



THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

REPORT #3

Monitoring the preterm parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010

Monitoring period: 26 October 2010 – 8 November 2010

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The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the donors.

Third monitoring report on the preterm parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010

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I. SUMMARY

This report, covering the period from October 25 through November 8, 2010, describes the electoral environment and reviews from a legal perspective the recent developments in the election campaign, and the performance of the electoral competitors and of the local and election authorities.

The election campaign is becoming increasingly intense, with cases of intimidation and abuse being registered both against electoral competitors and voters. While engaged in various campaigning activities, some candidates resort to the misuse of administrative resources and offering of “electoral gifts”.

Promo-LEX salutes the impartiality of the election authorities in performing their duties. The Central Election Commission registered until the end of the authorization period 40 electoral competitors and issued warnings to the contenders that violated the rules.

At the same time, the CEC authorized the formation of election bodies based on belated nominations submitted by certain electoral competitors at lower election bodies. The CEC adopted and amended its regulations, interpreting the existing laws to benefit certain categories of persons with disabilities. At the same time it avoided to adjust the regulations on the organization of elections to the provisions of the Election Code, leaving room for interpretation and uneven application of the electoral law by lower election bodies, in particular in the case of the persons who have both an official domicile and a place of actual residence. In five electoral constituencies the polling stations were found to be inadequately prepared and in two other constituencies the election officials complained of poor logistical conditions.

Some political parties represented in Parliament submitted nominations for PEB membership late, while two other parliamentary groups failed to make use of their right to delegate representatives to PEBs. The electoral competitors carry out multiple and varied campaigning activities, preferring in particular election meetings, outdoor advertising and video spots. Other popular campaigning activities are the electoral concerts.

In the monitoring period, our observers revealed a number of cases of intimidation and indirect pressure on the voters and electoral competitors, as well as a number of cases of abusive electioneering. The practice of employing administrative resources and offering “electoral gifts” persists.

The electoral competitors submitted financial reports on time to the CEC, accounting for campaign expenditure; however, despite earlier recommendations, not any of them complied with the requirement to publish weekly statements about the financial assistance and other forms of support the competitors receive in their campaigns.

CEC failed to adopt specific decisions as to how voters living in the Transnistrian region may participate in the poll; instead, special polling stations that will receive these voters have been established in three out of the total of 37 territorial units (rayons and municipalities), namely: Anenii Noi, Floresti and Rezina.

The main recommendations formulated in this report concern the necessity for the CEC to intervene as a mediator to settle differences between electoral competitors and members of the election bodies, and the need to run awareness campaigns for the candidates about the importance of a peaceful and civilized behavior in the electoral process.

Promo-LEX carries out a long-term monitoring of the electoral period preceding the 28 November 2010 preterm parliamentary elections, within the framework of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections. Promo-LEX deployed 42 long-term observers covering all the territorial units 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 preterm 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 includes 42 long-term observers, who monitor the electoral process in all the electoral constituencies in Moldova in the period from 6 October to 6 December 2010. The observers 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 the 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 is it a political rival to any party or organization involved in the preterm 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 statistical 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.

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

III. FINDINGS

A. Legal framework

The legal framework of the electoral process related to the preterm 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 preterm 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:

Decision no. 3736 on the supplementation of Guidelines on mobile voting, adopted by the CEC on 29 October 2010. It introduces new provisions enabling voters with visual impairments to submit requests for voting at their place of residence, including verbally, in addition to the provisions of art.55(4) of the Election Code, which prescribe the written form for such applications.

Under art.39(8) of the Election Code, the voters are included in the electoral roll of a certain polling station according to the place of actual residence, as opposed to domicile. However, art.53(4i) of the Election Code allows the voters to vote at the polling station corresponding to their domicile, by including them into the supplementary lists and upon signing a declaration acknowledging criminal responsibility for multiple voting.

As yet the CEC failed to establish any mechanism for the application of art.53(4i) of the Election Code, has yet to accordingly adjust the Regulation on the activity of the electoral bureaus of polling stations and to approve a form of the declaration to be signed by the voters.

The deficiencies related to the provisions or art.39(8) of the Election Code may lead to cases where the voters who have both a domicile and a place of residence (a category which includes students among other) will not be able to exercise their right to vote.

B. Electoral competitors

Authorization of electoral competitors

On 5 November 2010, the CEC determined the order of registration of the electoral competitors in the ballot paper for the election of the Moldovan Parliament on 28 November 2010. A total of 40 electoral competitors were registered, including 20 parties and sociopolitical organizations and 20 independent candidates. Of the total number of independents, 5 are women.

In the period after October 25, the CEC registered the following competitors: the People's Republican Party (number 17 in the ballot); the Sociopolitical Movement "Ravnopravie" /Equality/ (number 18); the Social Democratic Party (number 19), the Sociopolitical Movement of Moldova's Roma People (number 21), the Labor Party (number 24); and the Moldovan Ecologist "Green Alliance" Party (number 26).

In the same period, the CEC registered 18 independent candidates: Victor Stepaniuc (number 20); Evgheni Nazarencu (number 22); Gheorghe Russu (number 23); Maia Laguta (number 25); Tatiana Timbalist (number 27); Romeo Cereteu (number 28); Afanasie Birladeanu (number 29); Leonid Volneanschi (number 30); Oleg Bolotnicov (number 31); Oleg Cazac (number 32); Vitalie Taulean (number 33); Elena Burghila-Leonte (number 34); Valentina Cusnir (number 35); Alexandru Demian (number 36); Sergiu Iachim (number 37); Natalia Axenova (number 38); Vasile Lupascu (number 39); and Sergiu Banari (number 40).

Temporary leave of office

Art.13(3) of the Election Code requires a number of categories of public officials, including mayors, to temporarily suspend public office duties from the moment they are registered as candidates for Parliament.

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers found that Tatiana Ghilan, the mayor of Tudora village in Stefan Voda district and also a candidate on the list of the Liberal Party, failed to comply with this requirement. The CEC warned the candidate of the need to temporarily step aside. Later, Tatiana Ghilan was written off from PL's list of candidates.

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 electoral administration bodies have shown an overall unbiased behavior and, with a few exceptions, have met the time limits prescribed by the legislation.

Relations between DEC members remain tense at DEC Taraclia as the problem with the relocation of the DEC to the building of the district council remains unsettled. Most DEC Taraclia members resist this initiative.

Generally, the electoral bodies meet the terms of the Timetable. However, in certain situations, the Timetable is not kept to. An example is the decision of the Cimisia constituency council on the appointment of the PEB members, which was adopted on October 28, three days behind the deadline fixed for October 25.

Until now, the CEC has started distributing the forms of the voting certificates and has organized training courses for the DEC members (in the districts of Cantemir, Drochia and Basarabasca). At DEC Drochia, the council still lacks an AMN representative.

In the monitoring period, the CEC received a number of complaints from the representatives of electoral competitors concerning illicit activities in other competitors' campaigns. The CEC issued the following decisions on the complains submitted:

Decision no.3737, adopted on 29 October 2010, in response to complaint no.AP2010-9/16 of 25 October 2010, submitted by Vadim Motarski, Communist Party representative to the CEC, warned the AMN over the non-observance of art.13(3) of the Election Code by candidate Valeriu Cosarciuc.

Decision no.3738, adopted on 29 October 2010, in response to complaint no.AP2010- 9/19 of 26 October 2010, submitted by Sergiu Balaur, PpNT representative to the CEC, warned the electoral competitor PDM over the failure to observe art.64i(6) of the Election Code with regard to the publication date requirement.

Decision no.3765, adopted on 2 November 2010, in response to complaint no. AP2010-9/24 of 1 November 2010, submitted by Vadim Motarski, Communist Party representative to the CEC, amended decision no.6 “on the establishment of the electoral bureaus of the polling stations in the Hincesti district constituency no.20” of DEC Hincesti; whereby those nominations of the local councils which substituted the candidates nominated by the PCRM have been canceled; as a result, PCRM representatives have been included in all the PEBs in Hincesti, according to the list of nominations appended to the complaint.

Decision no.3766, adopted on 3 November 2010, in response to complaint no. AP2010-9/32, submitted by Roman Andries, Liberal Party representative to the CEC, amended decision no.4 “on the establishment of PEBs in DEC Rezina no.26”; whereby those nominations of the local councils which substituted the candidates nominated by the PL have been canceled; as a result, PL representatives have been included in all the PEBs in Rezina, according to the list of nominations appended to the complaint.

Decision no.3788, adopted on 5 November 2010, in response to complaint no. AP2010-9/21 of 28 October 2010, submitted by Andrei Volentir, Democratic Party representative to the CEC, and to complaint no.AP2010-9/33 of 3 November 2010, submitted by Roman Andries, PL representative to the CEC, against a television advert of the PCRM – referred the electoral competitors PL and PDM to a relevant court of law for legal action concerning damage to the reputation of the respective parties' candidates in that advert.

