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THE CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

**PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION**

**REPORT**

**Monitoring the national constitutional referendum on 5 September 2010 at the  
polling stations abroad**

Monitoring period: 5 September 2010

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**Council of Europe**  
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*... more than a decade of joint action to promote democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and  
fundamental freedoms in Europe ...*

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**on monitoring the national constitutional referendum on**  
**5 September 2010**

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## **Promo-LEX Monitoring Effort**

The monitoring of the national constitutional referendum, which took place on September 5, is a project implemented by the Association Promo-LEX in partnership with “Moștenitorii” Association as part of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections “Coalition 2009”, which is a voluntary union of non-governmental organizations aiming to enhance the electoral process and raise public confidence in this process.

The various election monitoring programs within the framework of the “Coalition 2009” are implemented by Promo-LEX as well as other member organizations.

A number of 79 national observers monitored the voting process in the constitutional referendum at polling stations in Belgium (Brussels), the Czech Republic (Prague), Greece (Athens, Heraklion, Thessaloniki), France (Paris, Toulouse), Germany (Berlin, Munich, Hamburg), Spain (Madrid, Santander), Portugal (Lisbon, Faro, Portimao), Romania (Bucharest – 2, Galați, Timișoara, Cluj, Iași), the Russian Federation (Moscow, Domdedovo, Mozhaisk, St. Petersburg), Ukraine (Odessa), Italy (Rome – 2, Mestre – 2, Milan – 2, Padua – 2, Bologna -2, Parma, Turin, Verona, Naples).

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The expressed opinions belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the donor.

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## I. Summary

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On Election Day the independent observers assigned to the 40 polling stations opened abroad aimed to monitor all the electoral processes taking place at the polling stations as well as to monitor the results of the education and information efforts destined for the voters abroad.

The observers noted a high degree of satisfaction and enthusiasm among the Moldovans who voted at the polling stations opened in the foreign cities where Moldova does not have embassies or consulates. There wasn't recorded any case of intimidation of the voters or observers by the election officials, who, on the contrary, demonstrated receptivity and a constructive attitude. Some of the members of the Electoral Bureaus of the Polling Stations (EBPS) cooperated with the local authorities from the cities which hosted the polling stations to provide these with transparent ballot boxes and polling booths.

At the same time, the observers noted an unsatisfactory level of competence of the EBPS members, who often had little knowledge about the voting procedures. Furthermore, the monitors revealed cases where some EBPS members had had no specific training at all. In certain cases the EBPS members didn't even know if their work was voluntary or they were going to be paid for it.

The monitors observed numerous cases where the polling stations were opened to voters later than 07:00, in some cases with delays of half an hour. Of particular concern was also the widespread unauthorized absence of some EBPS members on Election Day, most often these were members delegated by the referendum participants.

Another serious concern is related to the extremely weak, and sometimes even inexistent, education and information campaign destined for the voters abroad. Particularly concerning were the often cases where the voters didn't know which identity documents to produce to be allowed to vote – 360 voters were unable to vote because they had only an identity card (*buletin de identitate*) to show. In the same context, there were many complaints from the voters related to the extremely poor information efforts concerning the referendum; in particular, concerning its purpose, its essence, the potential effects, etc.

The monitors express their concern over the often cases of presence of the law enforcement officers at the voting sites. While refraining from direct contact with the voters, the presence of the police officers could nevertheless intimidate some of the Moldovans who stay abroad without authorization.

Considering the findings made and the concerns formulated, the observers developed a set of recommendations for the electoral actors aiming to improve the quality of the electoral process. Among these the most important is the appeal addressed to the election authorities to carry out more extensive education and information efforts for our citizens abroad and provide better training for the EBPS members. The public authorities are encouraged to collaborate with the local law enforcement bodies in order to avoid the presence of their uniformed and armed representatives near the polling stations on voting day.

The referendum participants (and electoral candidates in the future) are recommended to discipline the members they delegate to the EBPS abroad in order to ensure the presence of all the EBPS members on Election Day and their active participation in all the electoral proceedings. Additionally, the campaigners are encouraged to carry out more extensive information activities aimed at familiarizing the voters abroad with the positions they promote.

