

H.E. Javier Solana
High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy,
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
1048 Brussels, Belgium

Prague, 10 April 2009

Dear High Representative,

On 7 May 2009, the Eastern Partnership summit is scheduled to take place in Prague, the launch of a major EU initiative to strengthen the democratic development of the EU's eastern neighbours. Today, however, the democratic transition of Moldova is threatened by the steps taken by President Vladimir Voronin in response to largely peaceful protests following the parliamentary elections of 5 April 2009. Constitutional rights are now being infringed, including the indiscriminate arrests and beatings of protesters, and a ban on private media, resulting in a political crisis with serious implications for the country's democratic development. President Voronin has also accused Romania, a European Union member state, of supporting the protesters and undermining the sovereignty of Moldova.

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society), a network of 37 independent policy centres in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia working to promote democracy, human rights, and an open society, and other partners from EU member states, and from neighbouring countries, in particular Moldova, to call upon the EU to act swiftly to mediate in the political and civil crisis in Moldova, not least to ensure that the Eastern Partnership initiative is not jeopardised before its inception.

The signatories of the attached statement believe that it is imperative that EU diplomats mediate the emerging political crisis in Moldova, requesting immediate liberation of arrested protestors, and further restraint of the authorities from exploiting the effects of the violent riots in political interests.

We, the undersigned, propose an immediate visit to Chisinau by the EU Troika, with a view to:

- the creation of a special round-table with participation of all political parties of this country, to restore trust and dialogue between the main political actors, to enshrine democratic standards of behaviour, including free access of political parties and civil society leaders to mass media, thus creating necessary preconditions to decide upon future organisation of free and fair elections in Moldova.

PASOS promotes and protects open society values, including democracy, the rule of law, good governance, respect for and protection of human rights, and economic and social development, by supporting entities that individually and jointly foster public participation in public policy issues at the European Union level, in other European structures, and in the wider neighbourhood of Europe and Central Asia.

Chair: George Tarkhan-Mouravi **Executive Director:** Jeff Lovitt

PASOS is a not-for-profit association registered in the Czech Republic

Sdružení pro podporu otevřené společnosti – PASOS, registrováno Ministerstvem vnitra ČR pod č.j. VS/1-1/58 438/04-R

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- the establishment of a special international group, mandated by the EU, with special envoys from the European Presidency to investigate the causes, actors and the escalation of riots, which have degenerated into violent actions, assisting independent judicial trials for those who committed these actions.

In addition, we would call upon EU diplomats to work to prevent the transformation of Moldova into an 'official' dictatorship, by assisting in the de-escalation of conflicts, by reducing the hate-speech, curbing police violence and the arrests of citizens in daylight by unidentified individuals. The EU can play an important role by mediation to end censorship in state media, for the liberation of political prisoners (200 arrested on the night of 7 April 2009, and by working to ensure the resolution of the conflicts via judicial, and not extra-judicial, means.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lovitt".

Jeff Lovitt, Executive Director, PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society)

and the undersigned:

Tevan Poghosyan, Executive Director, ICHD, Armenia

Gubad Ibadoglu Bayramov, Chair, Economic Research Center (ERC), Azerbaijan

Maria Prohaska, Executive Director, Center for Economic Development (CED), Bulgaria

Lubov Panayotova, Programme Director, European Institute Foundation, Bulgaria

Dr. Ognyan Minchev, Executive Director, IRIS, Bulgaria

Marin Lessenski, IRIS, Bulgaria

Stefan Ralchev, IRIS, Bulgaria

Alexander Marinov, IRIS, Bulgaria

Alice Savová, Executive Director, Association for International Affairs (AMO), Czech Republic

Michal Thim, Research Center Director, AMO, Czech Republic

Kateřina Špácová, Director, Civic Belarus, Czech Republic

David Král, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

Radomír Špok, Executive Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

Vladimír Bartovic, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Czech Republic

Jeff Lovitt, Executive Director, PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society)

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD), Georgia

George Tarkhan-Mouravi, co-Director, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Georgia

Fatmir Curri, Program Co-ordinator, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation

Ahmat Madeyuev, Executive Director, Center for Public Policy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (CPP)

Dace Akule, Research Fellow, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, Latvia

Zhidas Daskalovski, President, Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia

Dr Igor Munteanu, Director, IDIS Viitorul, Moldova

Arcadie Barbarosie, Director, Institute for Public Policy (IPP), Moldova

Valeriu Prohntski, Executive Director, Expert-Grup, Moldova

Jacek Kucharczk, Research Director, Institute of Public Affairs, Poland

Grigorij Meseznikov, President, Institute for Public Affairs (IVO), Slovak Republic

Olga Shumylo, Executive Director, International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS), Ukraine

copies sent to:

H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

H.E. Alexandr Vondra, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Czech Republic

H.E. Kalman Mizsei, Special Representative for Moldova, Council of the European Union

H.E. Benito Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Affairs

Members of the European Parliament