Decision no.3790, adopted on 5 November 2010, in response to complaint no. AP2010-9/27 of 1 November 2010, submitted by Vadim Motarski, Communist Party representative to the CEC, warned the electoral competitor PL over the failure to observe art.64i(6) of the Election Code with regard to the publication date requirement.

Decision no.3791, adopted on 5 November 2010, in response to complaint no. AP2010-9/28 of 1 November 2010, submitted by Andrei Volentir, Democratic Party representative to the CEC, warned the electoral competitor PPPM over the failure to observe art.64i(6) of the Election Code, which stipulates that every printed advertising material shall include the name of the electoral competitor, the publication date, the number of copies and the name of the publishing company that printed it.

Establishment of PEBs

According to art.27 and 29 of the Election Code, the 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.

In the monitoring period, most DEC established bureaus for the polling stations. An exception is the district of Taraclia, where the lists of the PEB members are still in process of being established.

As of 25 October 2010, DEC Telenesti received the list of nominations for PEB membership from the PL, PLDM, PCRM and PDM. AMN hasn't proposed candidates for the polling stations in this district.

The list of candidates for PEB membership was submitted belatedly to DEC Balti by the electoral competitor PL. Similarly, the electoral competitors AMN and PLDM presented their PEB nominations at DEC Criuleni behind time.

On 27 October 2010 the electoral competitor PCRM submitted its list of nominations for PEB membership to DEC Hincesti, which were not taken into consideration by the electoral body because the prescribed time limits were not met. Later, the CEC reversed the decision of DEC Hincesti and accepted the proposed candidates.

A similar case was registered in Drochia district, where the list of candidates for PEB membership submitted by the electoral competitor PCRM was rejected for being behind schedule. However, DEC Drochia accepted similar lists from the electoral competitors PLDM and PDM despite the failure to meet the same time limits.

In the monitoring period, DEC Balti failed to elect the administration bodies for all the PEBs.

The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and the secretaries of PEBs in Straseni were elected in breach of the Timetable.

In the monitoring period, the electoral officials decided to establish an additional polling station in Chisinau's suburban town of Cricova.

On 29 October 2010, DEC Edinet decided to relocate the polling stations of two settlements, transferring them from the culture halls to the local schools.

As of 8 November 2010, PEBs nos. 1, 2 and 3 in constituency no.7 in Cahul were still not set in function.

Establishment of polling stations

In conformity with art.29(2) of the Election Code, the DECes established the polling stations 35 days before the date of elections, that is, until 23 October 2010.

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers found that some polling stations were inadequately prepared for the poll in the constituencies no.9 Calarasi, no.22 Leova, no.33 Taraclia, no.34 Telenesti and no.35 Gagauz Autonomy.

As yet the CEC has not adopted a final decision on the opening of a polling station for the village of Corjova in Dubasari district. At the same time, the Central Election Commission proposed to establish that polling station inside the Tax Inspectorate building in the village of Cocieri, Dubasari district. The proposal is supported by the mayor's office of Corjova. In its letter to the CEC on 18 October 2010, the administration of the lyceum "M. Eminescu" in Corjova requested that the lyceum be relieved from accommodating the polling station.

Some divergences related to the size of recompenses and gasoline rations for the members of the election bodies were observed in Chisinau's districts of Riscani and Buiucani.

Information and civic education efforts

On 1 November 2010, the CEC has launched an information and civic education campaign titled "Voteaza, lume", loosely translated as "Vote, folks", to encourage the Moldovans in the country as well as outside of it to get out and vote on November 28. The campaign uses video materials, calendars, outdoor advertising, web banners and a pop song for radio play as promotion instruments for information and education purposes. In addition, it is planned to send short text messages to approximately 1 million mobile users containing information about the day of elections and the voting procedures. Similar information will be conveyed through voice messages to land-line telephony users.

All the materials are promoted by the media free of charge. The campaign is financially supported by the CEC, the EU/UNDP "Electoral Support to Moldova" Project, the Council of Europe, IFES and IOM.

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.

According to the Promo-LEX observers, on 30 October 2010, the mayor of Crihana Veche village, Cahul district, Rodica Cucereanu, engaged in electioneering for the electoral competitor PLDM. Similarly, on 27 October 2010, the mayor of Tareuca village, Rezina, Ghenadie Lefter, participated in an election meeting featuring PLDM candidate Valeriu Strelet.

Nicolae Concescu, the head of the Soroca Territorial Office of the State Chancellery, participates actively in all the events organized by PLDM in the district.

In the monitoring period, public spaces for campaign advertising were offered in equal amounts to all the electoral competitors.

With a few exceptions, authorities were also impartial in offering spaces to the electoral competitors to meet with their voters. However, the local authorities in Teleseu village, Orhei, solicited a fee of 500 lei per hour from the electoral competitor PDM for an election meeting in the village school as the electoral competitor PCRM was allowed to have the village kindergarten for the same purposes free of charge. The mayor's office of Riscani town offered PDM a heated space for an election meeting, refusing to do the same for AMN.

Under art.47(7) of the Election Code, the local authorities are responsible to identify and guarantee, within 3 days from the start of the electoral period, a minimum of locations for election meetings. However, the observers found that the local authorities in Cahul failed to comply with this requirement. On 2 November 2010, in response to the observers' inquiry as to the lack of a decision on a minimum of locations for election meetings, Cahul Mayor Gheorghe Zagorodnii (PCRM) said the decision was not necessary, contrary to the legal provisions.

Zinaida Chirilenco, spokesperson for the Cahul Town Hall, explained the decision of the local authorities to prevent independent candidate Gabriel Stati from installing electoral tents – on the absence of explicit provisions on the installation of tents in the election legislation.

Electoral rolls

According to the CEC's Timetable, the compilation of electoral rolls was to be completed by 2 November 2010. Currently the local authorities in most districts are reviewing and updating the rolls. The electoral lists for the voters living in the Transnistrian region have not been compiled.

In Cimislia district, the local authorities employed examiners to verify the accuracy of the electoral rolls. In Riscani, the verification of the electoral rolls' accuracy is done by the secretaries of the mayor's offices.

The local authorities in Straseni district are behind the schedule with submitting the electoral rolls to the respective DEC.

The check-up of the electoral rolls is almost completed in Floresti district, Taraclia district, and Chisinau municipality (Centru, Ciocana and Riscani districts) and has been finalized in Chisinau's Buiucani district. Information on the possibility to verify the rolls was presented by the local authorities in Stefan Voda and Telenesti.

In the districts of Briceni, Nisporeni and Riscani, the voters show little interest in, or lack of knowledge about the possibility to verify the accuracy of the electoral rolls.

E. Campaigning

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers remarked the following types of campaigning activity: door-to-door canvassing; vehicles carrying billboards and using audio advertising; distribution of campaign leaflets and newspapers; election meetings; entertainment events for the youth; advertising in mass media; outdoor advertising and billboards.

Door-to-door canvass activities were observed in Basarabasca district – the electoral competitors PDM, PMUEM and PCRM; in Briceni district – PMUEM; in Chisinau municipality – PCRM, PLDM and PSD; in Donduseni district – PCRM and PLDM; Ialoveni district – PL; Riscani district – PCRM; Soroca district – PDM; Stefan Voda district – PDM, PCRM.

Vehicles carrying billboards and using audio advertising were observed in Edinet – the electoral competitor PDM; Glodeni – PPCD; Ungheni – AMN, PDM; Riscani – PPCD and AMN; Chisinau – PLDM, AMN and PDM.

Outdoor advertising is used by most of the electoral contenders, and in greater proportions by PDM, PL, PMUEM, MAE, PCRM and PLDM.

Other types of campaigning activity include: entertainment events for the youth (Tiganca village, Comrat – PLDM), car drives (PDM, MAE and PLDM), flower planting (Chisinau – PDM) and installation of tents for the distribution of promotional products (Floresti – PMUEM).

Most public events of electoral nature were supervised by the police, including those attended by large numbers of people (over 100).

Various promotional materials (scarves, pens, calendars or car air fresheners) were distributed by the electoral competitors PDM (Balti, Cimislia, Hincesti, Leova and Stefan Voda) and PLDM (Cahul, Cantemir, Chisinau, Leova, Stefan Voda, and the Gagauz Autonomy).

