducting of the early parliamentary elections, adopted by CEC Decision no.3552 of 29 September 2010, the CEC is to bring the provisions of its regulations and guidelines in line with the requirements of the electoral legislation.

In the monitoring period, the CEC adopted the following documents: Guidelines on the conveyance and collection of electoral information in organizing and conducting parliamentary and general local elections; Guidelines on the use of electoral stamps in elections and referenda; and Regulations on the preliminary registration of Moldovan citizens abroad for voting purposes.

Decision no.3691 on security measures for the early parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010, adopted by the CEC on 22 October 2010 sets out the rules for the application of the special stamp "Elections 28.11.10" in the identification documents required for voting. The Decision makes it clear for the PEB members where to apply the stamp in the voters' ID documents. The introduction of this procedure is expected to prevent cases of multiple voting.

B. Electoral competitors

Authorization of electoral competitors

As of October 14, the CEC registered 12 political parties to become electoral competitors. On 11 October 2010, the CEC preliminary registered the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM) under number 13 in the ballot paper, and later on 15 October 2010 it was registered as a fully-fledged electoral contender.

In the period between October 13 and 25, the CEC registered the Conservative Party as electoral contender under number 15.

In the monitoring period, the CEC registered the following independent candidates: Valeriu Plesca (number 14) and Gabriel Stati (number 16).

Temporary leave of office

Art.13 par.3 of the Election Code requires the following categories of candidates for Parliament to temporarily suspend public office duties during the election campaign:

- 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.

As of October 14, most candidates of the following parties – PDM, PL, AMN and MAE – stepped aside from their posts. However a number of candidates failed comply with this requirement, namely:

AMN (12 persons out of 15 required) – Mihail Furtuna, deputy mayor of Chisinau; Serghei Muravschi, deputy head of Orhei district; Ion Munteanu, head of Nisporeni district; Valeriu Tizu, mayor of Petreni village in Drochia district; Serghei Nagherneac, mayor of Prodanesti village in Floresti district; Valentin Burduja, deputy head of Falesti district; Victor Capatina, mayor of Cojusna village in Straseni district; Ludmila Guzun, deputy head of Ungheni district; Tudor Serbov, mayor of Varnita village in Anenii Noi district; Constantin Postaru, mayor of Hoginesti village in Calarasi district; Oleg Cojocar, mayor of Zaluceni village in Floresti district; and Ion Corjan, mayor of Taraclia de Salcie village in Cahul district.

PDM (5 persons out of 15 required) – Gheorghe Brasovschi, mayor of Singerei town; Efrasina Gretu, deputy head of Leova district; Vladimir Nicuta, deputy head of Soroca district; Ion Ceka, deputy head of Cahul district; and Vasile Grosu, mayor of Filipeni village in Leova district.

PL (4 persons out of 7 required) – Mihail Cirlig, head of Riscani municipal district in Chisinau; Tatiana Ghilan, mayor of Tudora village in Stefan Voda district; Ion Tulbure, mayor of Tirsiti village in Telenesti district; Stefan Vlas, and mayor of Sarata Galbena village in Hincesti district.

MAE (1 person out of 1 required) – Valerian Ciobanu, deputy mayor of Edinet town.

In a press release issued on October 20, the CEC confirmed that all the candidates required to temporarily step aside until October 20 met the deadline.

Electoral competitors' financial reporting

According to Article 38 (8) of the Election Code and the provision of the Regulation on the financing of election campaigns and political parties, adopted by the CEC Decision no. 3336 of 16 July 2010, once in two weeks, from the moment of their registration, the electoral competitors should submit to the CEC their financial reports on revenues and expenses in the election campaign.

12 political parties, registered as election competitors on 11 October, were to submit their respective reports by 25 October. According to the CEC, 11 competitors submitted the financial reports before the deadline. The only exception was the “Patriotii Moldovei” (“Moldova’s Patriots”) Party, which did not submit a report on the ground that it does not hold a bank account and has not incurred expenses. Observers note that in the reporting period the party, indeed, was not seen involved in electoral campaigning.

According to the financial reports submitted to the CEC, the electoral competitors made the following expenses in the first two weeks of the electoral campaign (in MDL): PNL – 220; PDM – 1 831 690.16; PL – 317 478.40; "Moldova Unita - Edinaia Moldova" (“United Moldova”) Party– 52 537.53; PPCD – 12 040; MAE – 0; PpNT – 107 808; PRM – 0; AMN – 469 870.90; PUM – 200 54.90; PCRM – 2 031 640.37.

