



Press release

30.07.09

THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS: UNFAIR AND PARTIALLY FREE ELECTIONS

Reiterating the principles which are the cornerstone of free and fair elections¹, the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – “Coalition 2009” believes that the anticipated parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova conducted on 29 July 2009, **were NOT fair** and in particular taking into account the situation of the voters of Transdnistria and those abroad and the students – these **were NOT totally free**.

The elections were unfair and partially free for the following reasons:

- One did not ensure a campaign environment free from violence, severe cases of **intimidation of electoral competitors** being registered;
- There were attempts to intimidate or impede the electoral candidates to present their political programs, multiple situations when meetings of certain electoral candidates with the voters being thwarted by unknown persons were registered, while the force bodies did not take action in the most of such cases;
- The principle of equality of chances for all electoral candidates, which demands, among others, a neutral attitude on behalf of state authorities as regards the electoral campaign was not observed, multiple cases of **discriminatory treatment versus certain electoral competitors** being noted;
- The criterion of clear separation between the party and the state (central and local government) was not met, at least 42 severe cases of **using public resources** and at least 17 cases of offering **electoral gifts** being signaled;
- A non-discriminatory access of electoral competitors to mass-media was not ensured, at the same time, a neutral reflection of the elections by the mass-media, especially public stations, was not in place. The audio-visual mass-media with nationwide and quasi-nationwide coverage, including the public stations Moldova 1 and Radio Moldova, admitted severe deviations from the ethical and deontological principles throughout the electoral campaign,

¹ According to the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters of the Venice Commission for democracy through law if the Council of Europe, passed in 2002 and the Copenhagen meeting act of the OSCE Conference for human dimension of 29 June 1990, to which the Republic of Moldova adhered on 10 December 1991

Coalition 2009 is a voluntary union of non-governmental organizations from the Republic of Moldova which aim at contributing to ensuring free, fair, transparent and democratic elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and continues the activities of promoting free and fair elections, started by Coalition 2005 and 2007. **Today, the Coalition 2009 counts over 70 non-governmental organizations.**



frequently violating the provisions of the Code of the Audiovisual and the Regulation on the reflection of the electoral campaign, approved by the Central Electoral Commission. As a result, these stations did not reflect the electoral campaign in a fair and equidistant manner and did not offer the right of reply to all the respective electoral competitors;

- The freedom of the electors to form an opinion was impacted by massive manipulation of the public opinion during the election campaign by several media, as well as by multiple cases of electioneering on the Election Day and the day before it;
- Electoral lists were not properly worked out, while access to the information on the lists was limited. In such a way, on the Election Day, the following violations were registered: multiple cases of inclusion of unknown persons into the voters' houses; cases of fraudulent voting instead of other persons; cases of multiple inclusion of same voters of electoral lists, sometimes even with different data of their identity cards; the voters in a number of polling stations did not find themselves on the electoral lists;
- Not all the electoral procedures, especially the procedure of voting at home, was observed, Coalition 2009 observers registering multiple cases when some voters and some observers on behalf of electoral candidates submitted standard requests of mobile voting instead of other persons;
- One did not ensure the voting rights for all individuals. The authorities did not ensure the minimal conditions for the exercise of the voting rights for about 10% of the **Moldovan voters in the Transnistrian region**, while the activities specific to the electoral campaign (debates, meetings with the voters, electoral posters) were lacking in the largest part of this region. The elections were conducted on a week day, this impeding the **voters abroad** to exercise their voting rights. Also, **the students did not have the opportunity to fully exercise their voting rights** since the authorities did not take enough measures in this respect.

For additional information, please, contact:

- Igor Boțan, Executive Director, ADEPT, 079457283
- Petru Macovei, Executive Director, API, 069170941
- Nadine Gogu, Director a.i., CIJ, 069697879
- Alexandru Dorogan, Director, APEL, 069117585
- Paul Struțescu, Chairman, LADOM, 068440017
- Ion Manole, Chairman, Promo Lex, 069070800
- Nicolae Panfil, Secretary, "Coalition 2009", 079381842

Coalition 2009 is a voluntary union of non-governmental organizations from the Republic of Moldova which aim at contributing to ensuring free, fair, transparent and democratic elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and continues the activities of promoting free and fair elections, started by Coalition 2005 and 2007. **Today, the Coalition 2009 counts over 70 non-governmental organizations.**