# Moldova

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| Last update: | 12 mei 2022 |
| Population: | 2,573,928 (World Bank 2021) |
| President: | Maia Sandu |
| Governemental type: | Republic |
| Ruling coalition: | Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) |
| Last election: | 11 July 2021 (Early parliamentary elections) |
| Next election: | October 2023 (Municipal & Mayor elections) |
| Sister parties: | |

Over the last few years Moldova has experienced several political crises. In December of 2020, the pro-Russian government led by Ion Chicu resigned. The resignation of the Chicu government came after Maia Sandu won the presidential elections in November 2020, where she defeated incumbent pro-Russian Igor Dodon. After Sandu's victory, many protestors took to the streets to demand the resignation of Chicu government. After the government had resigned, Maia Sandu tasked Natalia Gavrilita from PAS with forming a government. However, Gavrilita failed twice. According to Moldova's constitution and electoral code, snap elections are triggered if a government is not formed in 90 days. Thus, Sandu asked the constitutional court for approval to dissolve parliament.

The parliamentary elections took place in July 2021. The outcome showed a political shift with a major win for the pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) which won 63 out of the 101 seats . PAS' main competitor, the pro-Russian Electoral Block of Communists and Socialists (BECS), led by former President Igor Dodon only managed to win 32 seats. The Moldovan diaspora, of which many live in the European Union and the United States, played in a significant role in the outcome of the elections. The reformists and pro-European message of PAS managed to engage many of the Moldovans living abroad, and 86 percent of the votes casted by members of the diaspora went to PAS.

The parliamentary elections in 2021 and the election of pro-Western politician Maia Sandu as President in November 2020, paved the way for more cooperation with the West. Moldova currently aspires to join the European Union; the country has implemented the first three-year Action Plan within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and has signed a far-reaching Association Agreement with the EU in 2014 that came into force on July 1st 2016. In June 2022, the European Commission recommended that Moldova could receive candidate status for accession, subject to several conditions.

In February 2022, Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine. It immediately sparked concern in Moldova, especially as Belarusian and Russian leaders rumoured their ambition to link their operations to Moldova's Transnistria province. Moldova heavily relies on Russian energy imports and its economy is hit heavily by the war. The country also hosts many refugees that have fled Ukraine as a result of the invasion.

## Political Situation

The second round of presidential elections took place on the 15 November and were won by Maia Sandu. Sandu managed to defeat pro-Russian incumbent Igor Dodon. Moldova's diaspora played a significant role in the victory of Maia Sandu in the elections. Moldova's diaspora previously showed minimal involvement in politics and limited participation in the elections. However, in the 2020 Presidential elections, votes from the diaspora made up 16 percent of the total. These additional votes were able to change the outcome in Sandu's favor.

After the outcome of the presidential elections in 2020, thousands of Moldovans took to the streets to protest and demand the government's resignation, demanding snap parliamentary elections. The protests erupted after the parliament, still controlled by the Socialists, approved legislation that would strip Maia Sandu of control over the country's intelligence service. Instead, the control over the services would be moved under the jurisdiction of the parliament. This was seen by many as a move by Chicu and his allies to take away control from Sandu. The protests were supported by Maia Sandu, who also called on the government to resign.

One month after the elections, on December 23, Moldova's Prime Minister Ion Chicu and his pro-Russian government stepped down. The resignation came right before a parliament session where a motion of no-confidence against the government would be discussed. After the Chicu government resigned, Sandu put Natalia Gavrilita forward as prime minister to form a government. Gavrilita made two attempts to form a government, but failed both times. According to Moldova's constitution and electoral code, snap elections are triggered if a government is not formed in 90 days. After the expiration of this constitutionally mandated period, and two failed attempts to form a government, Maia Sandu made her case in front of Moldova's constitutional court to dissolve parliament. On April 15 the court ruled in favour of Sandu's request to dissolve parliament.

After the dissolvement of the parliament, snap parliamentary elections were held in July 2021. The elections were a major victory for Sandu's centre-right pro-European PAS, winning 63 out of the 101 seats in parliament. The pro-Russian Electoral Block of Communists and Socialists (BECS), led by Igor Dodon, only managed to win 32 seats. PAS ran on a platform of European integration, anti-corruption and economic development. This pro-European reformist message again resonated with the Moldovan diaspora. The parliamentary elections again saw a large participation of the diaspora, of which 86 percent of the votes went to PAS.

