

## **Statement of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Concerning the Events in Moldova**

We are expressing extreme concern over the events unfolding against the background of the just-concluded regular elections of deputies to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, which took place on April 5.

Russian official circles earlier joined the satisfaction voiced by international observers from the OSCE, Council of Europe, CIS, the European Parliament and other organizations that the expression of the will of Moldovan citizens was free and completely in line with democratic and legal norms. Everybody attested to the good preparation for elections, among other things.

However, as it now transpires, preparing for them in their own way were also those who dislike the prerequisites created in recent years for calm and socioeconomic stability, along with the balanced foreign policy course chosen by the country's leadership and now given a mandate from the public for continuation.

Judging by the slogans being proclaimed in the squares and by the abundance of Romanian flags in the hands of the organizers of excesses, their aim is to denigrate recent years' achievements in strengthening the Republic's sovereignty and perhaps to somehow influence the election results. With the continuation of acts of vandalism the threat stands increasingly pronounced for statehood and democratic processes in Moldova.

The feeling is that the prepared scenarios for agitational struggle and the mobilization of resources of a "democracy of storming the streets" have been left without stage managers who had hoped to stage them under their guidance. Anyway, it's unlikely there will be many people wishing to link themselves to the anarchic actions that in no way correspond to the norms accepted in a civilized society.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that prudence will prevail, that public and constitutional order will be restored in the coming days and the choice of the citizens of Moldova confirmed by all politically responsible forces.

Any attempts to play on the emotions of the young people forming the bulk of the crowd, and especially to stoke these passions from the outside are not merely reckless and reprehensible, but short-sighted as well.

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