

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1029/25
2 October 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1536th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 October 2025

On the results of the parliamentary election in Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,

In exercising our right to reply following the statement by the Permanent Representative of Moldova, we should like to draw attention yet again to the scale of the Moldovan authorities' systematic and flagrant violations of democratic standards during the parliamentary election that took place in that country.

In particular, just between July and September six political parties were excluded from the election race; what is more, this was done to two of them, the Heart of Moldova Party and the Greater Moldova Party, with less than two days to go before the polls. Thus, the international mission deployed by the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations to observe the parliamentary election came to the conclusion that the deregistration of candidates so close to election day "limited the practical exercise of the right to stand" and affected the outcome of the election. It is telling that in the preliminary report of the election observation mission deployed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) these decisions by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the relevant judicial bodies are described in a politically correct manner as having "brought into question its [the CEC's] impartiality".

The Moldovan authorities also made active use of the leverage available to them in the realm of electoral law in order to exert pressure on the opposition. The efforts by the powers that be in Chişinău to change the rules of the electoral campaign as it was in full swing could not but have a significant negative impact on the results of the election. Incidentally, this matter has elicited reservations even from international observers.

At Permanent Council meetings we have been repeatedly alerting the Organization's relevant executive structures to the repression suffered by the most prominent Moldovan opposition figures. This refers, first and foremost, to the infamous case brought against the governor of the autonomous region of Gagauzia, Evghenia Guţul, who has been thrown into prison on trumped-up charges. Need one really explain that not allowing, under the pretext of criminal prosecution, the most brilliant and popular opposition leaders to stand for election could not fail to affect the results at the ballot box?

An important element in the strategy for securing the outcome that the Moldovan authorities needed was the purging of the information space to remove any sources of information that offered alternative points of view to the official line in Chişinău. Confident of their impunity, they shut down opposition television stations and Telegram channels in massive numbers, and on election day itself they used the pretext of protection against cyberattacks to block access to more than 4,000 Moldovan sites. In view of this, it is bizarre, to put it mildly, to read the ODIHR mission's conclusions about how the contestants were provided with equal access to airtime. Are we actually talking about one and the same country?

The Moldovan authorities' efforts to cut off an "unreliable" portion of the electorate merit separate attention. Thus, a mere 13,000 ballot papers were printed for the 200,000 voters from Transdnistria. So as to play havoc with these voters, the CEC made the decision to move, at the last minute, the polling stations in the villages of Varnița, Hagimus, Cocieri and Dorotcaia to the right bank of the Dniester. In addition, Moldovan citizens living in Russia (some 500,000 people) were, in effect, deprived of the opportunity to exercise their electoral rights, as the number of polling stations opened on the territory of our country was reduced to two. We spoke about this openly and frankly, including here in this room, shortly before the election, but we were not heeded by the Western majority, which is at pains to keep Maia Sandu's regime afloat. And only a number of independent observers, in particular Promo-LEX, a Moldovan non-profit organization, considered these decisions to be unjustified and to have restricted the rights of voters.

Talking about specific examples of fraud in the vote tabulation process, we cannot fail to bring up an egregious instance of tampering at one polling station in the city of Basarabeasca. There is information indicating that the Patriotic Bloc won 42.2 per cent of the votes cast in that precinct, compared with 35.7 per cent for the ruling party, that is, the Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS). Nevertheless, in the protocol presented by the territorial electoral commission, the ratio of votes was quite different, with the PAS "carrying" that precinct by 82.18 per cent against 7.16 per cent for the Patriotic Bloc. It was evidently for that purpose that, just before the election, the powers that be hastily replaced the members of that territorial electoral commission and packed it with their appointees.

Given all that has been said, we completely reject the ODIHR observation mission's claim that the parliamentary election in Moldova was "competitive". In reality, the ruling Party of Action and Solidarity deployed the full array of repressive, administrative and technical means at its disposal to retain its majority in Parliament.

We understand the instinctive reflex that caused certain OSCE officials to cover their face with their hands during the press conference at which the international observers' preliminary conclusions were presented. Such blatant hypocrisy and brazen manipulation, which would not be out of place in the narrative universe of George Orwell, cannot arouse anything but shame.

It is not an encouraging scorecard: the Sandu regime has, in the finest traditions of totalitarianism, transgressed all conceivable norms of the democratic process and, most importantly, ridden roughshod over the opinions of the Moldovan people in order to obtain a majority in Parliament and secure the ability to form a government. Moreover, the ODIHR, covering up for the authorities in Chişinău, has completely disregarded all kinds of violations, thereby confirming yet again that it has forfeited what little remained of the trust that it once commanded.

Thank you for your attention.