Both the presidential and parliamentary elections show a shift within Moldova's political landscape. PAS and Maia Sandu express a pro-European stance, shifting away from the close ties with Russia that were preferred under previous governments. Instead, PAS and Sandu advocated for closer a reformist agenda and closer cooperation with the European Union.

**The Transnistria conflict**
 The Transnistria conflict is a frozen conflict between Moldova and the separatist Trans-Dniester region, a piece of land between Ukraine and the Dniester river. The region is de jure part of Moldova, but de facto independent. The majority of the population in the region speaks Russian. Dissatisfaction in the region grew when Moldovan was made the official language instead of Russian. The region also feared for a possible reunification with Romania. After a brief war which ended in 1992, Trans-Dniester broke away from Moldova. After a referendum in 2006 the region reasserted its demand for independence and backed a plan to eventually join Russia. The region has its own government which is financially and military supported by Russia. The statehood of the Trans-Dniester region is not recognized by the international community.

Throughout the years the conflict has remained frozen. Russian peacekeeping troops have been stationed in the region since the war in 1992 and maintained the status quo. However, president Maia Sandu has taken a more critical stance than her pro-Russian predecessor. She has criticized former president Dodon for failing to provide concrete plans for the reintegration of the Transnistria, and has also rejected the idea of federalization of the region. Sandu also called for the Russian troops to be removed from the region, so that they could be replaced by civilian monitors with support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) . However, until now there have not been any changes on the ground.

Amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, political leaders in Transnistria are reluctant to announce their recognition of the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk. As a border region, Transnistria still has major commercial and societal ties with Ukraine and in recent years, its de-facto President Vadim Krasnoselsky has tried to balance Russian and Ukrainian interests. If Moscow intends to annex Transnistria, this is likely to change. For now, Transnistrian authorities categorically reject Sandu's EU bid – and subsequently try to remain aversive of the invasion of Ukraine.

**The Russian invasion of Ukraine**

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Moldova has remained precautious in its stance. It declared itself neutral, as it is heavily dependent on Russian energy imports. The country is one of the poorest in Europe and fears an extension of military operations into its territory. This was only exacerbated after Belarus's dictator and Putin ally Alexander Lukashenko infamously showed an invasion map to his military elite that showed an extension of operations into Moldovan territory.

Moldova banned the symbolic 'Z', 'V' and Saint George's ribbon gestures. These symbolize support for the Russian invasion. The ban was met with fierce Kremlin criticism. On April 22, 2022, Russian Major-General Rustam Minnekayev said that "control over southern Ukraine is another route to Transnistria, where there is also evidence that the Russian-speaking population is being oppressed." It only exacerbated worries in Moldova on Russian military activities in the future.

**EU admission?**

On March 3, President Maia Sandu submitted a formal EU membership application to Brussels. Sandu said that "if some decisions need time, others must be taken promptly and decisively, using the opportunities offered by the changing landscape of the world."

Its application shows how deeply threatened the country feels in the region.

The discussion on a possible unification of Moldova with neighboring Romania is also sparked by the Russian threat. Both countries share historical ties and some parties in both nations still deeply wish an integration. However, western Europe is reluctant, as it would mean an immediate accession of Moldova into the EU and NATO, which is sure to anger Moscow. According to Moldova's Prime Minister Gavrilița Romanian accession is not an option, as it "has not been discussed". She does add that Moldova is "ready to do the homework that is necessary to achieve the standards to join the European Union". On June 17, 2022, the European Commission finally recommended that Ukraine should become a candidate member of the EU.

## Elections

**Electoral system**
Moldova is a parliamentary representative democratic republic. According to its constitution, the parliament is the supreme representative organ and the single legislative authority of the state. The parliament is a unicameral assembly with 101 seats whose members are elected by proportional representation every four years. To enter the Moldovan parliament, independent candidates must obtain 3 per cent of the total number of votes. The political parties must pass a 6 per cent threshold and the electoral blocs that consist of two parties at least 9 per cent. The electoral blocs consisting of more than two political parties must receive at least 12 per cent of the votes. The "lost votes" of the parties that did not pass the threshold are subsequently distributed proportionally among those who did.

The Moldovan president is elected by the people for a duration of four years. Election outcomes are only valid when a minimum of one third of the registered voters cast their ballots. There are three ways in which a candidate can be nominated: through a political party, an electoral coalition or as an independent. To become president, the participant has to obtain an absolute majority of the votes. This means that at least half of the voters have to cast their ballots for one person. If this requirement is not met, a second round with the winner and runner up is held, two weeks after the initial vote. The candidate with the most votes in this round wins the elections.  Presidential candidates have to be at least 40 years of age and be able to speak Romanian, which is the country's state language. In addition, he or she has to have lived in Moldova for a minimum of 10 years.