The observers’ reports also note that, in the monitoring period, electoral competitors held meetings with voters in the following communities:

PDM – Calarasi (20 and 21 October), Causeni, Cahul (22 October, at 9:30 and 11:00), Chisinau, Cimislia (21 October), Drochia (19 October), Falesti (22 October), Floresti (22 October), Leova, Ocnita (10 and 19 October); Nisporeni (22 October), Rascani, Sangerei (19 October, at 14:15 and 19:00); Stefan-Voda (22 and 23 October).

PL - Cahul (14 October), Drochia, Floresti, Ocnita (24 October), Soroca (24 October), Stefan-Voda.

AMN – Balti, Chisinau, Drochia (17 and 21 October), Ialoveni (19 and 20 October), Ocnita (21 October, at 11:20, 12:30 and 14:00), Soroca, Soldanesti (12 October), Stefan-Voda (20, 21 and 22 October), Taraclia (17 October).

PCRM – Anenii Noi (14, 18, 21, 22 October), Balti, Basarabasca (15 October), Calarasi (17, 19 and 20 October), Cantemir (20 October), Cimislia (19 and 22 October), Buiucani District of Chisinau, Criuleni (12 October), Donduseni (14 October), Floresti (22 October), Glodeni (17 October), Ialoveni (21 October), Nisporeni (21 October), Ocnita (18 October; 19 October, at 14:00, 15:00 and 16:00; 20 October; 21 October, at 15:00 and 17:15), Rascani (17 October), Sangerei (20 October), Soroca (12 October, at 8:00 and 12:00, 19 October), Soldanesti (14 October), Stefan-Voda (15 and 21 October), Soroca (12 October, at 8:00 and 12:00), Taraclia (14 and 16 October), Ungheni (21 October), UTA Gagauzia (14 October).

The analysis of the reports submitted to the CEC reveals that PDM, PL and AMN have not provided data on the expenses for transportation to the electoral meetings. The only exception is PCRM, which reported transportation costs, summing up to 17,496 lei.

According to art 64 (6) of the Election Code, all items of electoral advertising should contain the name of the electoral competitor, the date it was published, the number of copies and the name of the printing company that produced it. According to the Promo-LEX observers, the electoral posters of PDM, MAE, AMN and PCRM displayed in Chisinau do not contain the printing date, the number of copies or the name of the printing company. The same is true for some of the items used by PLDM for advertising. The PLDM leaflets, distributed in Criuleni and Anenii Noi did not contain the necessary information.

On October 20, Promo-LEX observers noted that posters advertising for MAE were displayed in Chisinau on Studentilor, Aerodromului, Circului, Vieru and Calea Orheiului Streets, as well as in the neighbourhood of the Trade Union Hall. However, the financial report of MAE for the period between 15 and 22 October, indicate no expenses whatsoever.

The analysis of the financial report for the period between 11 and 22 October, submitted by Moldova Unita Party, reveals that the stated expenses and the observations in the field do not match. In the period of 20 to 22 October, Promo-LEX observers noticed Moldova Unita party billboards on several streets of Chisinau: Calea Orheiului, Aerodromului and Mihai Viteazul. The report submitted by the competitor only reflects the costs of printing of leaflets and electoral posters.

The Communistul Newspaper, distributed free-of-charge by PCRM as means of electoral advertising, also does not indicate the number of copies on its pages. On the other hand, the costs

for publishing of this newspaper (by the “Universul” Printing House) are indicated in the list of expenses incurred by PCRM.

According to Article 38 (1) a) of the Election Code, financial or any other material support for the candidates in elections after their registration with the CEC shall be announced weekly in a national-wide newspaper. According to these provisions, the first 12 competitors were to announce about the received finances and support by 18 October 2010 and 25 October 2010, by means of a nation-wide media publication. PLDM was to publish such an announcement by 22 October 2010.

The analysis of national newspapers: Timpul, Flux, Ziarul de Garda, Moldova Suverana, Evenimentul Zilei, Saptamana, Молдавские Ведомости, Аргументы и Факты, Logos Press and Комсомольская Правда, showed that none of the mentioned electoral participant have published the required information in due time.

The observers also reported that the “Timpul” Newspaper published electoral advertising for PDM and PLDM without the mention “Electoral 2010” and “Achitat din fondul electoral” (“Paid through the electoral fund”) as required by the rules.

C. Election authorities

The system of election authorities in Moldova comprises the Central Election Commission, which is a standing body; the district electoral councils (DEC), established 50 days before the date of the elections; and the electoral bureaus of polling stations (PEB), established 25 days before the elections. The district electoral councils approve the list of the polling stations 35 days before the date of the elections, based on the proposal of the local public authorities.