Leaflets and newspapers were distributed by the electoral competitors PNL (Cimislia); PDM (Basarabasca, Cahul, Chisinau, Edinet, Leova, Stefan Voda); PL (Basarabasca and Chisinau); PMUEM (Briceni, Chisinau; Donduseni, Edinet, Taraclia); MAE (Edinet); AMN (Basarabasca, Hincesti, Ungheni, Taraclia); PUM (Calarasi); PCRM (Anenii Noi, Basarabasca, Calarasi, Cantemir, Chisinau, Cimislia, Edinet, Hincesti, Leova, Riscani, Singerei, Stefan Voda, Straseni); and PLDM (Anenii Noi, Chisinau, Criuleni, Donduseni, Ialoveni, Leova, Singerei, Soroaca, Taraclia, Telenesti, Gagauz Autonomy).

Meetings of electoral nature were held by the following electoral competitors:

PDM – Anenii Noi district (Anenii Noi town – October 29, Gura Bicului village – October 26, Varnita village – October 25); Balti municipality (October 27); Chisinau municipality; Donduseni district (November 1); Briceni district; Dubasari district (Pirita village – November 5); Cimislia (Albina village – October 31, Cimislia town – November 4); Edinet district (Fetesti village – October 29, Parcova village – November 4, Sofrincani village – October 28); Hincesti district (Sarata Galbena village – October 26 and 31, November 1); Falesti district (October 25); Floresti district (October 30 and 31); Glodeni district (October 27); Hincesti district (Hincesti town – October 31); Ialoveni district (Bardar village and Vasieni village – October 31); Leova district (Filipeni village – October 25, Iargara town – November 2, Leova town, Tochile Raducani village, Tomai village); Leova district (October 25); Orhei district (Butuceni village, Mirzesti village – October 31, Orhei town – October 26, Trebujeni village); Ocnita district (Calarasovca village – October 28); Riscani district (Riscani town – October 26 and November 4); Rezina district (Cinescuti village, Peceste village – October 28, Rezina town); Stefan Voda district (Crocmaaz village – November 1, Tudora village – October 29); Singerei district (Chiscareni village – November 2, Prepelita village – November 4, Singerei town); Soroaca district (Badiceni village – November 7, Bulboci village, Cainarii Vechi – October 28, Floriceni village); Singerei district (Singerei town – October 25); Straseni district (Straseni town – October 24, 29 and 31); Taraclia district (Albota de Jos village, Albota de Sus village – October 29; Tvardita village – October 31); Telenesti district (Chistelnita village); Ungheni district (Ungheni town – November 4).

PL – Anenii Noi district (Floreni village – October 29, Hirbovat village – October 30); Basarabasca district (Abaclia village – November 2 and 3); Cahul district (Colibasi village – October 29); Calarasi district (November 2); Chisinau municipality

(November 2 and 8); Cimislia district; Criuleni district (Criuleni town – October 27, Cimiseni village and Dubasarii Vechi village – October 30); Orhei district (Ciocilteni village, Orhei town, Peresecina village – October 31); Stefan Voda district (Marianca village – October 27, Popeasca village – October 26, Rascaietii Noi village – November 8); Ungheni district (Ungheni town – October 27);

PMUEM – Calarasi (Calarasi town – November 8; Sadova village – November 4); Edinet (Edinet town – October 31); Donduseni (Donduseni town – October 31); Orhei (town Orhei – October 30); Taraclia (Taraclia town – October 26).

MAE – Briceni (Sirauti village – October 29); Calarasi (Tibirica village – November 4); Edinet (Edinet town – October 30 and November 4); Glodeni (Balatina village, Ciuciulea village – November 4, Limbenii Noi village); Leova (Iargara village – November 2, Leova town); Rezina (Mincenii de Jos village – November 5), Singerei (Singerei town – October 27); Orhei (Orhei town – October 30); Briceni (Briceni town – October 29); Gagauzia (Comrat town – November 3).

PpNT – Cantemir (Cantemir town – October 29), Orhei (Donici village – November 1).

PRM – Leova (Cuvurlui village – November 7, Leova town – November 6).

AMN – Basarabasca (Basarabasca town – November 4); Calarasi (Sadova village – November 4, Sipoteni village – November 2); Criuleni (Dubasarii Vechi village, Magdacesti village – October 29); Drochia (Drochia town – October 26); Falesti (Falesti town – November 2); Glodeni (Glodeni town – October 27 and 29, November 4); Hincesti (Hincesti town – November 2 and 3); Ocnita (November 5 and 4); Rezina (Gordinesti village, Otac village, Rezina town – October 31); Riscani (Riscani town – October 27, November 1 and 2); Singerei (Singerei town – October 29); Taraclia (Taraclia town – November 1); Gagauzia (Comrat town – October 25).

PUM – Cahul (Cahul town – October 29); Chisinau (November 4); Telenesti (Ordasei village – November 7, Telenesti town).

PCRm – Anenii Noi (Anenii Noi town – November 4 and October 29, Gura Bicului village – October 27, Puhaceni village – October 25, Serpeni village, Varnita village – October 27); Basarabasca (Basarabasca town – October 27); Balti municipality (October 26 and 28); Cahul (Cahul town, Colibasi village – October 26; Giurgiulesti village, Slobozia Mare village – October 29); Cantemir (Ciobalaccia village – October 31, Stoianovca and Antonesti villages – October 29); Calarasi (Sipoteni village – November 8); Chisinau (October 28 and November 6, Singera village – November 2); Cimislia (Cimislia town – October 27 and 28); Criuleni (Criuleni town – October 30, Magdacesti village – October 29, Mascauti and Slobozia Dusca villages – October 26); Donduseni (November 2); Drochia (October 26); Dubasari (Oxantea village – October 27); Edinet (Edinet town – October 26, Viisoara village – November 6); Falesti (Falesti town – October 28); Floresti (Floresti town, Raduleni-Vechi village – October 28); Ialoveni (Ialoveni town – November 5 and 8); Leova (Sarata Razesti village – October 31); Ocnita (Ocnita town – November 2, Rediul-Mare village – October 28); Rezina (Gordinesti – November 4, villages of Mateuti, Mincenii de Jos, Mincenii de Sus, Pripiceni, Trifesti); Riscani (Riscani town – November 4); Soldanesti (Cobilnea and Fuzovca villages – November 3, Rogojeni village, Vadul-Rascov village); Stefan Voda (S.Voda town – October 29 and 31); Singerei (Marinesti village – November 2); Straseni (Straseni town – October 30); Soroca (Bulboci village – October 31, villages of Cerlina, Curesnita, Darcauti, Egoreni, Holosnita, Hristici, Grigorauca, Malcauti, Nimereuca, Ocolina, Schineni – October 30, villages of Slobozia Varancau, Sobari, Trifauti – October 29, Varancau village – October 27, Visoca village – October 26); Rezina (Cineseuti village – October 28, Rezina town);

Ungheni – (Semeni village – November 8); Gagauzia (Avdarma village – November 3).

PLDM – Anenii Noi (Bulboaca village – November 5; Mereni village – October 31, Anenii Noi town – November 7 and October 29, Bulboaca village – October 27, villages of Speia and Cobusca – October 25); Basarabasca (Basarabasca town – October 27, Carabetovca village, Abaclia village – October 28); Balti municipality (October 25 and 29); Briceni (November 7); Cahul (Cahul town – November 3; Taraclia de Salcie – October 28; Cislita Prut – October 29; Moscovei – October 30; Cahul town, villages of Rosu and Crihana Veche – October 30); Calarasi (Peticeni village – November 8, Calarasi town, Bravicea village – October 27; Raciula village – October 27); Cantemir (villages of Ciobalaccia and Antonesti – November 4; villages of Hanaseni and Pleseni – October 29); Cimislia (Cimislia town – October 26); Cantemir (Hanaseni village – October 31); Criuleni (Criuleni town – October 26, villages of Slobozia Dusca and Dubasarii Vechi – October 28); Chisinau (November 2 and 5, October 26); villages of Izbiste and Hirtop Mare – October 31); Donduseni (Donduseni town – November 1 and 2, October 30, Baraboi village – October 31, Cernoleuca village – October 27); Drochia (Pelinia village – November 7; Drochia town – November 3; Chetrosu, Baroncea, Dominteni – October 26; Drochia town – October 31); Dubasari (Cosnita village – October 30 and November 7); Edinet (November 2, villages of Fetesti and Viisoara – November 3, Bratuseni village – November 6); Falesti (November 6, October 26); Floresti (October 30); Glodeni (villages of Dusmani, Limbenii Noi, Ciuciulea – November 7; Glodeni town – November 4, October 27); Leova (October 31); Nisporeni (Nisporeni town – October 31; Grozesti village – October 28); Orhei (November 7); Riscani (Riscani town – November 1; Balanul Nou, Riscani – October 28; Braniste, Galaseni, Petruseni – October 29; Varatic, Zaicani and Pirjota – October 31); Rezina (Rezina town and villages of Raciula and Tareuca – October 27); Singerei (October 25 and 28); Stefan Voda (Rascaieti village – October 26; Popeasca village – October 26; S.Voda town – October 26; Ermoclia village – October 30; Festelita village – October 30; Semionovca village – October 30, villages of Crocmaz and Tudora – October 31); Straseni (November 7); Taraclia (Taraclia town – October 25); Telenesti (Telenesti town – November 7; Tirsitei village – November 7; Telenesti town and villages of Chistelnita, Scorteni and Verejeni – November 3; Tintareni village – November 1; Zgardesti village – October 31); Ungheni (Ungheni town – October 27); Gagauzia (Comrat town – October 28).