## Parliamentary Elections

The last parliamentary elections took place on the 11 July 2021. The elections were won by the pro-European Action and Solidarity Party (PAS), which managed to gain well over 50 percent of the votes. PAS also won a majority in parliament, gaining 63 out of the 101 seats. The alliance of the Electoral Bloc of Communist and Socialists (BECS) only received 27,17 percent of the votes and won 32 seats. The Sor Party won 5 seats in parliament. Sor is led by controversial businessmen Ilan Shor who lives in Israel and is being tried in absentia over a 1 million bank fraud. No other parties managed to win seats in the elections. The elections gave a strong mandate to pro-European president Maia Sandu, who wants to implement a broad reformist agenda.

**Election results**

| Party | % of the votes | Total Seats | Seats compared to the last election |
|---|---|---|---|
| Party of Action and Solidarity | 52,80% | 63 | +48 |
| Electoral Bloc of Communists and Socialists | 27,17% | 32 | -3 |
| Sor Party | 5,74% | 6 | -1 |
| Electoral Bloc ''Renato Usatîi'' | 4,10% | 0 | New |
| Dignity and Truth Platform Party | 2,33% | 0 | -11 |
| Democratic Party of Moldova | 1,81% | 0 | -30 |
| Democracy at Home Party | 1.45% | 0 | 0 |
| We Build Europe at Home Party | 1,28% | 0 | New |

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| Collective Action Party – Civic Congress | 0.77% | 0 | New |
| Alliance for the Union of Romanians | 0.49% | 0 | New |
| National Unity Party | 0.45% | 0 | New |
| Party of Development and Consolidation | 0.43% | 0 | New |
| Hope Professionals' Movement Party | 0.19% | 0 | 0 |
| Party of Change | 0.17% | 0 | 0 |
| People's Power Party | 0.11% | 0 | New |
| Working People's Party | 0,10% | 0 | New |
| Party of Law and Justice | 0,10% | 0 | New |
| New Historical Option | 0,10% | 0 | New |
| Party of Regions of Moldova | 0,09% | 0 | 0 |
| Ecologist Green Party | 0,08% | 0 | 0 |
| Patriots of Moldova | 0,06% | 0 | New |
| New Party | 0,01% | 0 | New |
| Independents | 0,17% | 0 | -3 |
| Valid Votes | 1,467,216 | | |
| Invalid Votes | 13,749 | | |
| **Total** | **1,480,965** | | |
| Voter turnout | 3,052,603 | 48,51% | |

## Presidential Elections

Moldova's presidential elections took place on November 1st 2020. Maia Sandu from the pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) won first place, gaining 36% of the votes. Igor Dodon, the former pro-Russian president came in as second with 33% percent of the votes. However, because the president has to be chosen with an absolute majority, Sandu and Dodon had to participate in a second round of voting. On 15 November 2020, in the second round of the presidential elections, Maia Sandu was elected the new Head of State. Pro-European Sandu obtained around 58% of the votes against 42% for incumbent president Igor Dodon, who was openly supported by Russia. Due to Sandu being pro-European and Dodon being pro-Russia, these elections were often branded as a competition between West and East, reflecting the division in views of Moldovans as to which direction the country should lean to improve its impoverished conditions. Sandu is a former World Bank economist and made clear she wants to counter corruption and encourage national businesses. In addition, she promised to ensure more financial assistance from the European Union, a big contrast to Dodon's strategy securing loans from the Kremlin. Even though Sandu's win can be seen as a defeat for Moscow, Russian president Putin still congratulated her. Also, a Kremlin spokesman stated Russia hopes to establish a working relationship with the new Moldovan Head of state.

## Social Democratic Parties

### Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM)

Party Leader: Pavel Filip
Number of seats: 0
http://www.pdm.md

The PDM was founded in 1998 as the continuation of the Movement for a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova, and is currently led by Pavel Filip, prime minister from 2016 to 2019 and incumbent president for 5 days during Moldova's constitutional crisis. The Democratic Party is a member of the Socialist International and an associate member of the Party of European Socialists. The

creation of an effective system of income redistribution, reform of trade unions and the international recognition and consolidation of Moldova's permanent neutrality are key objectives. The PDM also supports the integration of Moldova into the EU and NATO.

