

RESOLUTION
Adopted by the 5th Moldovan-American Convention
San Francisco, California, United States of America



WHEREAS, on February 20, 2018, Congressman David Price and Congressman Pete Olson, as co-chairs of the Congressional Moldova Caucus, introduced a bipartisan House Resolution, which “reaffirm[ed] the importance of and support for free, fair, and transparent elections in Moldova”;

WHEREAS, in April 2016, Domnica Manole, a trial court judge in Chişinău, approved a countrywide referendum at which over 400,000 signatures were collected, and the regime of Vladimir Plahotniuc, an oligarch whose perfunctorily pro-Western Democratic Party reigns Moldova, had the judge administratively removed from the bench and criminally prosecuted as a warning and deterrent to other who pursue pro-democratic ideals;

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2017, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova changed the electoral system in favor of anti-Western fractions – all contrary to the negative recommendations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission, which raised heavy concerns over the risk of undue influence on candidates, the single-member constituencies, excessive thresholds for parliamentary representation in the proportional system, and concerns over the risk of inadequate representation of minorities and women;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan Government drew the single-member constituencies without any meaningful consultations with the citizenry;

WHEREAS, in December 2017 and March 12, 2018 the Central Electoral Commission baselessly rejected the civil society’s two initiatives to organize a legislative referendum to abrogate the law on Electoral Reform;

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2018, a pro-European candidate Andrei Nastase won the early mayoral elections in Chişinău, after a two-round contest on 20 May and 3 June 2018, receiving 52.57% of the vote and defeating a Socialist Party’s candidate Ion Ceban, who obtained 47.43%;

WHEREAS, the international observers of the mayoral elections in Chişinău recognized the results and the competitive nature of the contest, and the absence of illegalities, and that on the night of his loss, Mr. Ceban acknowledged defeat and congratulated Mr. Nastase on his win;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2018, a Chişinău court voided the results of the mayoral elections, on the grounds that both candidates had addressed voters on social media on election day with “get out to vote” invitation, after the legal end of campaigning – all notwithstanding the fact that none of the contenders in the electoral process asked for the annulment of the elections;

WHEREAS, the Chişinău’s Central Electoral Commission refused to hold repeated mayoral elections;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan citizens and Moldovan diaspora in Europe and the United States took to the streets, being further disappointed in the already weak trust in the state institutions of the Republic of Moldova;

WHEREAS, according to the June 29, 2018 UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, in Moldova human rights defenders and journalists are victims of stigmatization

campaigns and face politically motivated criminal charges or are threatened whenever they defend people with dissenting voices;

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2018, the European Union faced a deep erosion of democracy in Moldova, and, as a measured warning, has temporarily frozen a 33 million installment of a circa 100 million euro aid package destined to the Moldovan Government;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan independent journalists' access to information is restricted;

WHEREAS, the high profile trials, such as those regarding theft of \$1 billion from three Moldovan banks and/or the trial regarding most recent mayoral elections, are occurring behind closed doors thereby underscoring a deep crisis of the institutions in Moldova;

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2014 the Moldovan judicial system was used to launder circa \$22 billion, and until today there was not a single conviction of either the members of the Moldovan judiciary or of the culpable Moldovan authority;

WHEREAS, as a result of the state's capture by an anti-democratic and oligarchic regime, circa 38,000 Moldovan citizens immigrate from Moldova on a yearly basis;

WHEREAS, there exists pervasive campaigns sponsored and fueled by the General Media Group Corp. and Radio Media Group Inc that misinform the citizenry about the true state of political and social affairs in the Republic of Moldova and that further divide the spirit of the Moldovan citizens;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the 5th [Moldovan-American Convention](#) to:

- (1) Condemn a deep erosion of democracy within the Moldovan state institutions and the toxic governmental regime imposed by Vladimir Plahotniuc and his perfunctorily pro-Western Moldovan Democratic Party;
- (2) Affirm the right of the Moldovan people to live in a pro-European and democratic Republic of Moldova, free from the corruption of the toxic governmental regime imposed by Vladimir Plahotniuc and his perfunctorily pro-Western Moldovan Democratic Party;
- (3) Lobby the United States Government and members of the United States Senate and of the House of Representatives to:
 - support efforts to counter disinformation campaigns sponsored by the General Media Group Corp. and Radio Media Group Inc., and anti-European propaganda from abroad, and otherwise encourage the importance of and support for free, fair, and transparent elections in Moldova, and
 - take effective measures in support of restoration of the democracy and the rule of law in the Republic of Moldova;
- (4) Take effective measures in support of restoration of the proportional electoral system for the 2019 parliamentary elections;
- (5) Adopt the modification to the Moldovan Electoral Code so that the Moldovan diaspora will have meaningfully representative, fair, and equitable voting rights.

SO SAY WE ALL.