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Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Module 2: Macro Report

August 23, 2004

Country: **Romania**

Date of Election: **November 28th 2004 (first round), December 12th 2004 (second round)**

NOTE TO COLLABORATORS: The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CSES project. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CSES website.

Part I: Data Pertinent to the Election at which the Module was Administered

1. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, *prior* to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all".)

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios</u>
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1a. What was the size of the cabinet before the election?

24 portfolios

2. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, *after* the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all").

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios</u>
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Social Democratic Party (PSD)	All
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2a. What was the size of the cabinet after the election?

25 portfolios

3. Political Parties (most active during the election in which the module was administered and receiving at least 3% of the vote):

Party Name/Label	Year Party Founded	Ideological Family	European Parliament Political Group (where applicable)	International Party Organizational Membership
A. National Alliance: Social Democratic Party + Romanian Humanistic Party (PSD+PUR) *	2004	Not Applicable	Not Applicable ****	Not Applicable
B. Truth and Justice Alliance: National Liberal Party – Democratic Party (PNL-PD) *	2002	Not Applicable	Not Applicable ****	Not Applicable
C. Greater Romania Party (PRM)	1991	Nationalist Left	Not Applicable ****	(98) No organization mentioned
D. Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR)	1989	(N)	Not Applicable ****	(13)
E. National Peasants' Party – Christian and Democratic (PNTCD) **	1989***	(I)	Not Applicable ****	(13)
F. National Liberal Party (PNL)	1989***	(H)	Not Applicable ****	(23)
G. Democratic Party (PD)	1989	(D)	Not Applicable ****	(27)
H. Romanian Humanistic Party (PUR)	1992	Social Liberal	Not Applicable ****	(98) No organization mentioned
I. Social Democratic Party (PSD)	1989	(D)	Not Applicable ****	(27)

* A and B performed during elections as electoral alliances, though it is impossible to speak of ideological family and so on. However, for each party member in the two alliances, the information is provided under labels H and I (for the A alliance), F and G (for the B alliance).

** E did not receive 3% of the vote. However, it has been considered a relevant actor.

*** Both parties (PNTCD and PNL) continue the tradition of historical parties, very active previous to the communist period.

**** Since Romania was not a member of EU at the moment of 2004 elections, there hasn't been any affiliation of these parties to European Parliament Political Groups. However, some of them were "associated" to some EP Groups:

PNL to Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe;
PD to Party of European Socialists;
PSD to Party of European Socialists;
PNTCD to European People's Party;
UDMR to European People's Party.

Ideological Party Families: (These are suggestions only. If a party does not fit well into this classification scheme, please provide an alternative and some explanation).

(A) Ecology Parties	(G) Liberal Parties	(M) Agrarian Parties
(B) Communist Parties	(H) Right Liberal Parties	(N) Ethnic Parties
(C) Socialist Parties	(I) Christian Democratic Parties	(O) Regional Parties
(D) Social Democratic Parties	(J) National Parties	(P) Other Parties
(E) Conservative Parties	(K) Independents	
(F) Left Liberal Parties	(L) Single Issue Parties	

The following lists provide examples of political groups and organizations to which a particular party might belong. Please report any and all international affiliations for each party.

European Parliament Political Groups:

- (1) European People's Party
- (2) European Democrats
- (3) Party of European Socialists
- (4) European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party
- (5) Confederal Group of European United Left
- (6) Nordic Green Left
- (7) Greens
- (8) European Free Alliance
- (9) Europe for the Nations
- (10) Europe of Democracies and Diversities
- (00) Not Applicable
- (98) Don't Know

International Party Organizations:

- (11) Asia Pacific Socialist Organization
- (12) Caribbean Democratic Union
- (13) Christian Democratic International
- (14) Christian Democratic Organization of America
- (15) Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats
- (16) Democratic Union of Africa
- (17) Eastern European Social Democratic Forum
- (18) Green Movement
- (19) Humanist Party
- (20) International Communist Union
- (21) International Democrat Union
- (22) International League of Democratic Socialists
- (23) Liberal International
- (24) Natural Law Party
- (25) Pacific Democratic Union
- (26) Organization of African Liberal Parties
- (27) Socialist International
- (28) Socialist Inter-Africa
- (00) Not Applicable
- (98) Don't Know

3a. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament *before* the election?

National Peasants' Party - Christian and Democratic (PNTCD) was not represented in parliament either before or after the election.

3b. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament *after* the election?

National Peasants' Party - Christian and Democratic (PNTCD) was not represented in parliament either before or after the election.

3c. Were there any other non-represented parties or independent actors whom you believe to have had a significant effect on the election?

No.

4a. Ideological Positions of Parties:

Please indicate Parties A-F's positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator). If this dimension is not appropriate, please provide an explanation of the salient cleavages, and parties' relative positions.

Party Name	Left											Right
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. National Alliance: Social Democratic Party + Romanian Humanistic Party (PSD+PUR)					X							
B. Truth and Justice Alliance: National Liberal Party – Democratic Party (PNL-PD)						X						
C. Greater Romania Party (PRM)					X							
D. Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR)												
E. National Peasants' Party – Christian and Democratic (PNTCD)						X						
F. National Liberal Party (PNL)							X					
G. Democratic Party (PD)						X						
H. Romanian Humanistic Party (PUR)					X							
I. Social Democratic Party (PSD)						X						

4aa. Do you believe there would be general consensus on these placements among informed observers in your country?

Probably not.