In 2016 Oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc was elected for the position of chairman of the PDM. Pavel Filip was elected deputy chairman. After the 2016 elections, the PDM proposed Vladimir Plahotniuc as the new Prime Minister. However, this was rejected by the President. On January 14th, 2016 Pavel Filip, delegated by the PDM and backed by the new parliamentary majority (57 votes), became the new candidate for the prime minister position.

During the parliamentary elections of February 2019, the DPM lost its position as the biggest political group in parliament. As a result of these elections, the DPM chaired by Plahotniuc became the second party in parliament with 30 seats. Moldova's Constitutional court ordered on June 7 the dissolution of parliament and ordered for new elections. The basis of the ruling was a Moldovan law requires a government to be formed within 90 days of the certification of election results. However, on June 8 parliamentary leaders from the former President, Igor Dodon's Socialist Party made a surprising deal with ACUM's leader, Maia Sandu. However, the court responded on June 9 by declaring Sandu's government unconstitutional and suspended Dodon. Filip then stepped in as interim president, immediately dissolving the parliament and calling for snap elections on September 6, 2019. Critics have said the court was under the thumb of former PDM leader Vladimir Plahotniuc. He left Moldova soon after the Democratic Party-led government under Filip resigned on June 7.

The 2021 snap elections were a major loss for the DPM. The party received on 1,8 percent of the total votes and lost all their seats in parliament. The party still has some seats in local councils, but has disappeared but has disappeared from national parliament.


## Other Parties


### Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS)

Party Leader: Maia Sandu
Number of seats: 63
unpaspentru.md

The Party of Action and Solidarity is led by Maia Sandu. The party began a platform called "In step with Maia Sandu" which evolved in the PAS. The PAS is considered to be pro-European and promotes the New Liberalism doctrine.

In 2017 the PAS joined the the European People's Party (EPP) together with the Dignity and Truth Platform party (PPDA). The PAS has joined the PPDA in the ACUM alliance which is al liberal-populist alliance, focused on EU integration and anti-corruption. The ACUM suprised everyone by forming a coalition with the pro-Russian Socialist party, in order to stop the ruling DPM party from getting into office once again. The PAS won big during the 2021 elections, earning them 63 seats in  parliament.

### Șor Party (Republican Socio-Political Movement Equality )

Party Leader: Ilan Șor
Number of seats: 6
www.partidulsor.md

The Șor Party was founded in 1998 by Valey Klymenko, but it only entered the parliament in 2019 for the first time. The faction has seven MPs after receiving 8,32% of the votes. Their ideology is based on social conservatism, Moldovan identity and support for establishing a welfare state. The party is considerd to be pro-Russian but foremost nationalistic. The party won 6 seats in the parliamentary elections in 2021.

### Electoral Bloc of Communists and Socalists (BECS)

Party Leader: Vladimir Voronin
Number of seats: 32

https://bloc.md/

The Electoral Bloc of Communists and Socialists is an alliance between the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) and the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM). The coalition exists on the left-side of the political spectrum concerning economic issues, but has conservative social views. The alliance was formed in May of 2021, ahead of the 2021 parliamentary election. The presidency of the coalition is shared by Voronin and Dodon. Vladimir Voronin from the PCRM was chosen as the leader of the coalition. The coalition managed to win 31 out of the 101 seats during snap elections.

The Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) was founded in June 1997 by members of the Socialist Party of Moldova. As the title says, the PSRM is a socialist political party. In 2011, Igor Dodon, former member of the Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova, joined the PSRM and was shortly after that chosen as chairman. In the 2019 the party won the parliamentary elections and formed a coalition government. In the 2021 elections the PSRM managed to win 31 seats in a joint coalition with the PCRM.

The Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) was established in 1994. The party is a communist political party and was founded by Vladimir Voronin. Voronin is currently still the leader of the party. The PCRM is the only communist party that has held majority in parliament in a post-Soviet state. The party has been the largest party in parliament three times. In 2019, the party lost all its representation in parliament when it only got 3,75% of the votes. In the snap elections of 2021 the party returned to parliament in a join coalition with the PSRM, winning 35 seats.


## Biographies


### Maia Sandu

President

Maia Sandu was born on 24 May 1972 in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. She has the Moldovan as well as the Romanian nationality and speaks Russian, Spanish, English and Romanian. After studying Management at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and International Relations at the Academy of Public Administration, Sandu was admitted to Harvard University. She graduated in 2010, after which she started working as an economist for the World Bank in the United States.

