

## B. Statement by the Head of the EP Delegation

### **Press Statement by Mr David McAllister**

#### **Head of the European Parliament Election Observation Delegation**

#### **Parliamentary Elections in Moldova – 12 July 2021**

Good afternoon, my name is David McAllister and I am addressing you on behalf of the European Parliament Election Observation Delegation. We observed these elections together with our colleagues of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, joining OSCE/ODIHR's election observation mission.

First and foremost, it is the Moldovan people that are at the forefront of my mind today: the citizens went to the polling stations and exercised their democratic right to choose their representatives. They did this with enthusiasm, calm and a profound conviction that they can have a say in the future of their country.

The European Union has a deep relationship with Moldova founded on the Eastern Partnership and the EU-Moldova Association Agreement since 2014. In its most recent resolution the European Parliament recalled that the common values on which the European Union is built, namely democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, lie also at the heart of the political association and the economic integration between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. The European Parliament has reaffirmed our commitment to support the Republic of Moldova's European path through political association, economic integration and the respective reforms.

These last years have been very difficult for your country, not only because of the pandemic, but also because of constitutional and political turmoil that led to these snap elections. It is now time for Moldova to turn the page and look for stability and reforms.

Our delegation subscribes fully to the statement of the preliminary findings and conclusions of the international election observation mission. I would like to express our thanks to my colleague Tamas Meszerics, the Head of the ODIHR IEOM, and his team for their excellent support and cooperation, and also to the other Heads of parliamentary delegations and their colleagues. I would also like to thank the Head of the EU Delegation in Chisinau, Ambassador Peter Michalko, for his huge assistance to us during our time in the country.

On Election Day our delegation observed the vote and the count in and around Chisinau, Orhei and Comrat. It also observed in the region of Dubasari and the left bank of the Dniester river. Our conclusions are consistent with those of the mission.

The elections have been well administered and managed in an efficient way, respecting the anti COVID measures. We were impressed by the vital role women played in the management of the electoral process. However, I would like to focus on a number of specific issues.

Firstly, my colleagues observed systematic organised movement of voters that took place by car from Transnistria to polling stations. In this respect, we regret that the Central Electoral Committee (CEC) didn't manage to regulate this question. One of our teams observed vote buying attempts.

Turning to another area of concern that is also covered in the Preliminary Statement, we would like to regret that once more controversies over CEC decisions on the number and location of polling stations abroad and for voters from Transnistria took a central part of the campaign discourse. We also regret the fact that the government was not in the position to take a decision in good time to provide the necessary financing for the elections due to blockage by several cabinet members.

Furthermore, we deplore the multiple cases reported to us of undue pressure exerted on mayors and local authorities by denouncing them to the anti-corruption authorities, without providing any evidence.

We call on all stakeholders to show political maturity and responsibility and give priority to the country's interests. The result of this election should be a starting point from which the new government should accelerate genuine and ambitious reforms, particularly in the area of judiciary and anti-corruption, to deliver on the expectations of the Moldovan people.

The European Parliament - and the European Union in general - will closely follow the post-electoral developments in Moldova and will be ready to support Moldova in implementing its reforms. What takes place here in the coming weeks and months will have a major impact on the future of our relationship.

In conclusion, I would like to once again congratulate the Moldovan people for completing a mature electoral process and reiterate the continued strong support of the European Union for the Republic of Moldova.

Thank you for your attention.

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