Performance of election authorities

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers found that the CEC has shown an overall unbiased behavior and, with a few exceptions, has met the time limits prescribed by the legislation.

Generally DEC members are cooperative towards each other, except for those in DEC Balti and DEC Gagauzia, where conflict situations between the members of these bodies were reported. On October 19, Promo-LEX monitors observed a conflict between the members of DEC Taraclia (Pavel Tarlev and Valeriu Platica) and its chairman (Gheorghe Calinenco), related to the fact that the DEC had been opened inside the Town Hall and not in the building of the Taraclia District Council.

In most DEC members the administering bodies were established and at least two DEC members temporarily stepped aside from their posts in each electoral body. According to observations, the DEC members do have experience in electoral matters and some of them have juridical education. Observations showed that most DEC members perform their activity in a transparent manner.

Overall the Timetable is respected by the DEC members, with certain exceptions related to the training of the DEC chairpersons and secretaries, which was expected to be done until October 18 October (the case of DEC Riscani).

In the monitoring period, complaints were recorded at DEC Orhei (from the PCRM against other electoral competitors, concerning the display of campaign advertising in unauthorized places), at CER Soldanesti and DEC Hincesti (from the PDM, concerning the alleged violation by the AMN of the Election Code and the Regulation on the display of electoral advertising). On October 20, the PCRM representative accused DEC Cantemir of refusing to offer space for a meeting with voters. Later DEC Cantemir representatives denied the allegations.

Forming the election administration bodies

According to art.27 and 29 of the Election Code, election bodies are established with the participation of delegates from “the parties represented in parliament”. The representatives of the

following parliamentary parties – PL, AMN, PD, PCRM, and PLDM – participated in the establishment of election bodies. As for the other two political organizations represented in the legislature – the European Action Movement and the United Moldova Party – these failed to delegate candidates for membership in the electoral bodies.

Establishment of DECs

DEC Balti experienced problems of technical and logistic nature as it received the necessary equipment (computer and printer) later than expected. CEC Dubasari encountered similar problems because it lacked telephone service and access to the Internet.

The electoral council of the Bender Election Commission and DEC Bender hasn't been yet established, which contradicts the CEC Decision no.3556 of 29 September 2010.

Establishment of polling stations

Under art.29 par.2 of the Election Code, the DECs are required to establish the polling stations 35 days before the date of election, that is, until October 23. In the following constituencies the deadline was not met: Chisinau municipality (Centru and Riscani districts), Bender town, the districts of Briceni, Edinet, Drochia, Leova, Ocnita, Taraclia, Straseni and Telenesti.

According to the Timetable, the CEC was to receive from the DECs the lists of polling stations. The information provided by the CEC shows that all the lists were received but not yet processed. Thusly, at the time of the presentation of this report, the exact number of the polling stations which are to be opened across the country was still not known.

The local authorities in a number of communities in the Drochia district opened polling stations in unheated locations. For similar reasons, DEC Edinet decided to relocate 2 polling stations.

The absence of local public administrations subordinated to the legitimate authorities in the districts on the eastern side of the Nistru makes it impossible to establish PEBs and polling stations there. Nevertheless, the public administration of Varnita village on October 15 issued ordinance no.180 establishing a PEB for the citizens domiciled east of the Nistru and in Bender, including polling stations nos.40 and 41 in Varnita, located in the village's Culture halls. Also, on October 19, DEC Stefan Voda issued decision no.2 to establish mixed polling stations that will receive voters from the Transnistrian region as well, but at separate ballot boxes. In previous polls, the establishment of the special polling stations destined for voters from the Transnistrian region was the exclusive prerogative of the CEC.

D. Local authorities

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX monitors found that the local authorities have observed the provisions of the electoral legislation, with a few exceptions, and have shown an unbiased attitude toward all the electoral competitors.

Infringements were observed regarding the places destined for electoral advertising. The mayor's offices in Causeni delayed the adoption of decisions on the arrangement of places for campaign advertising.

Advertising boards were not provided in Donduseni town as the local authorities cited financial reasons. A similar situation was observed in Straseni town, which made the candidates post advertising in unauthorized places. It was reported that the districts of Drochia and Basarabasca also lack a sufficient number of boards for electoral advertising.

Electoral rolls

At the moment, most of the local public administrations are revising and updating the electoral rolls.

In the case of the Donduseni Electoral District, mayoralties obtained all the voters rolls from the courts. In Stefan-Voda, the rolls are being verified door to door. 35% of the voters' rolls in Stefan-Voda had been verified by 15 October.