Sandu's political career started in 2012, being part of the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova, her first position was Minister of Education. At the end of 2015, she established the "In Step With Maia Sandu" Platform, which turned into Party of Action and solidarity (PAS) the following year. While serving as Minister of Education, she was accused of paying an exaggerated sum of money for 1,200 security cameras made in China for the baccalaureate exams. A charge has been issued against her but was later dropped. In 2016, she ran to become president of Moldova, but lost to pro-Russian Igor Dodon. Furthermore, Sandu has been prime minister for period of five months in 2019, resigning due to a vote of no-confidence, backed by 63 out og 101 Members of Parliament. She was succeeded by ion Chicu.

During the 2020 presidential elections, Maia Sandu ran for the second time. After the first round did not result in a clear winner, she had to partake in a second round with incumbent president Dodon. Contrary to four years earlier, she won the elections with almost 58% of the votes.

The New Head of State wants to improve relations with the European Union, reform the criminal justice system, counter corruption and poverty and encourage businesses.


### Igor Dodon

Former President

Igor Dodon (1975) is the former leader of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova and the current president of the country. He studied economics at the Agricultural State University of Moldova and received a doctorate in 1998 from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova. In the period from 1997 to 2005, he worked as an assistant professor and lecturer in the academic field.

In 2005, Dodon switched to politics when he became Associate Minister of Trade and Economics. After that, he held several other ministerial positions. Till 2011, he was a member of the Party of Communists, which he left hoping that a deal could be worked out with the ruling Alliance of European Integration to elect a president and end the constitutional crisis that had dragged on since the resignation of Vladimir Voronin in 2009. From 2011 until his election as President, he was a member of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova.

During the 2020 presidential elections, he lost to Maia Sandu, obtaining around 42% of the votes in the second round.

He is married and has three children.

### Ion Chicu
Former Prime Minister

Ion Chicu is a Moldovan politician who has been the Prime Minister of Moldova since November 2019 till December 2020, following the ousting of the Sandu Cabinet led by Maia Sandu in a motion of no confidence by the Parliament of Moldova. At the time of his appointment, he was described by President Igor Dodon as "a technocrat, a professional who has not been in any political party", although Chicu did serve as an advisor to President Dodon. The day after, he was introduced to a new Cabinet of Ministers by President Dodon, which included Victor Gaiciuc as defence minister and Pavel Voicu as interior minister. After the election of Sandu as President in November 2020, he resigned as Prime Minister hours before a vote of no confidence sponsored by Sandu's party.

### Andrei Năstase
Former Deputy Prime Minister

Andrei Năstase (born 6 August 1975) has served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs from 8 June 2019 till the fall of the Sandu government on 12 November 2019. Năstase has been the leader of Dignity and Truth Platform Party (PPDA) since 2015. In early 2015, Năstase, along with several opinion leaders, journalists, lawyers, political scientists, ambassadors, and others, participated at the foundation of the Civic Platform Dignity and Truth.

Năstase is married to Angela Năstase and has three children. As a lawyer, he is known for defending various domestic and foreign investors in national and international courts, such as the German company Unistar, but also those of businessmen Viorel and Victor Topa. This has attracted considerable criticism, as the two have been convicted by the Moldovan Justice for blackmail, embezzlement, money laundering and forgery of documents, and has earned him the nickname "The Man of *Țopas*".

### Pavel Filip
Leader of the Democratic Party

Pavel Filip (1966) is currently the leader of the Democratic Party. From 2011 he served as Minister of Informational Technologies and Communications. On 14 January 2016, Pave Filip was appointed as a candidate for the position of prime minister. The Pavel Filip's government was voted and invested in office despite popular protests held on January 20, 2016 after 16 PM, with the vote of 57 deputies out of 101, went on without finalising the presentation of the government programme and skipping the questions and answers part. This, because of the SPRM MPs' protest that held with the parliamentary tribune blocking, generating a scandal.

From June 9 to June 15, during 2019 Moldovan constitutional crisis, Pavel Filip was acting president of Moldova.

He is married and has two children.

### Mihai Ghimpu
Former President of Moldova

Mihai Ghimpu was born on 19 November 1951 in Chişinău. In 1978, he graduated from the Department of Law at the Chişinău State University. He worked as a lawyer from 1978 to 1990. He also headed legal departments of several state enterprises and worked as a judge at the Chişinău's Râşcani District Court.

