



CIS Summit in Chisinau: Is there any good news for Moldova?

NEWS, COMMENTARIES AND INTERVIEWS

NEWS

- 1. Moldova's Acting President: CIS is an old woman expecting to die, but this does not mean Moldova will withdraw from it. Info-Prim Neo. 10.10.2009.**
- 2. Russian foreign minister: Moldovan leadership has confirmed its interest to cooperate with the CIS. Infotag. 09.10.2009.**
- 3. The credit of 500 million USD promised by Russia may be lower. DECA-press. 09.10.2009.**
- 4. Transnistria conducting military exercises during CIS Summit. Infotag. 09.10.2009.**

COMMENTARY

- 5. CIS Summit behind, AEI remains united. Analysis by Victor Chirila, Foreign Policy Association acting executive director. Info-Prim Neo. 12.10.2009.**

-
- 1. Moldova's Acting President: CIS is an old woman expecting to die, but this does not mean Moldova will withdraw from it. Info-Prim Neo. 10.10.2009.**

"The CIS is an old woman that is expecting to die, while the Kozak Plan is an old man that has already died," the Caretaker President of Moldova and Head of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu said at a conference held to sum up the works of the CIS summit. But he stressed that this does not mean that Moldova will leave this organization. A number of documents were signed during the summit that brought together CIS heads of state and foreign ministers. The longest discussions, of about two hours, centered on the anti-crisis program. Mihai Ghimpu said some of the documents were signed with reserve, but did not give details.

The Speaker said that Ukraine's President Victor Yushchenko and the President of Belarus Alexandr Lukashenko assured him of their support. "Yushchenko and Lukashenko backed the Alliance for European Integration formed after the elections," Ghimpu said. He also said that his Russian counterpart



Dmitry Medvedev described the Moldovan people's vote of July 2009 as a democratic decision and said that Russia will cooperate with the present administration.

<http://info-prim.md/?a=10&nD=2009/10/10&ay=26304>

2. Russian foreign minister: Moldovan leadership has confirmed its interest to cooperate with the CIS. Infotag. 09.10.2009.

[...] Asked if by any chance the European strivings by the new Moldovan leadership may lead to a split of the CIS, Sergey Lavrov replied he prefers to proceed from facts, "and the facts are as follows: the Moldovan leadership has confirmed its interest to closely cooperate with the CIS. Acting President Mihai Ghimpu confirmed with full certainty that Moldova has a great need for developing economic cooperation within the CIS frame".

As for Moldova's foreign-policy targets, Sergey Lavrov presumes it is necessary to wait until full formation of the republic's new leadership, after which the sides will discuss "the orientation of our strategic partner" - Moldova. Answering a question about only 7 presidents to take part in the Chisinau CIS Summit tomorrow, the Russian foreign minister replied there is nothing strange about it, for it is impossible to gather 11 foreign ministers, 11 premiers and 11 presidents simultaneously in one place.

Asked to comment Transnistria's wish to join Russia, Minister Lavrov said the Kremlin looks on this through the prism of the accords reached over last 15 years. Together with Ukraine and the OSCE, he said, Russia has made the main contribution to putting an end to the conflict's hot phase, and worked all subsequent years to preserve Moldova's territorial integrity and work out a special legal status for Transnistria. He voiced regret - which, in his words, is shared by all negotiation process participants - that the previous Moldovan leadership refused to sign the Kozak Memorandum in November 2003, though that document contained all principles by using which the Transnistria conflict can be resolved. In his words, life has shown that the principles are viable, and no other ones can actually be found.

Lavrov said that the new Moldovan leadership is interested to continue negotiations in the current format [5+2], that "this is a general line, and the position will take its final shape upon the election of the new president of Moldova". The Russian foreign minister presumes the Moldovan government should scrutinize and come to comprehend all the finest nuances of the Transnistria settlement process.

"Our military contingent is present in Transnistria not because we, Russia, want this, but because we guard the huge stocks of ammunition, whose evacuation was suspended because the previous Moldovan leadership upset the Kozak Memorandum signature in 2003", said Sergey Lavrov.

Concerning Moldova's wish to replace military observers in the Transnistria Security Zone, Lavrov said the peacekeeping format can be changed but only in the context of general settlement of the Transnistria



conflict, as was stipulated by the Kozak Memorandum. And statements like "you first remove your peacekeepers and then we will start talks" mean that the speaker has only a superficial knowledge of the settlement problem, said Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov. <http://www.azi.md/en/print-story/6310>

3. The credit of 500 million USD promised by Russia may be lower. DECA-press. 09.10.2009.

"This is a support for Moldova and its citizens, and not for its former or current governing authorities", Prime Minister Vlad Filat specified. On Friday, October 9, in time the meeting with the Russian prime deputy Prime Minister, Prime Minister Vlad Filat insisted on the fact that the Russian Federation would provide the credit of 500 million USD, promised before that to Moldova. As the press service of the Government mentions, in time of the meeting with the Russian official, Vlad Filat mentioned that it is important that the process of providing the aid promised by the Russian Federation to Republic of Moldova comes to an end. "This is a support for Moldova and its citizens, and not for its former or current governing authorities", Filat specified. In his turn, Igor Suvalov reconfirmed Russia's availability to provide this loan. "We have to specify the conditions and the concrete amount of this support", Suvalov mentioned. The official said that this credit may be lower than 500 million USD, announced before. <http://www.azi.md/en/print-story/6320>

