

## Moldova's elections were competitive but marred by foreign interference: observers



Paula Cardoso delivers the post-election statement at a press conference in Chisinau, 29 Sept. 2025

Moldova's parliamentary elections were competitive and offered voters a clear choice between political alternatives, but the process was marred by serious cases of foreign interference, illegal funding, cyberattacks and widespread disinformation, notwithstanding the authorities' efforts to respond, international observers said in a statement issued on Monday.

The joint observation mission from the OSCE PA, OSCE/ODIHR, PACE, and the European Parliament found that the legal framework provides a sound basis for holding democratic elections in line with international standards. A recent law introduced key improvements but frequent changes to the law and particularly shortly before election day undermined effective implementation as well as legal certainty.

"Yesterday's parliamentary elections in Moldova demonstrated a high level of commitment to democracy amid unprecedented hybrid threats coming from Russia," said Paula Cardoso, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observers. "From illicit financing funnelled through shadowy networks to

relentless disinformation campaigns eroding public trust, and brazen cybersecurity incidents designed to sow chaos, these tactics sought to manipulate Moldova's democracy and sovereignty. Yet, the nation's democratic tenacity prevailed and helped to ensure the integrity of the vote."

These elections took place against the backdrop of hybrid attacks, observers found. In this context, the election authorities prepared professionally for the elections and were transparent in their work at all levels. There was high trust in their competency and efficiency. However, a number of decisions along partisan lines on certain controversial issues called into question their impartiality and independence. Election day was smooth and positively assessed in the vast majority of polling stations observed.

"In the face of sustained disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and other elements of hybrid warfare originating from Russia, Moldova has been actively targeted in efforts to undermine its institutions," said Linnéa Wickman, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. "Despite these challenges, the country's steadfast commitment to transparency and the proactive measures taken by its authorities and citizens have been key to preserving the integrity of the electoral process. This underscores the need for continued vigilance and strong protection of democratic principles."

The international election observation mission to the Moldovan parliamentary elections totaled 415 observers from 50 countries, consisting of 269 ODIHR experts and long- and short-term observers, 108 parliamentarians and staff from the OSCE PA, 24 from PACE, and 14 from the EP.

## Moldova EOM resources available online

The full press release and post-election statement for the Moldova election observation mission are available here: <http://bit.ly/4pN5Ch0>  
To watch Monday's press conference in Chisinau, please click here: <http://bit.ly/4nv8r50>  
Photos are available for public use on Flickr: <https://lnkd.in/dwtEcu7y>

## Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Charalambides visits Montenegro

OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption Irene Charalambides (Cyprus) paid an official visit to Montenegro on 29–30 September, meeting with senior officials and representatives of key institutions engaged in strengthening the rule of law, promoting transparency, and advancing the fight against corruption.

On Monday, Charalambides met with Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Justice and Anti-Corruption, Momo Koprivica, for discussions on the government's reform agenda and efforts to enhance integrity in public institutions. She also held a meeting with the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Andrija Mandić, focusing on the role of parliaments in fostering accountability and good governance.

Underlining the importance of co-operation at all lev-



els in ensuring lasting progress in the fight against corruption, Charalambides met with Dušan Drakić, Director of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption, and the Supreme State Prosecutor, Milorad Marković, as well as Amb. Jan Haukaas, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, to discuss the Mission's work in support of Montenegro's anti-corruption initiatives. On Tuesday, she spoke at the conference on Women Political Leaders.

## President Pons addresses webinar on parliamentary oversight in OSCE region

OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain) delivered opening remarks today at a webinar on parliamentary oversight of governments. Regretting that there is currently a serious challenge of trust in politics, President Pons argued that enhancing parliamentary oversight is vital to reverse these trends.

"We must hold governments to account consistent with our shared values in the Helsinki Final Act," President Pons said, stressing that "selective scrutiny weakens parliamentary credibility, public trust, and international legitimacy."

Pointing to practical examples such as election observation, Pons stressed that oversight protects democracy by safeguarding the constitutional order and serving citizens with honesty and responsibility. In particular, he emphasized the need to eliminate double standards and combat disinformation.

The webinar, entitled "Checks and balances in action: Strengthening accountability through parliamentary oversight in OSCE region," was organized jointly by OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA, and featured participation by members of parliament and experts.

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