In the late 1980s, Ghimpu joined the Democratic Movement. In 1989, he was one of the founders of the movement's successors, the Popular Front of Moldova – known as one of the leading political forces in the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (MSSR) – which was later succeeded by the Christian-Democratic People's Party.

Ghimpu was elected Member of Parliament on the list of the Popular Front in 1990. In the parliamentary elections four years later, he was elected as a representative for the Bloc of Intellectuals. In 1997, Ghimpu was elected Chairman of the Party of Reform – the current Liberal Party. Between 2007 and 2009, he was a member of the Chişinău Municipality Council.

During the early parliamentary vote in July 2009, he was re-elected MP. A month later, on 28 August, he was elected Speaker of Parliament. Ghimpu became Moldova's acting President on 11 September 2009, after former (Communist) President Vladimir Voronin resigned. He remained the country's president until 28 December 2010.

Mihai Ghimpu is married.

### Vladimir Plahotniuc

Former leader of the Democratic Party

Vladimir Plahotniuc was born on 1 January 1966. He is currently the leader of the Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM). He is also a successful businessman and politician with several degrees. He has an MBA from the technical university of Moldova and a Bachelor of Law from the University of European Studies of Moldova. Two of his biggest business ventures were as an executive with Petrom Moldova, a Romanian owned oil and gas producer. He was also chairman of the Victoriabank, one of the biggest commercial banks in Moldova. He furthermore owns two of Moldova's largest television broadcasters: prime and TV2 plus and is said to own more.

Plahotniuc started his political career at the Democratic Party in 2009, initially by supporting the party financially. Following this, he was elected to the previous parliament in 2010 to quickly become the first deputy speaker. Eventually, when the ruling coalition collapsed, he had to resign and left the parliament in 2013. He was nevertheless elected again as a member of the parliament in 2014, to resign again in 2015 "to focus his political activity on reforming the party". In 2016, he was proposed by the Democratic Party to be the new prime minister, though this was rejected by the president. Eventually, he was elected as the chairman of the Democratic Party of Moldova. After his party resigned following a long stalemate between the ACUM-Socialist coalition, Plahotniuc fled the country and resigned from his position as leader of the Democratic party.

He has been accused of corruption and other criminal activities in his past on several occasions, but no substantial proof has ever been presented and he has claimed the rumours are distributed by his (business) rivals.

### Vladimir Voronin

Former President of Moldova and current leader of the Communist Party

Vladimir Voronin was born on 25 May 1941 in the village Corjova. Although he has a 'Russian' name, his origin is ethnic Romanian. Voronin graduated from the Co-operative College in Chisinau in 1961 and from the Union Institute for Food Industry in 1971. In 1983 Voronin finished the Academy of Social Sciences of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and in 1991 he graduated from the Academy of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union.

Between 1966 and 1971, Voronin held different positions, including director of different bread factories. In the following ten years, he worked in the state administration of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (MSSR). From 1983, he was an inspector and the vice-director of the Organization Section of the Central Committee of the Moldovan branch of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Between 1988 and 1990 Voronin was Minister of Internal Affairs in the MSSR.

In 1993, Voronin obtained a new position, becoming the co-President of the Organizational Committee for the creation of the Party of Communists of Moldova (PCRM). The Communist Party was banned between 1991 and 1993 and Voronin played a central role in reviving it. Voronin was elected Chairman of the PCRM in 1994. In the general elections of March 1998, he was elected MP and parliamentary leader of the PCRM. One year later, the acting President of Moldova – Petru Lucinschi – nominated Voronin as Prime

Minister. The nomination, however, was not supported by the majority of the parliament. Voronin was re-elected MP in the general elections of February 2001. On 4 April that year, Voronin was elected President of Moldova and was re-elected in the presidential elections of 2005.

In the parliamentary elections held on 5 April 2009, the PCRM finished with 60 seats, which was one seat short of being able to be elected as president. After Voronin retained his seat as interim President and was elected Speaker of Parliament, massive demonstrations broke out to protest the election outcome. In the early parliamentary elections held in July 2009, the PCRM lost its parliamentary majority. Voronin then decided to resign as President and left this post on 11 September 2009.

Currently, Veronin is the leader of the Electoral Bloc of Communists and Socialists, a coalition of the PCRM and the PSRM. Voronin identifies himself as left-wing, but has a conservative view regarding social issues.

Vladimir Voronin is married and has two children.

## Source

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