

## **Latest developments:**

### ***Cabinet reshuffling postponed***

The announced staff reshuffles in the Moldovan government will take place after the presidential election due on 18 November 2011, Prime Minister Vlad Filat said 26 October after a meeting of MPs and ministers of his senior coalition partner Liberal-Democratic Party (PLDM). Filat said that this process should take place when a head of state is elected. "It is absolutely natural for the cabinet to be reshuffled when we have a legally-elected president, so that together with him we continue the reshuffling process and ensure the functionality of the state institutions. We do not want the basic goal, that is, the election of the president, to be mixed with the reshuffle issue," Filat noted. Speaking about the possible dismissal of Prosecutor General Valeriu Zubco, Filat questioned the lawfulness of Zubco's coming in the parliament to present a report on the escape of the Russian blogger Eduard Bagirov, who had been under arrest in Moldova. "All these talks could have been avoided had the prosecutor general resigned". Filat added that Bagirov's escape was "more than enough for the head of the responsible institutions to resign".

*Moldpres, 26 October 2011*

### ***Moldovan parliament sets presidential election date 18 November***

The parliament today (20 October) initiated the presidential election procedure and set the presidential election date on 18 November. Also today, the parliament set up a special commission in charge of organizing the election of the head of state. The lawmakers of the opposition Party of Communists put forward a draft law, proposing that the parliament should elect the head of state on 8 November. The senior coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM) has demanded that the presidential election take place on 18 November, so that the parliamentary parties have at least one month for talks on a parliamentary platform. The PLDM's initiative was backed by the Democrat and Communist MPs. The Liberals opposed, fearing that the presidential election may lead to snap parliamentary elections. At the same time, the parliament created a special commission, made up of nine members, who will deal with the presidential election. The commission will include four Communist MPs, three Liberal Democrat MPs, a Liberal MP and a Democrat MP.

*Moldpres, 20 October 2011*

### ***Candidates for presidency to be registered by 15 November***

The candidates for the post of head of state can submit applications to the special commission for the supervision of the presidential election that was set up by Parliament on 20 October. The commission is headed by the Liberal-Democrat MP Tudor Deliu. The candidates will be registered by 15 November. More details about the registration procedure will be made public in the legislature's 21 October sitting. The same day, the commission will designate the institution that will issue medical certificates to the candidates. The presidential election will take place in Parliament on 18 November.

*IPN, 20 October 2011*

### ***Voronin advocates grand coalition, election of independent president***

There are two solutions to the ongoing political deadlock: either the creation of a grand coalition or the organization of early parliamentary polls, the leader of the opposition Party of Communists (PCRM), Vladimir Voronin, said during a talk show broadcast by a private Moldovan TV channel on 17 October. Voronin's statements came amid deeper dissensions in the pro-western ruling coalition, which has failed to elect a president since it came to power in November 2010, and amidst rumours about an eventual coalition between the current senior coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party and the Communists. Voronin said that the PCRM advocates the creation of a grand coalition that would include the four parliamentary parties. "We should reach a consensus proceeding from the basic principles of the Moldovan state, such as the European integration, as well as other principles. Then, we should see who is able to enforce these principles. Moreover, we are going to discuss them with the Moldovan people, they might come out with other proposals," Voronin said. At the same time, the

Communist leader said that a head of state who would be independent from the parliament and from the parliamentary factions would be the best solution to the presidential election issue. He said that the PCRM has a candidate for this, but avoided disclosing any names. At the same time, the leader of the Communist Party turned down the eventual amendment of the Moldovan constitution, as a possible way out of the political stalemate. "We should not turn the constitution into the servant of our interests," he said.

*Moldpres, 17 October 2011*

### ***Opposition accepts invitation to negotiate on presidential election***

Moldova's opposition Communist Party has accepted an invitation from the three member parties of the ruling Alliance for European Integration to participate in negotiations on the election of a new head of state, the Moldovan private television channel [ProTV Chisinau](#) [ro] reported on 26 October. The television quoted the chairwoman of the Communist parliamentary faction, Maria Postoico, as saying that the Communists agreed to negotiate with each parliamentary faction rather than with the ruling alliance as a whole. That was one of the conditions put forward by the Communists for the beginning of negotiations, ProTV said. It added that no date for starting negotiations has been set yet. The decision to launch talks with the opposition was taken by the council of the ruling Alliance for European Integration at a meeting held in the evening of 25 October. On 18 November, Moldovan lawmakers will make yet another attempt to elect a president. For the past two and a half years, Moldova is being run by an acting president and parliament had been dissolved twice over its inability to elect president.

*PRO TV [ro], 26 October 2011*

### ***Lupu seems disoriented, Ghimpu complains, Filat sticks to his plan***

There are two possible scenarios as regards the fate of the Alliance for European Integration – Mihai Ghimpu and Marian Lupu either cooperate with Vlad Filat in the reshuffling and reforming of the government, or Vlad Filat will insist on the dismissal of the prosecutor general and the Speaker, political analyst Viorel Cibotaru told Info-Prim Neo. "Marian Lupu seems disoriented, Mihai Ghimpu starts to complain, while Filat sticks to his plan," said Viorel Cibotaru. According to him, Vlad Filat can go on with the Cabinet reshuffle and the election of a new Speaker and the head of state, with the PCRM's support. Viorel Cibotaru said the AIE will technically continue to exist after the possible election of the head of state together with the PCRM. "At political level, if Mihai Ghimpu decides things cannot go on like this, he would declare the AIE null and void and would withdraw his signature from the constitution agreement and his people from the executive bodies. Only then will the AIE disappear," said the analyst.

*IPN, 17 October 2011*