PSD – Glodeni (Danu village – November 1); Orhei (November 3); Taraclia (Taraclia town – November 2 and October 28); Gagauzia (Comrat town – October 28 and November 3);

Gabriel Stati – Chisinau (November 1).

Unfair criticism of electoral competitors

Article 47 of the Election Code stipulates that parties, candidates and their trustees are entitled to put forward for free discussion all aspects of candidates' electoral programs and the political, professional and personal qualities of the candidates, as well as to campaign in elections within reunions and meetings with the voters, while ensuring the protection of moral rights and the reputation of the other persons.

In its report on the elections held on 29 July 2009 in Moldova, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) recommended that mutual trust should be established between the main political powers in Moldova.

On 26 October 2010, during an electoral meeting with the candidate of PCRM at the Edinet Culture Hall, the public was shown the film "A Black Year for Moldova". The film is denigrating PCRM's electoral opponents who are currently in power. The same film was screened on 2 November during the meeting of the PCRM candidate with the voters in Ocnita.

In its electoral campaigning, PCRM also uses posters bearing the inscription "The Results of the Government of the Alliance for the Euro", which are discrediting the Alliance for European Integration (AEI). These materials have been distributed in the municipalities of Balti and Chisinau, in the districts of Cantemir, Falesti, Hancesti, Leova, Rezina, as well as in Gagauzia.

During their meetings with the voters, held on 28 October (Rezina) and 29 October (Stefan Voda), the candidates representing PCRM delivered denigratory speeches against their electoral counter-parts (Dumitru Diacov, Vlad Filat, Mihai Ghimpu, Marian Lupu, Victor Stepaniuc), insulting, among others, the national authorities of Romania, the EU and the USA.

Electoral vandalism

In the evening of 6 November, unknown persons defaced an election billboard in Chisinau, bearing the image of the first deputy president of PL and the general mayor of Chisinau, Dorin Chirtoaca. During the monitoring period, the stands bearing election posters of PDM and PLDM were destroyed in Anenii Noi.

Also, on the night of 5 to 6 November 2010, unknown persons vandalized the headquarters of the Balti local party organization of PLDM by damaging the national flag of Moldova and the PLDM flag, as well as destroying the campaigning materials displayed in front of the building and defacing the walls of the headquarters with inscriptions. PLDM submitted a complaint with the law enforcement bodies and a criminal case was initiated on this situation.

On 2 November, the flag of PL, displayed on the party's headquarters in Soroca, has been damaged. PL referred the case to the police, who are currently investigating it.

On the night to 31 October 2010, unidentified persons burnt down the flag from the PNL headquarters, situated near the entrance to the district office of statistics in Criuleni. The police are investigating the case.

Renting meeting halls

In the monitoring period, electoral competitors have widely resorted to local authorities to rent rooms for their meetings with voters. In most of the cases, the space was offered without any discrimination. Thus, local administrations leased their rooms to the following election participants:

PLDM – Criuleni district (26 October, Criuleni – 150 lei); Nisporeni district (31 October, Nisporeni – 600 lei per hour); Stefan Voda district (24 October, Stefan Voda - 1000 lei);

PCRM – Cimislia district (28 October, Cimislia – 30 lei per hour); Stefan Voda (29 October, Stefan Voda – 1000 lei);

Up until now, all the meetings organized in the Varnita Village of the Anenii Noi district at the culture and youth center required payment for the room rent, according to the Order no. 179 of 15 October 2010, issued by the local authority. The fees in the Clalarasi district vary depending on the community: Meleuseni – 300 lei, Temeleuti - 200 lei, Tibirica – 500 lei. The majority of mayors from the Donduseni district decided to provide the space for election-related meetings for free. The culture hall in Ialoveni is offered for a rent of 600 lei per hour, regardless of the requesting party. According to the observers, the Comrat State University requested payment for renting its hall to PSD.

On 29 October, the mayor of Stefan Voda, Gheorghe Anghel, announced that the rent of the room by election participants costs 500 lei per hour. Thus, on 1 November 2010, the chief accountant of the Stefan Voda Mayor's Office, stated that PCRM paid 1,000 lei for renting the room of the local culture hall for two hours.

Outdoor advertising

Outdoor advertising was the most widespread form of electoral campaigning used by electoral participants during the monitoring period. Street advertising, left from the period of the constitutional referendum of 5 September, was still noticed by Promo-LEX observers (Cimislia district).

The following electoral participants displayed their advertising in unauthorized sites:

PNL –Cimislia.

PDM – Anenii Noi district; Basarabasca district (Bascalìa); Cimislia district (Valea Perjei); Criuleni; Chisinau Municipality (Ciocana district, Bubuieci; Rascani District, Gratiesti); Cantemir district; Dubasari district; Drochia district; Floresti district; Ialoveni district; Rascani district; Sangerei district (Mihailovca), district Straseni; Taraclia district (Taraclia - 8 November); Telenesti (Telenesti, Scorteni, Verejeni, Chistelnita); Gagauzia (Besalma); Ungheni district.

PL – Basarabasca district (Sadaclia); Cahul district (Crihana); Floresti district; Rascani district; Straseni district; Taraclia district.

PMUEM – Chisinau Municipality (Botanica and Buiucani districts).

MAE – Anenii Noi district (Varnita); Cahul; Chisinau Municipality (Buiucani district); Dubasari district; Floresti district (Varvareuca); Straseni district; Soldanesti district; Ungheni.

“Patriotii Moldovei” (“Moldova’s Patriots”) – Leova district.

PRM –Briceni district; Chisinau Municipality (Buiucani district).

AMN – Anenii Noi district (Varnita); Briceni district (Hlina); Cahul; Chisinau Municipality (Buiucani district); Cimislia district (Valea Perjei); Floresti district; Taraclia district; Rascani district; Stefan Voda district; Soldanesti district; Telenesti district (Telenesti, Pistruieni, Chistelnita); Ungheni district; Taraclia district.

PUM - Anenii Noi district (Varnita); Dubasari district; Rascani district; Sangerei district; Gagauzia (Besalma, Comrat).

PCRM –Anenii Noi district (Varnita); Basarabasca district (Carabetovca, Bascalìa); Briceni district; Cahul; Criuleni district – (Cruglic - 8 November); Cimislia district (Valea Perjei); Chisinau Municipality (Buiucani district); Edinet district (Viisoara); Stefan Voda district (Brezoaia); Sangerei district; Taraclia district; Gagauzia (Besalma).

PLDM –Anenii Noi district; Cahul district (Cahul, Taraclia de Salcie, Colibasi, Vadul lui Isac, Rosu, Zarnesti, Cucoara, Chircani); Cimislia district (Valea Perjei); Chisinau

Municipality (Buiucani district); Dubasari district; Edinet district (Viisoara); Falesti district (6 November); Gagauzia (Comrat); Nisporeni; Soldanesti district; Telenesti district (Verejeni, Scorteni, Ghiliceni); Ungheni district (Parlita).

PSD - Taraclia district.

Observers noted that some election participants destroyed or damaged the advertising posters of their opponents and replaced them with their own materials: Anenii Noi district (PLDM posters torn down in Varnita), Bender district (PCRM posters torn down), Calarasi district (PDM and PLDM posters torn down), Edinet District (AMN posters torn down), Sangerei district (MAE and PCRM posters torn down), Stefan-Voda district (PDM, PL, AMN, MAE, PCRM and PLDM posters torn down), Gagauzia (PLDM posters torn down in Besalma).

At the same time, electoral advertising started to appear in the urban transport (minibuses in Balti – PCRM; minibuses in Chisinau, lines no. 105, 190, 192 – PLDM; minibuses in the Edinet district - PDM), on private cars (PSD), busses (Balti – PCRM, Criuleni-Chisinau lines - PCRM) and cars belonging to taxi agencies (Chisinau, “Taxi 1406” - MAE; Edinet - PDM).

In the previous monitoring period, observers noted the insufficiency of electoral advertising boards in some communities (Donduseni, Straseni and Telenesti districts). The situation did not improve since. This leads to an increasing number of cases when election participants place their advertising in unauthorized places.

