



PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours

Fact-Finding Mission to Moldova

26-28 May 2010

Mission Report

Introduction

The Party of European Socialists Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours, in cooperation with the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, held a fact-finding mission to Chisinau, Moldova, on 26-28 May 2010. The delegation was co-chaired by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES AG on Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (SPÖ, Austria), and Marianne Mikko, former Member of the European Parliament, former Co-Chair of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Member of the Party Executive (SDE, Estonia).

The delegation held bilateral meetings with representatives from Moldova's current government and parliamentary majority as well as opposition parties. The mission participants also met EU officials, including the Head of the EU Delegation in Moldova, and actors from civil society, academia and the media. The visit provided a major opportunity to assess the current state of affairs of Moldova and its ruling and opposition parties, while also contributing to a better grasp of the country's situation in the context of its constitutional deadlock. The delegation also took part to the International Roundtable "Social Moldova – Common Europe", organised by the PES sister party Democratic Party of Moldova in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Alfred Mozer Stichting.



1. List of participants:

Peter Schieder <i>Delegation Co-Chair</i>	Chair of the PES EEN, Former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	SPÖ, Austria
Marianne Mikko <i>Delegation Co-Chair</i>	Former Member of the European Parliament, Former Co-Chair of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Member of the Party Executive	SDE, Estonia
Titus Corlatean	Party Vice-president, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Romanian Senate	PSD, Romania
Christoph Zöpel	Former Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee “Economic Policy, Labour and National Resources” of the Socialist International	SPD, Germany
Ivan Catalin Sorin	Member of the European Parliament	PSD, Romania
Miroslava Gateva	Political Adviser, International Department	BSP, Bulgaria
Mikhna Berindei	Adviser	Fondation Jean Jaures, France
David Capezzuto	Political Advisor, International Unit	PES
Marina Ohanjanyan	Project Manager	European Forum
Inge Visscher	Intern	European Forum



2. Programme

Wednesday, 26th March 2010

Arrival of participants

19.00 **Delegation Briefing Dinner**

Thursday, 27th March 2010

08:30 – 09:30 **Breakfast briefing by the FES**
Ana Mihailov, FES Moldova
Stefanie Moser, FES Romania

10:00 – 11:00 **Grigori Petrenco**, Member of the Executive Committee, Responsible for
International Relations, Communist Party

11:30 – 12:30 **EU Delegation**
Ambassador **Dirk Schuebel**

13:00 – 14:00 **Working lunch with NDI**
Andrew Young, Head of office, NDI Moldova
Andrei Rusanovschi, Program Manager, NDI Moldova

14:30 – 15:30 **Marian Lupu**, Leader, Democratic Party

16:00 – 17:00 **Dumitru Braghis**, former Leader, Social Democratic Party
Victor Selin, Leader, Social Democratic Party

17:30 – 18:30 **Vladimir Turcan**, Leader, United Moldova

19:30 **Working dinner with Civil Society representatives**
Igor Botan, Executive Director, Association for Participatory Democracy
Arcadie Barbarosie, Executive Director, Institute for Public Policy
Vlad Lupan, Independent Expert
Nadina Gogu, Executive Director, Independent Center of Journalism
Sorina Stefarta, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Daily 'Tempul'

Friday, 28th March 2010

09:00 – 10:30 Breakfast meeting for conclusion/discussion of fact-finding results

10:30 – 17.40 *Conference on EU-Moldova: "Social Moldova - Common Europe"*
Organised by the Democratic Party of Moldova in cooperation with
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Alfred Mozer Stichting



3. Press statement

PES gives support to Moldovan Democratic Party during visit to Chisinau

The Party of European Socialists, together with the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, organised a Fact-finding Mission to Chisinau, Moldova, on 27th May 2010. The joint initiative was led by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, SPÖ Austria, and by Marianne Mikko, former MEP and Co-Chair of the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, SDE, Estonia. They were welcomed by Democratic Party of Moldova leader, Marian Lupu.

Members of the delegation held bilateral meetings with government and EU officials, representatives of political parties, international organisations and independent political thinkers and analysts. The delegation also took part in the International Roundtable “Social Moldova – Common Europe”, organised on May 28th by the PES sister party Democratic Party of Moldova with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Alfred Mozer Stichting.

PES Co-chair Peter Schieder, addressed the roundtable guests and assembled media together with Mr. Lupu. He posed the question: *“Why does the PES place such interest on Moldova? Why does the EU grant such priority and financial aid to this country? To answer that it is the case because the country needs it would be far too simple. Socialists and social democrats, the EU, focus on this country because they see a real chance for Moldova. It is now up to Moldova, its political forces and its people to be determined and to seize the opportunities the country has today.”*

Background:

Moldova has seen some drastic political changes in the past year. The 8-year Communist rule ended with the so-called ‘twitter revolution’ and after the early elections of summer 2009, a new ruling coalition, the Alliance for European Integration (AEI), was established by the Democratic Party (DPM), the Liberal Party (LP), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and the Moldova Noastra Alliance (MNA). However, the coalition is 8 parliamentary seats short of electing the next President. With ongoing negotiations on constitutional changes, referenda and early elections, the risk of a prolonged crisis is a matter of concern.

The joint PES and European Forum Delegation also included Titus Corlatean, Party Vice-president and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Romanian Senate, PSD Romania, Christoph Zöpel, Former Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Committee “Economic Policy, Labour and National Resources” of the Socialist International, SPD Germany, Ivan Catalin Sorin, Member of the European Parliament, PSD Romania, Miroslava Gateva, Political Adviser of the International Department, BSP Bulgaria, Mikhna Berindei, Adviser of the Foundation Jean Jaures, France, Marina Ohanjanyan and Inge Visscher, respectively Project Manager and Intern of the European Forum, and David Capezzuto, Political Advisor of the PES International Unit.



4. Pictures

