

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz, 60
1047, Brussels

Brussels, 12.06.2024

Dear Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Dear Mrs. Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President for Demography and Democracy
Dear Mr. Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice

The electoral process is marred by allegations of widespread voter fraud. The vote tally, especially in the capital of the country, Bucharest, is doubtful to say the least. There are countless suspicions of fraud in two of the capital districts held by mayors representing Romania's democratic opposition. The very fabric of democracy is under threat and citizens are being robbed of the power of their vote.

Doubts about organizing elections were expressed as early as when the Government of Romania named a former Member of the Parliament as president of the Permanent Election Authority (AEP). Even more so when the Government decided to hold local and European elections on the same day without a proper infrastructure for such a vast undertaking.

On election day, Bucharest voters found ballots that were already stamped on the representatives of the ruling coalition. Similar situations were reported in several towns across Romania, like Râmnicu Sărat, Sacalaz or Bistra.

For days the ruling PSD-PNL coalition rejected requests to recount the votes in polling stations where observers stated that the minute submitted to the authorities is not the one they signed. Some observers declared that the minutes are erroneous and do not represent the number of votes in the sealed bags. AEP President Toni Greblă admitted publicly that roughly a quarter of minutes submitted to the Authority were flawed in Bucharest District 1, for instance.

Moreover, election observers and delegates were forced to wait for hours in the blistering heat to hand over the ballots to the Election Bureaus. In Bucharest's District 1, for instance, the process was suspended and thus bags full of paper ballots were left unsupervised.

In total, the electoral process was suspended in 22 counties in the country.

Regarding Romania's election overall (both for the European Parliament and for local authorities), the country is facing an unprecedented situation: more than one million votes were nullified, but not yet registered on the centralized electronic platform.

Democracy and general voter confidence in a fair and just process in Romania are at stake at this moment and we are urging you to make a strong statement supporting the European values and the rule of law in Romania.

We also believe that an independent inquiry into Romania's 2024 elections is a must and that you, President, Vice-president, Commissioner, should send an urgent mission to Romania under the European Rule of Law Mechanism.

We believe that the EU Commission must take a clear position defending democracy and European citizens by calling upon Romanian authorities to take all election fraud allegations very seriously and work for a legal and just solution.

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