



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Members of the European Parliament

Dorin Chirtoacă  
Primăria Municipiului Chişinău  
Bd. Ştefan cel Mare 83  
2012 Chişinău  
Moldavie

Victor Catan  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Bd. Ştefan cel Mare 75  
2012 Chişinău  
Moldavie

Concerns: LGBT Pride march on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010

Reference: 20100428/BS

Brussels, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Dear Mayor,

GenderDoc-M, a non-governmental organisation promoting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Moldova, have planned to hold a peaceful demonstration supporting the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Chişinău.

It has come to our attention that, following requests from army veteran and religious groups, your services are considering a ban of the event, as well as its relocation to a location with little to no public exposure. We are also aware of the threat posed by groups such as Mişcarea Naţional-Creştină and Noua Dreapta wishing to hold counter-demonstrations, which may turn—and indeed, in the past, have turned—into violent events.

Moldovan authorities, including the Chişinău City Hall, have failed to convincingly demonstrate their commitment to LGBT minorities' freedom to assemble in the recent past. This can be considered a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights' Article 11, which guarantees Moldovan citizens the right to assemble freely. European jurisprudence very clearly considers 'moral grounds' or pressure from other parts of society to constitute illegitimate grounds for banning any public event,

### **The European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights**

ASP 13 G 201 · EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT · RUE WIERTZ, 60 · 1047 BRUSSELS · BELGIUM  
TEL. +32 (0) 228 37 759 · FAX +32 (0) 228 49 759 · BRUNO.SELUN@EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU · WWW.LGBT-EP.EU

including gay prides. Furthermore, international legal opinions (including the Venice Commission's) make it clear that relocating a public demonstration to places with little to no public exposure equate banning the event.

Furthermore, the Moldovan Law on Assemblies adopted in February 2008 guarantees Moldovan citizens the right to assemble in small numbers without seeking agreement from local authorities, a right which is contravened by your summoning GenderDoc-M before the court on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The Court's decision to ban the Pride from central grounds and to allow it to go ahead exclusively at the Green Theatre is paramount to banning the event, which GenderDoc-M will seek to challenge in national—and if needed, international—courts.

Regardless of today's judgement, we demand that you guarantee Moldovan citizens their right to assemble peacefully, as well as guarantee their security on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We would also like to bring to your careful attention the fact that Marije Cornelissen, Member of the European Parliament, will be officially present at the Pride to monitor the official protection of the event, and ensure it takes place smoothly. Representatives of the European Parliament will watch the event closely, and hold city and national authorities to account after the event should any violence arise.

On behalf of the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights,

Yours sincerely,



Michael Cashman MEP  
*Co-president*



Ulrike Lunacek MEP  
*Co-president*



Raül Romeva i Rueda MEP  
*Vice-president*



Marije Cornelissen MEP  
*Member*



Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP  
*Vice-president*