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## II. Findings and Trends

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### A. ELECTION AUTHORITIES

On Election Day, there were registered numerous cases of absence of EBPS members from all the voting proceedings. In most of the cases, these were the EBPS members delegated by certain political parties. Cases were observed where EBPS members attempted to influence the opinion of the voters. Another tendency was the insufficient degree of knowledge of the voting procedures by the EBPS members, which indicates poor training.

- **Presence of EBPS members at voting proceedings**

Under art.29/1 par. 4 of the Election Code, an EBPS located abroad consists of a chairperson, appointed by the head of the respective diplomatic mission or consular office or the staff of other diplomatic institutions, and 6 to 10 representatives each appointed by one political party and other sociopolitical organizations represented in Parliament.

The assignment of political party representatives to the EBPS abroad is done by the Chisinau Constituency Electoral Council, and if the number of the nominated persons is not enough to establish an EBPS abroad, the supplementary assignment is done by the Central Election Commission, which uses the Electoral Officials' Roster to appoint people of good reputation, with no political allegiance, and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) for the task.

The necessity for all the EBPS members to be present at the voting is crucial for the transparency and fairness of all the electoral proceedings. Considering the status of being a member of the electoral bureau of a polling station, that is, of being an electoral official; as well as the fact that the members of these bureaus could be entitled to remuneration, we consider that the assignment of these persons should be conditioned on their good moral character.

In the course of Election Day, the monitors in a number of polling stations observed the absence of some political party delegates from all the voting proceedings, while some of the delegates attempted to influence the opinion of the voters. Here are some cases in point:

- Station 299, the Czech Republic, Prague – the EBPS member delegated by the Communists Party (PCRM) was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 301, Greece, Athens – the EBPS member delegated by the PCRM was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 303, Greece, Heraklion – the EBPS member delegated by the PCRM was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 304, Greece, Thessaloniki – the EBPS members delegated by the PCRM and the Liberal Party (PL) were absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 307, France, Paris – the EBPS member delegated by the PCRM was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 312, Germany, Hamburg – of the total 9 members of the bureau, only 5 attended the electoral proceedings.

- Station 314, Italy, Rome – the EBPS members delegated by the PCRM and the Our Moldova Alliance Party (AMN) were absent throughout the entire duration of the referendum.
- Station 323, Italy, Mestre – the EBPS members delegated by the PCRM and the AMN were absent throughout the entire duration of the referendum.
- Station 332, Portugal, Lisbon – the EBPS member delegated by the PCRM was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 339, Spain, Madrid – the EBPS members delegated by the PCRM, the AMN and the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM) were absent throughout the entire duration of the referendum.
- Station 350, Ukraine, Odessa – the EBPS member delegated by the Democratic Party (PDM) was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 353, France, Toulouse – two EBPS members were absent, one delegated by the PCRM and one by the electoral authorities.
- Station 358, Italy, Verona – the EBPS members delegated by the PCRM and the PDM were absent throughout the entire duration of the referendum.
- Station 365, Romania, Galați – the EBPS member delegated by the PLDM was absent throughout the entire voting day.
- Station 366, Russia, Mozhaisk – a complaint was lodged concerning the engagement of one EBPS member in campaigning, and namely in dissuading voters from participating in the referendum.
- Station 367, Russia, Domodedovo – the EBPS member delegated by the PLDM was absent through the entire voting day.

- **Training of EBPS members**

According to art.22 par.(g) and (p) of the Election Code, the Central Election Commission (CEC) cooperates with the MFAEI, the diplomatic missions and the consular offices, in the process of organizing and conducting elections, in establishing polling stations for the Moldovan citizens abroad. The CEC is responsible for organizing specific training courses for the persons who will be involved in the electoral process as members of electoral constituency councils and of EBPS, as representatives of political parties and other sociopolitical organizations, or of potential candidates.