4. Transnistria conducting military exercises during CIS Summit. Infotag. 09.10.2009.

After the exercises their participants visited Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense, which trains motor shooters, artillerists, deputy commanders for educational work. On Thursday, October 8, the authorities of the unrecognized Transnistrian Moldovan Republic carried out staff-command exercises. Transnistrian President Igor Smirnov personally, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Anatoly Kaminsky, Ministry of Defense Stanislav and villages, heads of the ministries and other institutions participated in these exercise. The exercises were conducted in a closed regime. "The objective of the planned exercises was to train the execution of tasks on organizing the logistic and normative provision of Transnistria's capacity in emergency situations. The planned tasks were fulfilled in their full volume", Vice-Minister of Defense Vladimir Atamaniuc said. He designated the coincidence of the time of the exercises with the CIS Summit in Chisinau as occasional and does not associate them with Moldova's political course concerning the PMR, which course, by the way, becomes more and more destructive, "Our task is to provide the appropriate level of the state's defense capacity, in order not to allow a military aggression against Transnistria and in case of an aggression to defend Transnistria surely. Transnistria was always reinforcing its defense capacity irrespective of statements on the internal



political situation in Moldova", the Vice-Minister said. In Smirnov's word, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Transnistrian Armed Forces, the defense issue remains always actual, in particular in the light of the last statements by new politicians, who came to power in Chisinau. After the exercises their participants visited Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense, which trains motor shooters, artillerists, deputy commanders for educational work. For the last time the military exercises were carried out in the middle of September. They took place in the vicinity of the military aerodrome of the Novosavitskaya railway station with the participation of regular units and reserve militaries. In the course of an imitated combat with the enemy, who attacked Transnistria, heavy artillery, aviation armored cars, and cannons were used. <http://www.azi.md/en/print-story/6321>

5. CIS Summit behind, AEI remains united. Analysis by Victor Chirila, Foreign Policy Association acting executive director. Info-Prim Neo. 12.10.2009.

The Summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) took place in Chisinau on October 9. This event, in the view of the former government, was to crown the victory of the Communists Party (PCRM) in this year's parliamentary elections. Moreover, if the PCRM remained in power, the CIS Summit was to sanction the reorientation to the East of Moldova's foreign policy. The PCRM's defeat in the early legislative elections of July 29 and the coming to power of the Alliance for European Integration (AEI) thwarted the plans of the former head of state Vladimir Voronin and his party.

It is known that the parties that formed the AEI have different stances on the fate of the CIS and, especially, on the need of Moldova remaining a member of this regional organization dominated by Russia. Thus, not accidentally, the opponents of the AEI secretly hoped that the organization of the CIS Summit in Chisinau will cause the first cracks in the foundation of the Alliance. Now that the CIS Summit became history, we can say that the expectations of the adversaries of the AEI remained unfulfilled. On the contrary, the Alliance even managed to transform the CIS Summit from a real challenge to its unity into a good opportunity for promoting its own internal and foreign policy objectives, while the results speak for themselves.

First of all, the presence of the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev at the Summit showed Moscow's readiness to cooperate with the new Moldovan authorities. In fact, the statements made by Dmitry Medvedev after the bilateral meetings with Moldova's Acting President Mihai Ghimpu and the Alliance's candidate for the presidency Marian Lupu showed that Moscow does not cry after Vladimir



Voronin and the PCRM. Attending the Summit, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov confirmed once again that Moscow did not forgive Voronin for the refusal to sign the Kozak Memorandum in 2003.

One fact is for sure - Moscow is looking for new reliable partners in Chisinau. Dmitry Medvedev's consent to hold a meeting with Marian Lupu, ignoring the former president, must be regarded namely through such an angle. Even if we do not know details about the discussions between Lupu and Medvedev, the meeting was a sign that the AEI's candidate for the presidency is supported. Furthermore, Marian Lupu's presence at the meeting of the heads of state was the result of the tacit consent of the CIS presidents, especially of the Russian president. These political gestures by Moscow are not at all accidental and the leaders and strategists of the PCRM should treat them seriously.

At the same time, the AEI managed to use the context and tribune of the CIS Summit to announce the major postulates of its foreign policy, namely: 1) Moldova's integration into the EU as main strategic goal; 2) pragmatic, coherent, predictable and transparent relations with the foreign partners, including the CIS; 3) Moldova will not leave the CIS, but its cooperation within this organization will center principally on the development of economic cooperation inside the CIS; 4) the respect for Moldova's status of neutrality by all the states, including Russia, which must withdraw its troops from Transnistria; 5) the Kozak memorandum is an obsolete document, while the Transnistrian dispute will be resolved at talks in the 5+2 format; 6) Moldova wants that the European Union and the United States play a greater role in the identification and guaranteeing of a sustainable political solution to the Transnistrian conflict; 7) the Russian 'peacekeeping' troops must be replaced with an international civil monitoring mission, etc.

The decisions taken at the Summit will have yet a minimum impact on the fate of the CIS, which continues to be an inefficient regional organization that is close to dismemberment. It is true that the CIS heads of state at the Summit examined a decision concerning joint measures aimed at overcoming the financial and economic crisis. It should be noted that this happened only one year after the start of the crisis. In addition, the examined document sets out only the general course of the joint anti-crisis measures as a plan of concrete measures is to be worked out and approved by the governments of the CIS member states. This means that, most probably, the organization will have a finalized anti-crisis plan of action only next year.



Is this a confirmation of the CIS's efficiency? Certainly no. Moreover, there are serious reasons to question the successfulness of the future anti-crisis plan of action when no concrete funds for implementing the agreed measures were earmarked and the CIS continues to be confronted with structural problems and the centrifugal actions of its members. The absence of Central Asian presidents from the meeting in Chisinau, where the joint anti-crisis plan of action was discussed, is rather symptomatic.

Of the multiple decisions made at the Summit, only the decisions regarding the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War can be implemented fully. If so, this will be one more proof that the organization of solemn ceremonies is the best thing that the CIS Summits can do. But this is far from being the role that these meetings must play in the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States. <http://info-prim.md/?a=100>