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Romanian CSOs express their concern on the situation in the Republic of Moldova

The Federation of the Romanian Development Nongovernmental Organizations (FOND) is deeply concerned about the situation in the Republic of Moldova.

In the context of the events following the national elections on April 5, 2009 in the Republic of Moldova we urge the international community and particularly the member states of the European Union to promptly react to the violations against human rights and democracy in this country from the European Neighborhood.

We are increasingly preoccupied by the messages we keep receiving from the Republic of Moldova with regard to the current situation, deriving from the public protests of April 6-7. The civil sector of the Republic of Moldova, international organizations and media keep signaling abusive arrests as well as the use of force against citizens of this country. Limitation of media's activities and intimidation of foreign journalists are an obvious tell-sign of the democratic destabilization occurring in Chisinau, with long-term repercussions to be expected. The current deprivation of the freedom of information, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and freedom of assembly and association that the Moldovan citizens are being subjected to represent blatant infringements of the European engagements undersigned by the Moldovan government.

We request the European Commission and the governments of the European Union's member states to grant a special attention with regard to human rights compliance in the Republic of Moldova.

We invite the European institutions to go beyond the paradigm of the spheres of influence and to take immediate action in order to guarantee that the Moldovan government actions following the recent arrests are being transparent and in compliance with human rights norms.

We ask the European Commission and the presidency of the European Union to urgently send delegations to the Republic of Moldova that should join the OSCE in monitoring the actions of the Moldovan government, opposition and of the public protestors in Chisinau and undertake the task of facilitating the dialogue among these actors. Immediate

measures need to be taken to ensure the protection of Moldovan citizens and civil society organizations that support the Moldovan democracy.

In the context of the latest events in Chisinau we call on the European Parliament and on the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to dispatch representatives with the mission of investigating the facts on the field.

We request that Human Rights NGOs be granted access as to evaluate the current situation in the Republic of Moldova.

The involvement of the European Union has to be more substantial in defending democracy and human rights in Moldova. As European citizens, we request that the EU Delegation in Chisinau be given a higher importance in the following period of time, by allocating financial and human resources adequate to its role and the current situation in the Republic of Moldova.

Using this opportunity, we want to draw the attention on the fact that the socio-political context has got worse and this may have as a consequence a growing migration flow of Moldovan citizens to the EU and not only. Considering this aspect, we suggest a systematic approach through dialogue, involving all the actors mentioned above, related to the current situation in the Republic of Moldova.

The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) represents a federation of 40 non-governmental organizations from Romania. FOND members are constantly in contact with their partners from the Republic of Moldova and are deeply concerned with the messages received from this neighboring country. As a platform, we are willing to actively take part in international consultations and debates on the situation in Moldova, being seriously preoccupied with the future of democracy in this country.

With our deepest consideration,

Viorel Miclescu
President
FOND