A number of cases were registered indicating shortcomings in carrying out electoral procedures, cases which suggest insufficient competence of the EBPS members. Here are some illustrative findings:

- Station 304, Greece, Thessaloniki – after announcing the voting closed, the EBPS members didn't ensure the actual closing of the station, and during vote counting police officers were allowed to enter and stay inside the station until all the proceedings were completed.
- Station 314, Italy, Rome – at around 19:30 on Election Day, the EBPS members decided to start counting and invalidating the unused ballot papers. In justification they said they wanted to speed up the process of counting the valid ballots. These actions contradict the provisions of Art 56 par 1 and 2 of the Election Code and of Art 27 of the Regulations on Voting Abroad, which state that the annulment of the unused ballot papers is done only after the expiry of the time allotted to the voting.
- Station 321, Italy, Padua – the EBPS members were insufficiently trained and demonstrated poor knowledge of the electoral procedure. Of the nine EBPS members, only the chairperson had previous experience in working with an EBPS.
- Station 323, Italy, Mestre – the EBPS members consulted the provisions of the Election Code step by step to compensate their complete lack of training on the voting procedures. The chair

of the bureau scraped the primary electoral list which contained 30 names and decided to enter all the voters on supplementary lists, which were distributed among 4 members of the bureau. This decision contradicts Art 53 par 1 and 2 of the Election Code.

- Station 337, Romania, Iași – except for the EBPS chair, none of the other members had been properly instructed as to the voting procedures. The EBPS chair gave the members a brief instruction on the procedures the day before the referendum.
- Station 355, Italy, Milan – it was found that the EBPS members were not familiar with the procedures on opening the polling station, on closing it in the evening, and didn't know how to finalize all the proceedings of the day.
- Station 369, Russia, St. Petersburg – some of the EBPS members didn't know where in the voters' passports to affix the stamp "Referendum 2010".

## **B. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**

Under Art 2 par 3 of the Election Code, the Moldovan citizens who stay or live abroad shall enjoy all the electoral rights granted by the Code. The diplomatic missions and the consular offices are required to create conditions for the citizens to be able to freely exercise their right to vote. According to Art 22 par (j) and 9 (k) of the Election Code, the CEC is responsible for developing programs to inform the voters in the pre-election period and for providing relevant information to the mass media. Thus, these institutions are directly responsible for the degree of awareness and knowledge by the citizens of the political and electoral processes indispensable for making a conscience and freely expressed choice.

### **• Inadequate information of the Moldovan citizens abroad**

Multiple examples were revealed that demonstrate that the Moldovan citizens abroad had little to no access to information related to the organization and conducting of the constitutional referendum. Here are some illustrative cases:

- Station 297, Belgium, Brussels – the EBPS members had to explain to the voters how to vote.
- Station 299, the Czech Republic, Prague – a number of voters expressed their indignation at the poor publicity made to the referendum.
- Station 301, Greece, Athens – a number of voters were not allowed to vote because they didn't have their passports with them.
- Station 307, France, Paris – several cases were observed where the voters expressed their indignation at the impossibility to vote with their identity cards.
- Station 314, Italy, Rome – a number of voters came to the polling station with their identity cards and their Italian stay permits; some were not aware about the difference between the referendum and general elections; and expected to have the back of their identity cards stamped in confirmation of the vote;
- Station 323, Italy, Mestre – a number of voters asked the EBPS members to explain them the purpose of the referendum.
- Station 334, Portugal, Faro – billboards were observed instructing voters to vote with their identification cards, and not with their passports, which created confusion among the voters.
- Station 335, Romania, Bucharest – a number of voters complained about the poor information efforts concerning the referendum.
- Station 337, Romania, Iași – a number of voters complained about the poor information efforts concerning the location of the polling station. Others were unable to vote because they didn't bring the required documents with them, but only the identity cards.
- Station 339, Spain, Madrid – the EBPS members had to explain to the voters how to vote.

- Station 354, Italy, Padua – many voters had little knowledge about the voting procedures and asked for pens to mark their choice on the ballot papers.
- Station 355, Italy, Milan – at least 4 cases were observed where more than one person was in the voting booth at a time.
- Station 356, Italy, Milan – many voters were not formally informed about the referendum and owed their presence at the polling station to relatives and friends.
- Station 358, Italy, Verona – billboards were observed instructing voters to vote with their identification cards, and not with their passports, which created confusion among the voters. A number of voters demanded they be allowed to vote with the identity cards, arguing that they hadn't been properly informed.
- Station 370, Spain, Santander – many people expressed their indignation at the poor information campaign concerning the vote.