In the monitoring period, the Ungheni Electoral District has completed the preparation of electoral rolls. At least 30 citizens verified their names in the rolls at Calarasi Electoral District. The Calarasi Town Hall has also encouraged the voters to check their names in the rolls, through the announcements published on the its web page - www.calarasi-primaria.md. The administration of the Drochia district failed to inform its citizens about the possibility of verifying the accuracy of voters' rolls.

E. Campaigning

Promo-LEX observers reported the following forms of electoral campaigning: mass media advertising, outdoor visual advertising, dissemination of information leaflets and party-owned newspapers, meetings with voters, "door to door" campaigning (PDM, PCRM and PLDM), mobile advertising (visual or audio) through the use of cars (AMN) and electoral advertising tents (PDM).

Police representatives have been observing most of the electoral events. According to the Promo-LEX observers, the electoral competitors' activities were intensive in most of the districts, with the exception of Ocnita, Orhei, Donduseni, Soldanesti, Straseni, Bender and the eastern districts (Transnistria region).

Renting meeting halls

In the monitoring period, several electoral candidates resorted to renting other rooms than those offered by the local administration, for meeting with voters. In Drochia, PDM has paid 200 lei for renting a room within the Culture Hall, for organizing an electoral meeting. PL spent 200 lei for renting the hall of the "B.P.Hasdeu" Lyceum in Drochia, for one and a half hour. On 15 October, PCRM rented a hall for 1200 lei from Nisporeni Culture Division. Also in Nisporeni, PDM paid 900 lei on 21 October for the hall where it held the meeting. PDM also rented a room in the Drochia Culture Hall for organising a meeting with voters on 24 October.

Outdoor advertising

Outdoor advertising was the most widespread form of electoral campaigning employed by electoral participants during the monitoring period. Street advertising, left from the period of the constitutional referendum of 5 September, was noticed in several communities.

The following electoral participants displayed their advertising in unauthorized sites:

PDM –Criuleni (a bill poster bearing the PDM logo was placed at the entry to the Town Hall), Balabanesti (Criuleni district), Comrat (Gagauzia); Soldanesti district; Rascani district (Grinauti, Sverdiac, Recea and Vile).

PL – Cahul (on the trees); Straseni district.

MAE – Straseni district, Soldanesti district.

PpNT – Calarasi district (on the window pane of a gas station)

AMN – Calarasi district; Criuleni district; Cimislia District; Chisinau (Rascani district); Dubasari district (Oxentea village); Hancesti (on street pillars); Leova district; Ocnita district (Ocnita, Grinauti-Raia), Rascani district (Grinauti, Sverdiac, Recea, Vile), Rezina, Soldanesti district; Telenesti (at the town entry), Scorteni (Telenesti district); Varnita.

PUM - Varnita; Rascani district (on the window pane of the Sumna vilage mayoralty); Straseni district.

PCRM –Criuleni, Baltata (Criuleni district); Floresti district (Prodanesti village); Comrat (Gagauzia); Rascani district (Sumna and Costesti).

PLDM – Criuleni district (posters left from the referendum period); Comrat, Gagauzia; Soldanesti; Rascani (at the town entry); Varnita.

In several cases, electoral competitors were seen destroying the outdoor advertising of their opponents and replacing it with their own electoral items (Taraclia of the Sangerei district, Ialoveni and the Stefan Voda district).

Electoral incidents

At a meeting on October 11 Serghei Chiose, the head of Taraclia district and also a PSD candidate, told the staff of the Agricultural Processing Cooperative “Rodina-Nova” (10 persons), which is administered by Serghei Chiose, to join the PSD unless they wanted to be fired.

On October 20, observers reported, citing PDM sources, that the party's office in Soroca town had been burglarized. Among the things reported to have been stolen were a safe containing the equivalent of \$80, the local party organization's stamp, 300 applications for membership and an electric heater. The police said they were investigating the case.

On October 21, at an electoral meeting featuring PCRM candidate Vladimir Voronin in the Culture Hall of Ungheni town, the candidate's bodyguard used force on a man attending the meeting when wanted to ask a question. 59-year-old Anton Cotici was later hospitalized for treatment of leg injuries. The case is being investigated.

“Electoral gifts”

According to article 38 (7) of the Election Code, electoral competitors may not offer voters money or gifts, may not distribute free goods, including humanitarian aid or other charity.

On October 17, PSD candidate Victor Selin donated an antique ecclesiastical volume to Metropolitan Bishop of Chisinau and of Entire Moldova Vladimir. The donation took place during a religious service at the Metropolitan Cathedral in the presence of the media. The event was attended by the churchgoers and PSD members.