Observers report that on 28 October 2010 the local council of Taraclia de Salcie in Cahul, requested the electoral participants to place their advertising posters on the two advertising stands near the mayor’s office and the village culture hall.

In the same period, the administration of Straseni adopted a decision on allocating funds for producing and installing additional advertising boards. The Edinet Mayor’s Office, installed six new electoral advertising boards in the public places of the town.

In Balti, on the other hand, the only 30 sq m advertising pane was taken away.

Church involvement

In the monitoring period, Promo-LEX observers noted several cases of indirect involvement of clergy in the electoral campaign by the electoral competitors.

On 27 October 2010, the PLDM candidate, Vlad Filat participated in patron saint celebrations at Hincu Monastery in Nisporeni district, an event that brought together over 100 persons. During the ceremony, Filat and the present priests delivered speeches.

On 28 October 2010, Vladimir Voronin met with Fr. Igor, Dean of Rezina district and former district councilman representing PCRM, as well as other churchmen from the area in Cineseuti, Rezina. The event took place behind the closed doors.

On 30 October 2010, Vlad Filat took part in the inauguration of the "Sfintii Arhangheli Mihail si Gavriil" ("Saint Archangels Michael and Gabriel") Church in Chetrosu village, Drochia district. After the inauguration procedure, Metropolitan Vladimir thanked all the participants in the event as well as those who had contributed to the renovation of the church.

Also on 30 October 2010, the PL candidate, Mihai Ghimpu, responding to the invitation of the Dean of Criuleni and Dubasari, Teodor Pelin, parson of the “Arhanghelul Mihail” (“Archangel Michael”) Church, paid a visit to a church in Criuleni district.

According to observers, on 5 November 2010, PD candidates also met with a group of clerics.

Involvement of minors

After the examination of the complaint submitted by the commissar of the Hancesti District Police Commissariat, Victor Moraru, on the violation of the provisions of the Election Code by the representatives of PCRM, the Hancesti District Electoral Council (DEC) adopted the decision no. 3 of 29 October 2010 requiring that the Head of the General Division of Education, Youth and Sports Valentina Tonu should counter, in the future, any attempts to involve minors in electoral campaigning, especially during the time reserved for the educational process. Valentina Tonu is now to warn the school directors about the prohibition of minors' involvement in electoral campaigning. At the same time, the Hincesti DEC warned the Hancesti local party organization of PCRM about the infringement of the Article 47 pt. 6 of the Election Code, as result of the involvement of the local public institution in the electoral campaign. The complaint submitted by the Hancesti District Police Commissariat will be referred to the competent authorities to be examined in compliance with the law.

Intimidation and pressure on voters

Observers reported a series of cases of hidden intimidation and pressure against the voters.

Thus, several cases of forced electoral campaigning have been discovered in the monitoring period.

One of the cases took place in the district of Rezina. Officials of the Rezina District Council were abusively called to a meeting with the PCRM candidate on 6 November 2010, by the president of the Council, currently suspended from his office due to involvement in the campaign.

The meeting with the AMN candidate held in Comrat on 25 October 2010, was facilitated by the administration of the Comrat State University that ensured the participation in the event of a number of students who otherwise were to attend classes at those hours.

On 26 October 2010, a PDM candidate campaigned for his party immediately after the head of the Rascani Education Department, V. Dandara, had closed a work meeting with school directors from Rascani district, summoned in the conference room of the District Council.

Candidates of AMN, including their leader Serafim Urecheanu were invited to attend a parent-teacher conference held on 28 October 2010 at the "Onisifor Ghibu" Lyceum of the Buiucani District of Chisinau, without the prior consent of the participating parents. On 29 October, the director of the lyceum, Maria Garstea, declared that other candidates in the elections (PDM, PLDM) were also announced about the conference. She added that the parents are not compelled to participate in this kind of electoral events. Maria Garstea mentioned that she provides the representatives of the parties with the possibility to meet the parents or the teachers. With this regards, they were also informed about the organization of the Lyceum Teachers Council on 1 November.

About 850 persons participated in a meeting with Vladimir Voronin (PCRM), on 28 October 2010 in the Rezina Culture Hall. The meeting brought together all the employees of the district council, local officials affiliated to PCRM, as well as other employees of the district public institutions. One of the participants told the Promo-LEX observer that he and other participants were pressured by the district leadership to participate in the meeting with Voronin, but also to campaign for PCRM. The participant also claimed that he was warned he could lose his job if the actual government stays in power.

On 29 October 2010, AMN candidate Leonid Bujor interrupted the classes in the Magdacesti theoretic lyceum, in Criuleni, for election campaigning purposes.

On the same day, the representatives of local public administration from Stefan Voda, the employees of the local kindergarten no. 3 and the "D. Cantemir" Theoretic Lyceum were

requested by the interim mayor of the town, Sergiu Maloman, to attend the meeting with the PCR candidate Vladimir Voronin.

Also on 29 October 2010, at 10:00, a student of the “Stefan-Voda” Theoretic Lyceum, Gicu Haret, was obstructed from entering the hall where the voters’ meeting with the PCR candidate, Vladimir Voronin, was taking place, without an explanation.

On 2 November 2010, Ocnita Mayor’s Office has abusively requested pensioners to come to the culture hall to meet the PCR candidate Vladimir Voronin. If they’d refuse to come or wouldn’t vote for PCR, the authorities told them, they could be left without pensions because of the actual government.

On 5 November 2010, the Director General of “Posta Moldovei” (“Moldova Post Service”) and the Head of the Orhei post office told the institution’s employees to participate in the meeting with AMN representatives – A. Oleinikov and V. Ceban.

On 6 November 2010, a tear gas incident was produced during a disco party organized by PLDM representatives at the “M4M” Club in Leova. The identity of the wrongdoers has not been established yet.

Forced transportation of voters

During the monitoring period, isolated cases of forced transportation of voters to electoral meetings were registered. Thus, on 27 October 2010, because of the low attendance of a meeting with the PCR representative Igor Dodon in Badiceni, Soroca, the director of the psycho-neurological boarding house, organized the transportation to the meeting of 30 persons from the boarding house, including inmates.

Voters’ protests

Voters in Gura Bicului, Anenii Noi, threatened with obstructing the elections in the community if, by 14 November 2010, the ministry of Environment wouldn’t not withdraw the auction on the 850 ha gravel deposits, situated under the farmland plots of the village’s inhabitants.

Election participants’ protests

On 2 November 2010, the supporters of PSD protested in the Great National Assembly Square against the interim president Mihai Ghimpu and the General Mayor of Chisinau Dorin Chirtoaca, because the two did not comply with the decision of the Constitutional Court providing for the replacement of the commemorative stone installed in the Great National Assembly Square, after the president sign a decree declaring 28 June as the “soviet occupation day”.

Intimidation of election participants

Promo-LEX observers reported a case of intimidation of a 15-year-old PCR representative, who was placing electoral posters in Comrat, Gagauzia, by the PLDM representative in the region, P. Vlah. The police are investigating the case.

On 4 November 2010, PRM representatives could not hold a meeting with the teacher staff of the school in Sarata Noua, Leova, because of the interdiction imposed by the school’s academic manager, PCR member, Elena Parpalov.

In the same period, in Biruinta village, Sangerei, a mobile group of PLDM campaigners have been stopped by unknown persons carrying sporting rifles, who were driving in a NIVA, with the registration number C OM 913. The armed men took all of the PLDM campaigning materials by force. A complaint has been submitted on this case to the Sangerei Police Commissariat. Later, it was discovered that the owner of the car is Mihai Rusu, former head of Floresti District and also a member of PCR.

On 6 November, in Bulbocii-Noi, Soroaca, the PLDM candidate Mihail Zabrian has been intimidated by a supposed sympathiser of PCRM. The latter attacked the PLDM representative and damaged the tires of his car. He was later identified and arrested by the Soroaca policemen, who are now examining the circumstances of the case.

On 31 October 2010, a representative of the Bender municipal police insulted PLDM members Zanoci A. and Muntean V. when they were placing electoral posters on 77 Tighina St, Varnita village, Anenii Noi. A disciplinary inquest is carried out on this case.

On 30 October, in Soroaca Noua, Soroaca district, an incident occurred between the representatives of PCRM and PLDM, while both parties were simultaneously carrying out electoral activities. PCRM was organizing a meeting with the voters and PLDM representatives were involved in “man to man” campaigning. The representatives of the two parties exchanged intimidating remarks and insults. The conflict was calmed down after the intervention of the district policemen.

On 31 October, in Ciobalaccia, Cantemir, an unidentified person brutalized the representative of PLDM, Ana Sclerova. The aggressor was driving a white Volkswagen, with the registration number CT 660.