- **Information and education campaign conducted by the election authorities**

While failing to distribute leaflets with information on how to vote among the voters abroad, the CEC further confused these voters by distributing billboards that instructed them to come to the polling station with their identity cards. The observers registered 360 cases when the Moldovan citizens were not allowed to exercise their right to vote because they didn't have the required documents. Here are some illustrative cases:

- Station 334, Portugal, Faro – Billboards titled “Vote Step by Step” depicted the voting process which required the presentation of the identity card, and not of the passport, which led to confusion among the voters.
- Station 355, Italy, Milan – the same “step-by-step” billboards were observed here, as well. One hour after the vote started, the supervising election officials rectified the poster, crossed out with a pen the instruction related to the identity card, writing “passport for traveling abroad” in place and sticking a color picture of a passport over the picture of the identity card.
- Station 358, Italy, Verona – Similarly, the voters were misled by analogue “step-by-step” posters. Many of them demanded that they be allowed to vote with their identity cards, citing the failure of the election authorities to inform them beforehand.

### **C. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR POLLING STATIONS**

According to the Article 29/1 (5) of the Election Code, the particularities of the organization and functioning of EBPS abroad are regulated by the Central Electoral Commission, in coordination with MFAEI and the expenses related to the organization and functioning of these bureaus are covered by the budget allocated for the elections/referendum. The expenses for the polling stations abroad are preliminarily estimated by the Government and the CEC, and if these expenses are not included in the budget allotted for the elections/referendum, the money is to be provided from the Government's reserve fund.

According to the p. IV of the Expense estimate for the organization of the republican constitutional referendum on 5 September 2010, approved through the CEC Decision no. 3283 of 16 July 2010, the expenses incurred for covering the activity of EBPS established abroad summed up 1,181,500 lei.

Observers found that some of the EBPS members were not aware of the conditions of remuneration for their participation in the voting procedures, e.g. at the station no. 323 in Italia, Mestre, 5 EBPS



members told the observers that they were working there as volunteers and hadn't been informed about whether they were to be paid or not..

Some polling stations were also confronted with the insufficient provision of voting supplies and the deficient placement of polling stations. The following findings are relevant in this context:

- Station no. 299, Czech Republic, Prague – the supplies received by the EBPS did not include the tools necessary for sealing the ballot box and the station received only 2999 ballots of the 3000 requested.
- Station no. 321, Italy, Padua the ballot counting revealed that out of the 3000 ballots registered in the document attached to the supplies pack received by the polling stations, only 2999 were included in the pack.
- Station no. 323, Italy, Mestre – The EBPS was not supplied with ink-pads for the stamps. Consequently the EBPS decided that the “voted” stamps would not be placed in the polling booths but will be provided to the citizens by the bureau members together with the ballot. This decision has slowed down the voting process and even led to queues at the polling stations. Moreover, the station used a simple carton box provided by local Italian authorities as a ballot box.
- Station no. 332, Portugal, Lisbon and no. 335, Bucharest, Romania – when receiving the diplomatic bag with the voting supplies in Lisbon on 03.09.2010 it was found that it accidentally included the stamp of the polling station no. 335 from Bucharest, Romania. The redistribution of stamps was approved by the Decision no.50/03.09.2010 of the Chisinau District Electoral Council no.1.
- Station no. 339, Spain, Madrid – the polling station was placed at the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of an apartment house. There were no signs or indicators on the first floor or in the neighborhood to direct citizens to the polling station.
- Station no. 353, France, Toulouse – the polling station was located in the basement of a hotel. Some voters reported it was difficult to find the station.
- Station no. 354, Italy, Padua – The EBPS was not supplied with ink-pads for the stamps. The problem was solved at 9:40 AM when one of the bureau members brought several ink-pads from outside.
- Station no. 355, Italy, Milan – the arrangement of the polling station lasted until 08.05 AM of the Election Day, when the numbers of the polling booths were attached and the indicators with the number of the polling station were printed. Here to a carton served as ballot box. Moreover many voters were indignant of the fact that the polling station was placed very inconveniently and they were poorly informed about the location (only one public transportation route leads to the location of the station).
- Station no. 366, Mozhaisk and 367, Domodedovo, both in the Russian Federation – the observers found that the ballots prepared for the polling station in Domodedovo were sent to the Mozhaisk polling station, so that the Domodedovo section received the ballots prepared for Mozhaisk.
- Station no. 366, Mozhaisk, the Russian Federation – in order to reach the polling station, voters had to pass through a room guarded by a private guard and a hall guarded by three militiamen.

