



Strasbourg, 7 January 2005

CDL-EL(2005)003syn
Or. Engl.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
the Central Election Commission of Moldova

ELECTORAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Chişinau, Moldova, 10 – 11 December 2004

SYNOPSIS

From 10 to 11 December 2004, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission organised an electoral training workshop in Chisinau, Moldova, for members of the Central Electoral Commission and for representatives of civic organisations and the media. This workshop was organised in co-operation with the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova.

The workshop was attended by over 30 participants. The aim was to train the participants on procedures concerning both the pre-electoral process as well as the election day itself, with a view to the forthcoming Parliamentary elections, to be held on 6 March 2005.

Four Venice Commission experts and one member of the Secretariat spoke on the following topics:

1. electoral principles in Europe, the Code of good practice in electoral matters, by Mr Gaël MARTIN-MICALLEF;
2. the pre-electoral period; rights and obligations of candidates and representatives/delegates of candidates during the pre-electoral period and on polling day; rights and obligations of members of electoral commissions, by Mr Didier VINOLAS;
3. rights and obligations of domestic and international observers during the election day and during the whole electoral process, by Ms Chantal LOBATO;
4. election day, voting process; rights and obligations of members of polling stations, by Mr Jean-Stéphane SZIJARTO;
5. counting and publication of results; electoral disputes, by Mr Michel LAFLANDRE.

The Venice Commission experts trained participants on European electoral standards. They focused both on international comparison about electoral legislations and on practical exercises of votes. The feedback received from the participants was positive. Participants actively participated in the discussion on major electoral topics, such as the role of election commissioners on the polling day, or the rights and obligations of domestic and international observers during the whole electoral process. Regarding the pre-electoral period, questions were raised, *inter alia* on the electoral lists and their publicity. Finally, the final session was devoted to practical exercises regarding election day, voting as well as counting the vote.

The Central Electoral Commission of Moldova should organise local training workshops for members of territorial and local electoral commissions. Representatives of non governmental organisations and political parties will also organise training sessions for their domestic observers.