

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000292/25
to the Commission
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)
(23 January 2025)**

Subject: Elections in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia

1. What specific knowledge does the Commission have regarding Moldovan President Sandu's allegations of Russian financial interference in the elections? ⁽¹⁾
2. What specific knowledge does the Commission have regarding allegations of irregularities in the Georgian elections? ⁽²⁾

Submitted: 23.1.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2025)**

In the period leading up to and following the 2024 presidential elections and constitutional referendum in the Republic of Moldova, the national law enforcement authorities have been actively communicating about uncovering large-scale vote-buying schemes. Dozens of cases have been opened, and hundreds of searches have been conducted, including seizing bundles of cash.

Local media have published their own investigations into vote-buying networks as well. Furthermore, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), in its preliminary findings and conclusions ⁽¹⁾ following the first round of the presidential elections and the constitutional referendum, referred to 'credible evidence of interference from abroad, including offering illicit monetary incentives to influence voters'.

The OSCE/ODIHR, in its preliminary findings ⁽²⁾ and final report ⁽³⁾ on the 2024 Parliamentary elections in Georgia, highlighted numerous electoral irregularities which cast doubts on the integrity of the whole process.

The findings raise serious concerns about the gaps and inconsistencies of the electoral legal framework, misuse of administrative resources, independence of institutions, pressure on voters, including public employees, intimidation on election day, including violation of the secrecy of people's vote; all of which compromised the ability of voters to cast their vote without fear of retribution and eroded the public trust in the process.

The final report points to post-election developments, such as the insufficient consideration of complaints, the forcible suppression of protests, which go against international standards and obligations, including Georgia's commitments to uphold freedom of assembly.

¹ <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/moldau-wahl-referendum-102.html>

² <https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/georgien-usa-und-eu-fordern-untersuchung-der-vorwuerfe-bei-georgien-wahl/100083732.html>

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/moldova/576117>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/579346>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/584029>