On 5 November, a PDM activist was retained by police at the lyceum in Magdacesti, Criuleni, for displaying PDM ads in unauthorized places.

According to article 46 (5) of the Election Code, during the electoral period, candidates cannot have a criminal cases filed against them, cannot be arrested, detained or be subjected to any administrative sanctions without the consent of the electoral body which registered them. On 25 October, Alexandru Repida, representative of PPCD, was arrested by two policemen in the centre of Chisinau while talking with voters. The stated reason for the arrest was the fact that the electoral materials distributed by Repida did not contain information on the printing company and the number of copies. Alexandru Repida was transported to the Centru District Police Station where he received a fine.

Electoral provokers

During the monitoring period, Promo-LEX observers noted three attempts directed at undermining the electoral meetings of voters with participating parties – AMN (Gordinesti, Rezina, 31 October 2010); PL (Chisinau, 2 November 2010); PCRM (Ialoveni, 5 November 2010).

Pressure on national observers

In the monitoring period, the national observer, representing Promo-LEX, Zinovia Calos was subjected to pressure from her employer, head of the home-based social work section of the Anenii Noi Social Assistance and Family Protection Section, Iulia Rebi. The latter forbade Zinovia and other employees to participate in any capacity in the election campaign. As the result of the pressure exerted on her, Zinovia Calos withdrew from the Promo-LEX monitoring effort.

“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 31, at a charity concert held in the village of Vasieni, Ialoveni district, Pavel Codreanu, the Democrat mayor of Rusestii Noi village, offered a sum of money to a disabled woman participating in the concert.

On October 28 , at a meeting with the teachers of the “Miron Costin” Lyceum in Floresti town, the representatives of AMN announced that Alexandru Oleinic, an AMN candidate, was donating a computer to the lyceum.

On October 27, at patron saint celebrations in Leova town, the district football team FC Prut received a gift from PDM in the form of 5 balls worth 3,250 lei.

Also on October 27, PCRМ had a meeting with the youth in Cimisia town, held on the occasion of the so-called Komsomol Day. At the event, PCRМ candidate Mark Tkachuk offered medals and money prizes to 4 young people: Dmitri Greiter, Evgheni Slanina, Dmitri Ciorny, and Roman Mazur, in recognition of the enthusiasm shown in the campaign preceding the September 5 referendum.

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX found that Ion Cojocaru, the Communist mayor of Cosernita village in Floresti district, has been offering sacks of coal to the village's elderly, urging them to vote for PCRМ.

On November 1, Ms Graur, a representative of PDM and also an employee of the Ministry of Education, made a donation of toys to the children at the kindergarten in Miniceni de Sus village, Rezina, encouraging them to tell their parents to vote for PDM. Also, she promised she would further provide the kindergarten with equipment, books and other goods if PDM were to win the elections.

Electoral concerts

Inviting popular singers and bands to perform at election meetings is a common practice used by the electoral competitors in order to enhance the attractiveness of their events. The performers usually encourage the audience at such concerts to vote for the respective parties.

The following electoral contenders organized concerts to promote their campaigns:

PDM – Hincesti town and Sarata Galbena village (October 31, featuring Anna Lesko, Arsenium, Andrei Porubin, Zinaida Julea, Mihai Ciobanu, Ion Suruceanu, Adrian Ursu, Gheorghe Topa, Mihai Ciobanu); Floresti town (October 30, featuring Gheorghe Topa, Mihai Ciobanu, Vitalie Dani, Ion Suruceanu, Zinaida Julia, Nelly Ciobanu); Rezina town (October 28, featuring Vitalie Dani, Nelly Ciobanu, Zinaida Julea, Ion Suruceanu, Andrei Porubin); Soldanesti (October 29); Stefan Voda (November 1, featuring Nelly Ciobanu, Vitalie Dani, Ion Suruceanu, Adrian Ursu, Gheorghe Topa); Taraclia town (October 31, featuring Ion Suruceanu, Nelly Ciobanu, Vitalie Dani); Ungheni town (November 4, featuring Mihai Ciobanu, Gheorghe Topa, Zinaida Julea, Ion Suruceanu, Anna Lesco, Zdob-Zdub, Arsenium).

PL – Rusestii Noi, Ialoveni (October 30, DJ SERJ).

PMUEM – Orhei town (October 30, Natalia Matcovschi and Anatol Mirzenco); Taraclia town (October 31, Anatol Mirzenco).

PLDM – Varnita, Anenii Noi (October 29, featuring Ana Barbu); Cahul town (October 30), Taraclia de Salcie village, Cahul (October 28, featuring Anisoara Puica); Cantemir town (November 4, “Catharsis”), Hanasani village, Cantemir (October 29, Anatol Dumitras); villages of Ratus and Raculesti, Criuleni (October 27 , Natalia Barbu), Badiceni village (October 26, featuring Anisoara Puica, Valeriu Cazacu and Gheorghe Mitrean); Drochia (October 30, “Lautarii”; and November 3, Natalia Barbu); Falesti (November 6, Lautarii); Floresti (October 30, “Catharsis”); Leova town (October 31, Ana Puica and Natalia Barbu); Orhei (November 7, Irina Loghin and Fuego); Riscani district, villages of Braniste, Galaseni, Petruseni (October 29, “AKORD”); Balanul Nou, Riscani (October 28, “AKORD”); Soroca, villages of Hristici and Darcauti (November 2, “AKORD”); Straseni (November 6, Fuego, Irina

Loghin, Gheorghe Urschi; November 7, Natalia Barbu); Telenesti (October 30, Natalia Barbu; November 1, Irina Loghin, Fuego, Gheorghe Urschi, Anatol Dumitras; and November 7, Gheorghe Urschi, Irina Loghin, Fuego, Catharsis), villages of Varatic, Zaicani and Pirjota (October 31, AKORD); Nicoreni village (October 29, Anatol Dumtras).

In addition, on October 26, PLDM organized a procession themed “In Europa without Visa”, which marched across Chisinau before culminating with fireworks in the Great National Assembly Square.

Involvement of public officials in campaigning

The Promo-LEX monitors have observed a number of situations in which persons in public posts supported or favored certain electoral competitors.

Under art.13(3) of the Election Code, the ministers and their deputies, and the mayors and the deputy mayors are required to suspend their public office duties from the moment they are registered as candidates. According to art.10(3) of the Law on the status of public dignitaries, a dignitary shall refrain from involvement in any political or electoral activity. Furthermore, according to art.15(3-4) of the Law on the public office and public functionaries, a functionary shall abstain from expressing his or her political preferences and from favoring any political organization.

On October 28, Comrat Mayor Nikolai Duduoglo and the Chairman of the Comrat Municipal Council Viktor Volkov campaigned in favor of PSD.

On October 28 and 29, the mayor of Radulenii Vechi village was observed participating together with PCRM candidate Zinaida Greceanyi in an election meeting. Cimislia Mayor Gheorghe Raileanu is engaged in campaigning by participating in election meetings organized by PLDM.

On October 27, at an election meeting featuring PLDM candidate Iurie Leanca, Basarabeasca Mayor V.N. Filipov encouraged the participants to vote for PLDM. In the monitoring period, a number of other public functionaries were observed throwing their support behind PLDM, including Tudor Cazac, the mayor of Carabetovca village, Basarabeasca district; Petru Platon, the mayor of Iordanovca village, Basarabeasca; Vasile Baci, mayor of Sadaclia, Basarabeasca; Boris Burca, the head of Telenesti district; and Olga Gherman, the mayor of Verejeni village, Telenesti.

At the same time, Tatiana Ghilan, the mayor of Tudora village, Stefan Voda, expressed her support in favor of PDM.

On November 5, during her working hours, Natalia Chiriac, the head of the Riscani Social Insurance Organization, made phone calls to people at home in an attempt to persuade them to vote for PLDM.

On October 27, while participating in a conference in Cimislia dedicated to environmental issues, Ecology Minister Gheorghe Salaru broached the subject of elections and encouraged the young participants to join PL.

Use of administrative resources

In the monitoring period, there was a clear tendency for the candidates who suspended their public office duties to use administrative resources for electoral purposes.

According to art.47(6) of the Election Code, candidates may not use public means and goods (administrative resources) during their election campaigns, and public authorities/institutions and their affiliates may not transmit/grant public goods or other benefits to the electoral competitors unless on a contract basis, ensuring equal terms to all electoral competitors.

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers revealed a number of cases where candidates made use of administrative resources, including their positions, in favor of the respective electoral competitors.

On October 30, the Promo-LEX monitors observed that a meeting of the the MAE campaign staff took place in the Cahul District Council building. The meeting was organized with the participation of MAE candidate Gheorghe Vasilache, who formally suspended public office duties. He also continues to use his official car.