At the same time, in some foreign cities, local authorities were very open and helpful and provided some of the EBPS with equipment necessary for the voting process. Thus in the Sections no. 299, Czech Republic, Prague; 301, Greece, Athens; 304, Greece, Thessaloniki and 320, Italy, Bologna, national authorities cooperated with the local public authorities that provided them with polling booths and ballot boxes.

## D. ELECTORAL ROLLS

According to Article 39 (7) of the Election Code, within out-of-country polling stations, the voter rolls are drafted based on the data collected by the heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices operating on the territory of the respective states. At the beginning of the election period, diplomatic missions and consular offices publicize and update the voter rolls. 7 days prior to the elections the updating stops. Updated rolls are immediately sent to the Central Electoral Commission.

According to the p. 19 of the Regulation on the out-of-country voting of citizens of the Republic of Moldova, approved through the CEC Decision no.3375 of 27 July 2010, voter rolls will include diplomatic and consular staff and their family members, voters registered permanently or temporary by consular offices, voters who requested to be included in the voter rolls with at least 25 days before the Election Day. The same period is provided in the p. 20 of the Regulations.

These provisions lead to uncertainty as to the deadline for submitting primary voter rolls to the CEC. It is unclear if the updating of the rolls finished on 11 August 2010 or 29 August 2010, it is however certain that there were complaints about the quality of the primary rolls during the elections. Some relevant findings in this regard are:

- PS no. 309, Germany, Berlin – 3800 voters were inscribed in the primary roll. These included persons which were residing in Munich and Hamburg, cities that hosted their own polling stations. At the end of the day it was found that only 18 of the 3800 voters registered in the primary roll, and 91 of the additional one, cast their votes.
- PS no. 312, Germany, Hamburg – the primary voter roll was sent to the chairman of the EBPS at 8 AM of the Election Day by email. The EBPS drafted an additional record which was attached to the initial one and one copy was put into the ballot box.

## E. THE VOTING PROCESS

Several polling stations abroad were opened with delays. The observers noted the presence of third persons or local representatives of law-enforcement bodies during the voting inside several polling stations or in their immediate vicinity.

### • Participation of EBPS members in voting proceedings

According to Article 50 of the Election Code, voting is carried out on the Election Day between 7:00 and 21:00. The EBPS shall publicly announce the time and place of voting no later than 10 days before Election Day.

Many polling stations abroad were opened with delays ranging from several minutes to more than 1 hour. Relevant findings with this regard include:

- PS no. 311, Germany, Munich – the polling station was open for voting at 07:15.
- PS no. 312, Germany, Hamburg – the polling station was open for voting at 07:45. In the forty—five minutes of delay, the EBPS members counted the ballots, unsealed the ballot package and sealed the ballot box.
- PS no. 323, Italy, Mestre – the polling station was not prepared in time and the voting began at 8:16.
- PS no. 324, Italy, Mestre – the polling station was open for voting at 07:35.

- PS no. 333, Portugal, Portimao – the polling station was open for voting at 07:15.
- PS no. 339, Spain, Madrid – the polling station was open for voting at 07:35.
- PS no. 350, Ukraine, Odessa – the polling station was open for voting at 07:37.
- PS no. 355, Italy, Milan – the polling station was open for voting at 07:24.
- PS no. 356, Italy, Milan – the polling station was open at 07:04 with irregularities, the ballot box was sealed at 07:12, the voting started at 07:19, the records were drafted at 07:32 and signed at 07:40. However, the records themselves indicate the hour 07:02.

- **Presence of third parties in the voting proceedings**

According to Article 55 of the Election Code, The responsibility for maintaining order on Election Day in the polling place and territory adjacent to it, within a radius of 100 meters, shall be assigned to the chairperson of the EBPS. Only members of the superior electoral bodies, representatives of the electoral contestants to electoral bodies and accredited persons are entitled to be present during the sessions of the electoral bodies, vote counting and tabulation. No other individual may remain in the polling section longer than it takes one to vote.