On October 24, while meeting with the residents of Palanca village, Stefan Voda, on its patron saint celebrations and 600th anniversary, Prime Minister Vlad Filat, a PLDM candidate, donated 10 computers to the local school and an air conditioner to the village church, both donations being made on behalf of the Government.

Use of administrative resources

Gheorghe Focsa, a PLDM candidate who temporarily stepped aside from the post of mayor of Leova town, was observed using the official car VAZ 21073 for electoral purposes. On October 20, PLDM candidate Focsa used the town hall to hold a meeting of the campaign staff.

A similar case was observed in Taraclia district, where the temporarily suspended deputy district head Vasile Caireac, a PPR candidate, was continuing to use administrative resources (telephone, offices, administrative position).

F. Mass media

The media coverage of the election campaign is poor to nonexistent in the districts of Ocnita and Orhei.

G. National and international observers

In the monitoring period, in conformity with its Decision of 19 October 2010, CEC authorized 238 other national observers representing the Promo-LEX Association to monitor the parliamentary elections on 28 November 2010. No other observers were registered by the CEC in this period.

Previous monitoring efforts showed that most national and international observers apply for registration to the CEC 2 or 3 weeks before the date of elections, in line with the provisions of the Election Code and the adopted Timetable.

Civil society

The election campaign is monitored by two major groups of NGOs: the Civic Control Coalition and the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections.

On October 5, the Civic Initiative for a Clean Parliament launched the 2010 “Know Your Candidate” Campaign, which aims to assess the candidates according to the integrity criteria and warn the voters of the morally unsound candidates.

On October 25, the nongovernmental organizations CREDO and CPD launched the Civic Action for Transparent Elections (ACTA) aiming to verify campaign expenses of the electoral competitors.

H. Transnistrian region

As of October 26, no CEC decisions were adopted to establish electoral constituency councils nos. 3 and 37 for Bender and for the settlements located east of the Nistru River. At the same time, a number of polling stations were established to receive voters from the Transnistrian region in the districts of Stefan Voda and Anenii Noi.

In the monitoring period, neither the central public administration nor the election authorities initiated discussions on how to improve the electoral participation conditions for the people living in Moldova's eastern districts. Despite numerous impediments, abuses and cases of intimidation at the hand of the Tiraspol administration experienced by the voters in the Transnistrian region during the September 5 constitutional referendum, the constitutional authorities do not seem to develop and implement efficient measures to guarantee the right to vote to the voters living there.

IV. CONCERNS

The following aspects raise concerns regarding the electoral process:

1. Deviations from the timetable;
2. Lack of financial transparency in the activities of the electoral participants regarding the expenses incurred for travelling in the regions and publishing costs of advertising;
3. Conflict situations within the electoral bodies in Balti, Gagauzia and Taraclia;
4. Creation of special polling stations by District Commissions and not by the CEC;
5. The intention to open mixed polling stations with separate ballot boxes for the voters from the Transnistrian region;
6. Insufficiency of electoral advertising space;
7. Poor, uneven information of voters by the local administration on the possibility to verify the accuracy of voters' rolls;
8. Excessive electoral advertising in unauthorized places;
9. Aggressiveness of electoral competitors towards specific opinions expressed and the pluralism of opinion in general;
10. Utilization of administrative resources for electoral purposes, including by candidates who suspended their activities in public offices.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Central Electoral Commission:

1. Improve the monitoring system of the expenses made by electoral competitors, by introducing a detailed template which would include different types of expenses (the one that is currently applied is too general);
2. Mediate conflicts within election bodies;
3. Organize information and education campaigns to ensure higher participation in the elections;
4. Create polling stations for voters from the left bank of the Nistru River, in compliance with the hierarchy provided in the Election Code;
5. Initiate campaigns to raise awareness of electoral competitors about the necessity of a peaceful and civilized behavior in the relations with the opponents and the voters;

To the central public administration:

6. Provide technical and financial support for dealing with the lack of space for electoral advertising;
7. Prevent and penalize cases of unauthorized campaigning;
8. Introduce an efficient control mechanisms of the use of administrative resources;
9. Design and implement measures to ensure and facilitate the enjoyment of the right to vote by the citizens from the left bank of the Nistru River;

To electoral competitors:

10. Report in detail all expenses made during the election campaign, both to the CEC and to the wider society;
11. Only use sites provided by local public administration for advertising, as well as identify together with these authorities additional space for this purpose;
12. Respect standards of conduct during the campaign;

To mass-media:

13. Monitor the financial activity of election competitors;
14. Support and facilitate information and civic education campaigns, including for the verification of the accuracy of voters' rolls;
15. Support campaigns to raise awareness of electoral participants about the necessity for a peaceful and civilized behavior in the relations with the opponents and the voters.