PCRM candidate Gheorghe Anghel participates in election meetings held in Stefan Voda district using the official car of the Stefan Voda Town Hall.

AMN candidate Tudor Serbov, who is also the mayor of Varnita village, Anenii Noi, while being suspended, continues to use his office every day, signing financial documents and using his official car Toyota Corola.

The governmental initiative to grant monthly social compensations for heating aims to help the underprivileged households cope with their heating bills during the cold season. However, this initiative has been used in a number of cases to enhance the image of Prime Minister Vlad Filat and his Liberal Democratic Party: these payments were distributed together with PLDM promotional materials and the Prime Minister's address in a number of places, including the village of Hirbovat and Serpeni (Anenii Noi), the town of Stefan Voda, Pirlita village (Ungheni), and Nisporeni town.

Indirect electoral advertising

To promote themselves, the electoral competitors have started using increasingly varied campaigning techniques, including indirect forms of advertising.

Two leading Moldovan magazines, “VIP magazin” and “Aquarelle”, almost simultaneously published feature articles, along with cover photos, spotlighting PDM candidate Marian Lupu. While in both magazines the articles featuring Marian Lupu do not make explicit references to the upcoming elections, the fact that it was the PDM candidate who appeared on the cover of these popular magazines in this period arouses some questions. Furthermore, the covers of these magazines are on numerous billboards across Chisinau, which can be interpreted as indirect campaigning in favor of PDM.

To ensure equal conditions for all the electoral competitors, it is necessary for the editorial boards of the entertainment magazines to acknowledge the importance of treating the electoral competitors equidistantly.

F. Financial reporting by electoral competitors

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

Within the present monitoring effort, Promo-LEX aims to compare the extent of the electoral competitors' campaigning efforts with the financial reports submitted to the CEC and assess the accuracy of information on the incurred expenses.

Weekly statements

Under art.38(1.a) of the Election Code, the registered electoral competitors are required to publish in a nationwide publication weekly reports accounting for the financial or other forms of support they receive. None of the electoral competitors have complied with this requirement thus far.

The electoral competitors registered on October 11 were supposed to publish 4 such reports, the competitors registered on October 15 – 3 reports, the competitors registered during October 19-26 – 2 reports, and the competitors registered in the period from October 29 to November 2 – 1 report.

The analysis of the following 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 competitors published the required information in due time.

Biweekly financial reporting

In the period of the monitoring effort from October 25 to November 8, the following electoral competitors and independent candidates submitted financial statements to the CEC: PLDM, PC and Valeriu Plesca on November 2 ; and Gabriel Stati on November 5.

Under Art.38(6) of the Election Code, natural and legal entities may not order electoral advertising materials for or in favor of electoral competitors and cover the costs related to their production without the consent of the respective electoral competitors and with money outside of their campaign funds.

Following a financial analysis of the reports submitted by the electoral competitors until November 8, a number of findings were made as to the objectiveness of the information on the expenses incurred by the electoral competitors, in particular spending on transportation, electoral concerts and promotional products.

Transportation

The electoral contenders hold election meetings in various parts of the country, which implies certain expenses related to transportation. Of all the electoral competitors registered in the period after October 11, only PCRM accounted for transportation expenses in its financial report submitted to the CEC.

In the monitoring period, the Promo-LEX observers reported about visits made to various parts of the country by PLDM representatives in the accounting period of the financial report submitted to the CEC.

Overall, PLDM representatives made 31 visits of electoral nature to the following locations: Balti (October 19, 20, 21 and 22), Calarasi (October 20, 21 and 24), Cimislia (October 17), Chisinau, Criuleni (October 18, 22 and 24), Drochia (October 18), Gagauzia (October 14), Hincesti (October 17), Nisporeni (October 24), Rezina (October 19), Soroca (October 19), Soldanesti (October 23), Stefan Voda (October 24), Anenii Noi (October 25), Taraclia (October 25), Criuleni (October 26), Stefan Voda (October 26), Cimislia (October 26), Soroca (October 26), Calarasi (October 27), Anenii Noi (October 27), Rezina (October 27), Basarabasca (October 27 and 28), Cahul (October 28).

Also, on October 26 PLDM organized a procession that involved 50 vehicles, which crossed all the districts of Chisinau carrying the flags and logos of the PLDM.

In its financial report covering the period October 15-28, PLDM failed to present information on expenses related to transportation, including rent and fuel costs.

Electoral concerts

In the period from October 25 to November 8, a number of electoral competitors organized concerts featuring popular singers and bands, as previously mentioned.

PLDM held the following concerts:

- On October 24 in Stefan Voda town, featuring Catharsis band. The event was attended by around 300 persons.

- On October 26 in Badiceni village, Soroca, featuring Anisoara Puica, Valeriu Cazacu and Gheorghe Mitrean. The concert lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- On October 27 in Raculesti village, Criuleni, featuring Ana Barbu.
- On October 28 in Nicoreni village, Drochia, where candidate V. Ionita was accompanied at an election meeting by singer Anatol Dumitras, who gave a concert afterwards.
- On October 28 in Balanul Nou village, Riscani, featuring Akord band. The concert followed an election meeting held by candidate Liliana Palihovici.
- On October 28 in Taraclia de Salcie village, Cahul, featuring Anisoara Puica. The concert was preceded by an election meeting of the candidates Ion Butmalai and Lilia Bolocan.

Overall, PLDM organized in the period from October 25 to November 8, 19 electoral concerts. The 6 concerts listed above fall in the accounting period of the first financial report submitted by PLDM to the CEC, October 15-28. However, PLDM did not present information related to the costs of the above-mentioned concerts, including the fees of the performers.

Meeting halls renting

The local authorities are the bodies to decide how spaces are offered to the electoral contenders for election meetings, for a fee or free of charge.

Order no.179 adopted on October 15 by the mayor's office of Varnita village, Anenii Noi, establishes the charge to be paid for the rent of the local assembly hall at 200 lei per hour. The following electoral competitors requested the hall for rent:

- **PLDM** - Brinza A., representing the party's primary organization in Varnita village, paid 200 lei in cash on October 21, as certified by receipt no.001751;
- **PUM** – candidate Antohi A., paid 200 lei in cash on October 27, as certified by receipt no.001754;
- **PDM** - Urita A, head of the party's primary organization in Varnita village, paid 200 lei in cash on October 21, as certified by receipt no.001753.
- **PCRM** - candidate Miron Gagauz, paid 400 lei on October 26, receipt no.001757;
- **PLDM** - Cauza A, representing the party's Bender organization, paid 400 lei on October 27, receipt no.001768.

The electoral competitors PLDM and PDM failed to reveal these expenses in the relevant financial reports.

In Stefan Voda town the spaces available for rent for election meetings are located in the Culture Hall, offered at a price of 500 lei per hour, and in the Arts School “Maria Biesu”, offered at a price of 250 lei per hour.

Election meetings in the Stefan Voda Culture Hall were held by PLDM, on October 24, and PCRM, on October 29; each paid 1,000 lei to the Stefan Voda administration.

Also, PLDM on October 26 rented out the assembly hall of the Arts School in Criuleni to hold an election meeting, at a price of 150 lei. PLDM failed to reveal these amounts in the relevant financial report. The total amount spent on renting out meeting halls and not shown in the financial report submitted by the electoral competitor constitutes 1,750 lei.

Outdoor advertising

The Promo-LEX monitors reported that the electoral competitors PDM, PL and PLDM remunerate the persons engaged in outdoor promotional activities, such as distributing campaign fliers and putting up posters. For one day of employment in such activities in

Cimislia town, PDM offers 100 lei, PL – 100 lei and PLDM – 130 lei. In Leova town, PLDM pays 50 lei per day for these services.

In the first reports submitted by 15 electoral competitors, none of them showed expenses for personnel remuneration.

Campaign promotion materials

The electoral competitors use for campaigning purposes a large variety of promotional materials in the form of posters, fliers, brochures, calendars, leaflets, platforms, etc.

On the posters put up by PLDM in Taraclia de Salcie village, Cantemir, on October 28, it was written that they were printed by Bastina RADOG in 6,000 copies. The posters did not show the publication date and the costs of printing them were not shown in the financial report covering the period October 15-28 submitted by the electoral competitor to the CEC.

In the period October 25-31, PLDM representatives distributed among the voters scarves, pens, car air fresheners bearing the PLDM's logo in the town of Stefan Voda and rubber wristbands in Sorooca town. The costs of these promotional materials were not revealed in the relevant financial statement.

