

**Comisia Electorală Centrală  
a Republicii Moldova**



Strasbourg, 27 June 2013

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

in co-operation with

**THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF MOLDOVA**

**10th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
OF ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

**“THE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE IN ELECTORAL MATTERS:  
STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS”**

**Wednesday and Thursday, 26-27 June 2013**

**Leograd Hotel, Convention Centre  
Chişinău, Republic of Moldova**

**SYNOPSIS**

The tenth European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies “The Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters: strengths and potential developments” was organised by the Venice Commission in co-operation with the Moldovan Central Election Commission, on 26-27 June 2013 in Chişinău. The issues which were addressed during the conference included the European and domestic case-law with respect to Article 3 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the funding of electoral campaigns and political parties and the improvement of the functioning of electoral management bodies to increase public confidence.

The Conference was opened by Mr Nicolae Timofti, President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Oleg Efrim, Minister of Justice, Mr Alexandru Tănase, President of the Constitutional Court, Mr Iurie Ciocan, Chairman of the Central Election Commission, Ms Urszula Gacek, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe and Mr Peter Paczolay, President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary and member of the Venice Commission.

107 participants attended the conference, including from the national electoral management bodies of the following 26 countries: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom; as well as the Polish Ambassador on behalf of the Group of Rapporteurs on Democracy of the Committee of Ministers, representatives of the Venice Commission, representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and of other Council of Europe Directorates.

Also represented were the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), other OSCE institutions, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), companies and several international NGOs active in the electoral field.

The conference:

1. *Underlined* the importance of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters as an internationally recognised document in the electoral field, which has proved its relevance and led to considerable improvements in domestic electoral laws and practice, as well as, more generally, the importance of Europe’s Electoral Heritage;
2. *Took note* of the significant relationship between the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;
3. *Recalled* that the domestic case-law and the EMB’s decisions should be consistent with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and should be guided by the key principles of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters;
4. *Stressed* that public trust in any electoral process is fundamental to ensure free and fair elections;

5. *Pointed out* the importance of ensuring that the domestic electoral legal framework concerning the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns takes full account of the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters in order to:

- a. strengthen transparency in the funding and its sources;
- b. ensure the equality of all political stakeholders with regard to funding;
- c. increase accountability, including by the way of sanctions;
- d. strengthen public confidence in this respect.

6. *Pointed out* that the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters remains an effective tool for further improving the functioning of electoral management bodies in order to:

- a. increase public confidence in electoral processes in countries where a low level of confidence has been identified as a matter of concern;
- b. ensure the impartiality of electoral management bodies, including through the provision of adequate human and financial resources;
- c. ensure efficiency and transparency in the management of complaints by electoral management bodies;

7. *Declared* that the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters remains a reference document which safeguards that challenges faced by the electoral management bodies are dealt with in an efficient manner;

8. *Pointed out* the complementarity of the activities of various Council of Europe bodies in promoting the right to free and fair elections as stipulated in the Convention, in particular the Venice Commission, the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the European Court of Human Rights;

9. *Took note* of the importance of the growing co-operation between regional and international organisations in the electoral field;

10. *Took note* of the intention to create the Association of World Electoral Bodies (A-WEB);

11. *Welcomed* the continuing co-operation between the Inter-American Union of the Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) and the Venice Commission.

The eleventh European Conference of Electoral Management Bodies will take place in 2014.