During the elections day, observers noticed a number of cases of the presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station for a period longer than it takes one to vote. They also found that in a number of cases there were representatives of law-enforcement bodies in the immediate vicinity of the polling station. Even though no cases were reported of law-enforcers involvement in impeding voters, their presence could influence the voters who, from various reasons, avoided the contact with law-enforcement bodies.

Two cases of electoral campaigning were noticed in the elections day. In the vicinity of the PS no. 323, Italy, Mestre, a citizen was distributing calendars containing electoral advertising and another one was handing out newspapers of a political party participating in the referendum.

- PS no. 301, Greece, Athens – starting 06:40 and throughout the day, uniformed representatives of law-enforcement bodies were present in the vicinity of the embassy (4 in the beginning up to 8 during the day).
- PS no. 309, Germany, Berlin – policemen were noticed near the station during the entire day.
- PS no. 323, Italy, Mestre – law-enforcers were noticed during the day near the station. In a number of cases they even came inside the polling station.
- PS no. 325, Italy, Turin – the polling station was placed near the police station so that the entire day a police car was parked near the polling station - initially right in front of the entrance but later, at the request of the EBPS at a certain distance.
- PS no. 332, Portugal, Lisbon – policemen were noticed in the immediate vicinity of the polling station during the entire day.
- PS no. 335, Romania, Bucharest – policemen were noticed in the immediate vicinity of the polling station during the entire day.
- PS no. 338, the Russian Federation, Moscow – policemen were noticed in the immediate vicinity of the polling station during the entire day. At the opening hour, there were 15 militiamen near the PS.
- PS no. 339, Spain, Madrid – policemen were noticed in the immediate vicinity of the polling station during the entire day. A number of citizens told the observers that some of their acquaintances hesitated to enter the polling station because of the presence of the Spanish police near the building of the EBPS.
- PS no. 350, Ukraine, Odessa – law-enforcers were noticed near the polling station during the entire day.

- PS no. 356, Italia, Milan – two unauthorized persons were present in the PS from 07.00 to 15.30, saying they were employees of the host.
- PS no. 369, the Russian Federation, St. Petersburg – local police officers were noticed at the entrance and in the vicinity of the polling station during the entire day. A number of citizens reported that some of their acquaintances renounced on entering the PS because of they felt intimidated by the law-enforcers.

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### **III. Concerns**

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The deficiencies and problems identified by the observers in the day of the referendum lead to the following concerns:

1. Unsatisfactory degree of information and education destined for voters in the areas of out-of-country polling stations;
2. Lack of access to electoral information (debates, electoral advertising etc.).
3. Lack of training or insufficient training of electoral officials, which leads to irregularities in the observance of deadlines, voting and counting.
4. Multiple cases of inadequate arrangement of EBPS, insufficient equipment with election supplies, placing PS in places with poor access;
5. Presence of law-enforcers in the immediate vicinity of EBPS, which could have determined the voters with deficient documents to abstain from voting.
6. The voter rolls are drafted deficiently. It is unclear when do the diplomatic missions and the consular offices have to compile them;

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### **IV. Recommendations**

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Taking into account the findings of the monitoring, and the concerns identified, the observers recommend:

#### **Electoral bodies and public authorities**

1. Exclude the contradictions between the Article 39(7) of the Election Code and p 19 and 20 of the Regulation on the out-of-country voting of citizens of the Republic of Moldova, approved through the CEC Decision no.3375 of 27 July 2010 regarding the deadline for submitting voter rolls.
2. Better inform voters on the procedure for registering in voter rolls, including through cooperation with the mass-media destined for emigrants.
3. Avoid situations when voters are registered in several rolls, including by erasing the names inscribed in the voter rolls of the out-of-country EBPS form the voters rolls of their precinct in Moldova.
4. Publish materials on electoral education, taking into account the peculiarities of out-of-country voting and the procedural difference from the voting within the country.
5. Ensure quality training of all EBPS members and publish, if necessary, special guidelines for the members of the EBPS abroad.
6. Avoid establishing polling stations in the neighborhood of police stations and efficiently informing the citizens about the location of the PS.

7. Make necessary efforts to avoid the presence of the representatives of law-enforcement bodies in the vicinity of polling stations.

**Electoral participants**

1. Ensure that out-of-country voters are informed about the platform promoted.
2. Ensure the attendance and participation of EBPS members appointed by election participants (competitors – in other types of elections) in the election procedures.