It was observed that AMN distributed leaflets in Ungheni town and pasted posters in Cahul town with the following captions:

1. - On the leaflets: Dira AP printing house; 10,00 copies; printout date 07.10.10.
2. - On the posters: Dira AP printing house; 3,000 copies; printout date 30.09.10.

The promotional materials printed prior to the start of the election campaign were also found to be used by PCRM, with the caption: Metrompas SRL; publication date 23.06.09; 40,000 copies.

While the electoral competitors AMN and PCRM showed in their reports payments made to the printing houses Dira AP and Metrompas, respectively, these do not pertain to the above-mentioned promotional materials. Instead, they should have been entered as “other forms of support”, which according to art.38(1.a) must be declared by the electoral contender.

As reported earlier by Promo-LEX, the CEC issued a cease-and-desist order to PpNT forbidding it to distribute printed materials which ran afoul of the provisions of art.64i(6) of the Election Code and whose costs were covered by money outside of PpNT's campaign fund, in contradiction to Art.38 (2) and art.64i(6) of the Election Code.

Promotional printed materials with incomplete information

Under art.64i(6), every printed advertising material shall read the name of the electoral competitor, the publication date, the number of copies and the name of the publishing company that printed it. Promotional materials containing flaws of this nature were detected at 12 out of 40 registered electoral competitors.

The electoral competitors PLDM, PNL, PCRM, AMN, PMUEM, MAE, PpNT and Gabriel Stati pasted posters in Chisinau's Buiucani district which do not comply with the above-mentioned requirements. The electoral competitors PDM and PPCD distribute leaflets that also fail to observe the provisions of art.64i(6).

Some of the promotional materials of the electoral competitors PLDM, PUM, PL, PDM, AMN and MAE do not contain the publication date. Some campaign posters of the electoral competitors PPPM and PPR do not show the publication date, the number of copies and the publishing firm that printed them.

PPPM failed to submit on time its financial statement for the period October 11-25. At its meeting on November 5, the CEC warned the Political Party “Moldova's Patriots” over the nonobservance of the provisions of art.64i(6), obliging it to pay the costs related to the production of the promotional materials in question.

Under p.8 of CEC Decision no.3336 adopted on 16 July 2010, the financial reports shall be submitted according to the preset form appended to the Regulation on the financing of election campaigns and of political parties. The financial statement presented by PCRPM doesn't correspond to the form appended to the Regulation, failing to show the occupation of the individual donors. At the same time, p.4(4) of the Regulation doesn't contain any explicit requirement concerning the occupation of individual donors; the personal information that must be registered when individuals donate money include the name, the number of the ID card, the year of birth, the domicile address, the donated amount and the signature. The date and month of birth is required only in the case of the persons who reached 18 years of age in the election year.

G. Local mass media

Currently, the local media is covering the electoral campaign, the activity of the local election authorities and the local public administration. However, it does not implement election education campaigns. Biases of local medias towards certain election candidates were registered in Taraclia and Orhei.

The Transnistrian press also started publishing articles on the electoral campaign on the right bank of Nistru. As a rule these pieces of journalism are tendentious and denigratory.

Some deficiencies related to the coverage of the electoral campaign were observed in the case of the GRT Gagauzia TV channel.

H. National and international observers

In the monitoring period, CEC registered as national observers the representatives of the following organizations: National Centre for Studies and Information on Women's Rights "Partnership for Development" (8 persons, CEC Decision no. 3730 of 29.10.2010); NGO Social Development Centre (11 persons, CEC Decision no. 3729 of 29.10.2010); CREDO (37 persons, CEC Decision no. 3782 of 05.11.2010); East Europe Foundation in Moldova (12 persons, CEC Decision no. 3783 of 05.11.2010); Patriotii Moldovei (Moldova's Patriots) Political Party (2 persons, CEC Decision no. 3784 of 05.11.2010).

Also, in the period between 26 October and 5 November, the CEC registered international observers representing: the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) – 31 persons; the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation – 2 persons; Embassy of Georgia in Romania and Moldova - 2 persons; the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia – 3 persons; Permanent Election Authorities of Romania – 3 persons; Embassy of Ukraine in Moldova – 5 persons; the Central Electoral Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina – 2 persons.

Civil society

In the monitoring period, the Alliance of Community Centers for Information and Education Access, composed of 102 centers all over the country (details available at www.infonet.md), announced that it is preparing a group of trainers who will promote models for strengthening participatory democracy through the involvement of youth in the socio political life. The initiative is financially supported by the Soros Moldova Foundation.

Within this action, seven or eight days before the elections, young people will simulate the voting process. They will thus participate in the decision-making process by organizing the poll called "The Vote of Youth" simultaneously in 33 districts (including Gagauzia). Only young people aged 16 to 35 will be able to participate in these elections.

In the same time the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) implements awareness-raising projects among youth in order to motivate them to participate in the parliamentary elections. Thus, on 7 November CNTM held an activity on electoral information and education in Ialoveni. A group of 5 volunteers dressed in grey jackets and carrying grey bags, disseminated the “Obiectiv” Newspaper and flyers describing, in simple terms, the voting procedure. The volunteer team was travelling in a minibus bearing the inscription “Campania Alege Liber” (“Vote Freely Campaign”).

I. Transnistria region

In the monitoring period, the CEC, through its Decision no. 3556 of 29 October 2010, has established the DEC no. 3 Bender. However, the CEC did not adopt further decisions on the way Moldovan citizens from the Transnistria region can participate in the elections.

Separate polling stations for voters from the left bank of Nistru have been created in Anenii Noi (PS nos. 40 and 41, in Varnita), Floresti (PS no. 74, in Sanatauca) and Rezina (PS no. 42, in Rezina). A mixed polling station has been established in Stefan Voda (PS no. 23, in Rascaieti).

At the same time, the Causeni DEC has created polling stations in Copanca, Hagimus and Farladeni without mentioning that voters from the left bank of Nistru will be able to vote in these PS. A similar situation was noted in the case of DEC no. 15 in Dubasari, that established polling stations in Dorotcaia, Ustia and Cocieri.

No discussions were launched in the monitoring period on how to improve electoral participation conditions for all citizens from the eastern districts of Moldova. However, the creation of a polling station for the inhabitants of Corjova, Dubasari, aroused some debates.

Still, 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 legitimate authorities do not seem to concern themselves with developing and implementing efficient measures to guarantee the right to vote to the voters living there. The letter sent to the CEC on October 18 by the administration of the “Mihai Eminescu” Lyceum in Dubasari testifies to the pressure put by the separatist authorities, which blocked the polling station hosted by the lyceum during the September 5 referendum.

The administration of the lyceum requested the CEC to relocate the polling station, which served for the voters in Corjova village, Dubasari district, citing concerns about potential damages that can be brought to the lyceum by the Tiraspol authorities. The insistence of the lyceum's request results from the repeated threats made by the authorities in Dubasari and the local police chief, who are subordinated to Tiraspol. In the monitoring period, the central authorities haven't taken any measure to moderate the situation.

IV. CONCERNS

The following aspects continue to raise concerns regarding the electoral process:

1. Lack of financial transparency in the activities of the electoral participants regarding the expenses incurred for traveling in the regions, publishing advertising, organizing electoral meetings, concerts and the remuneration of staff;
2. Creation of special polling stations by District Commissions and not by the CEC;
3. The intention to open mixed polling stations with separate ballot boxes for the voters from the Transnistrian region;
4. Completion of election bodies with members delegated by parties represented in the Parliament;

5. Insufficiency of electoral advertising space;
6. Obstruction of the normal organization of the electoral process in the communities on the left bank of Nistru (Corjova).
7. Excessive electoral advertising in unauthorized places;
8. Utilization of administrative resources for electoral purposes, including by candidates who suspended their activities in public offices.

Special attention should be paid to the following alarming aspects:

3. Potential difficulties in voting for those who hold their domicile and residence simultaneously in different electoral districts;
4. Poor, uneven information of voters by the local administration on the possibility to verify the accuracy of voters' rolls;
5. Mutual aggressiveness and violence in the relations between election competitors;
6. More cases of forced campaigning with the participation of decision-makers from the educational institutions and the local public administration;
7. Deviations from the CEC timetable;

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Central Electoral Commission:

- 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);
- Mediate conflicts within election bodies;
- Intensify information and education campaigns to ensure higher participation in the elections;
- 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;
- Work out a list of institutions, in which electoral campaigning is prohibited (schools, universities).

To the central public administration:

- Provide technical and financial support for dealing with the lack of space for electoral advertising;
- Prevent and penalize cases of unauthorized campaigning;
- Introduce an efficient control mechanisms of the use of administrative resources;
- 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:

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

To mass media:

- Monitor the financial activity of election competitors;

- Support and facilitate information and civic education campaigns, including for the verification of the accuracy of voters' rolls;
- 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.