4b. If you have asked respondents to rank political parties on an alternative dimension, other than the left-right dimension, please also provide your own rankings of the parties on this dimension.

No alternative dimension.

Name of dimension:

Label for left hand position:

Label for right hand position:

Party Name	Left										Right
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A.											
B.											
C.											
D.											
E.											
F.											

4bb. Do you believe there would be general consensus about these placements among informed observers in your country?

Not applicable.

5. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)?

1. Corruption / fighting corruption

2. Changing the income tax (progressive versus flat tax)

3. Party in power (PSD) accused of electoral fraud in the first round of elections

4.

5.

5a. Do you believe there would be general consensus about the importance of these factors among informed observers in your country?

Probably yes.

6. Electoral Alliances:

Sometimes, electoral alliances are made at the constituency level as, for example, in Finland. Documenting who is allied with whom, and how, in each constituency is a large task and we do not expect you to do more than make some general reference to the existence of constituency-level alliances. Sometimes, electoral alliances are made at the national level -- these are the alliances that we would like you to identify. Information is sought on who is allied with whom and on the nature of the electoral alliance.

a) Were electoral alliances permitted during the election campaign?

- No
 Yes

If yes, please complete the following:

<u>Alliance Name</u>	<u>Participant Parties (please indicate dominant members with an "*")</u>
Alliance 1:	
National Alliance:	Social Democratic Party (PSD)* and
Social Democratic Party	Romanian Humanistic Party (PUR)
+ Romanian Humanistic	
Party (PSD+PUR)	
Alliance 2:	
Truth and Justice Alliance:	National Liberal Party (PNL)* and
National Liberal Party –	Democratic Party (PD)
Democratic Party (PNL-PD)	

7. Party Leaders and Presidential Candidates:

In legislative elections, please report the leader of each party.

In presidential elections, list presidential candidates and their parties. If candidates were endorsed by more than one party, please indicate this below.

Party of Candidate

Name of Party Leader or Presidential Candidate

A.

National Alliance: Social Democratic
Party + Romanian Humanistic Party (PSD+PUR)

Adrian Năstase (presidential candidate)

B.

Truth and Justice Alliance: National Liberal
Party – Democratic Party (PNL-PD)

Traian Băsescu (presidential candidate)

C.

Greater Romania Party (PRM)

Corneliu Vadim Tudor (party leader and
presidential candidate)

D.

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians
in Romania (UDMR)

Marko Bella (party leader and presidential
candidate)

E.

National Peasants' Party – Christian
and Democratic (PNTCD)

Gheorghe Ciuhandu (party leader and presidential
candidate)

F.

National Liberal Party (PNL)

Călin Popescu Tăriceanu (party leader)

G.

Democratic Party (PD)

Traian Băsescu (party leader)

H.

Romanian Humanistic Party (PUR)

Dan Voiculescu (party leader)

I.

Social Democratic Party (PSD)

Adrian Năstase (party leader)

Part II: Data on Electoral Institutions

If possible, please supplement this section with copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials.

A. QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

Definitions: An electoral district is defined as a geographic area within which votes are counted and seats allocated. If a district cannot be partitioned into smaller districts within which votes are counted and seats allocated, it is called primary. If it can be partitioned into primary districts, and during the counting process there is some transfer of votes and/or seats from the primary districts to the larger district, then the larger district is called secondary. If a district can be partitioned into secondary districts (again with some transfer of votes and/or seats), it is called tertiary.

In some electoral systems, there are electoral districts that are geographically nested but not otherwise related for purposes of seat allocation. In Lithuania, for example, there are 71 single-member districts that operate under a majority runoff system, and also a single nationwide district that operates under proportional representation (the largest remainders method with the Hare quota). Neither votes nor seats from the single-member districts transfer to the nationwide district, however. The two processes are entirely independent (with voters having one vote in each district). In this case, the nationwide district, although it contains the 71 single-member districts, is not considered to be secondary. It is primary. One might say that there are two segments to the electoral system in such cases.

1. How many segments (as just defined) are there in the electoral system?
- 1 segment
 - 2 segments
 - more than 2

Please answer the following questions (questions 2 through 11) for each segment of each directly elected house of the legislature:

2. How many primary electoral districts are there?

Lower House: 42

Upper House: 42

3. For each primary electoral district, how many members are elected from each district?
(If district variation exists, answer 3a)

Lower House:

Each of the 42 districts elects between 4 and 28 deputies, and the total number of deputies is 332. Among these, 18 seats are allocated to representatives of minorities' organisations that did not succeed to pass the threshold of 5%.

Upper House:

Each of the 42 districts elects between 2 and 12 senators, and the total number of senators is 137.

3a. If districts elect varying number of members, please list the districts, indicating the number of members elected from that district. (Attach separate sheets, as required).

Lower House:

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
1. Alba	6
2. Arad	7
3. Argeş	9
4. Bacău	10
5. Bihor	9
6. Bistriţa-Năsăud	5
7. Botoşani	7
8. Brăila	5
9. Braşov	9
10. Bucureşti	28
11. Buzău	7
12. Călăraşi	5
13. Caraş-Severin	5
14. Cluj	10
15. Constanţa	10
16. Covasna	4
17. Dâmboviţa	8
18. Dolj	10
19. Galaţi	9
20. Giurgiu	4
21. Gorj	6
22. Harghita	5
23. Hunedoara	7
24. Ialomiţa	4
25. Iaşi	12
26. Ilfov	4
27. Maramureş	7
28. Mehedinţi	4
29. Mureş	8
30. Neamţ	8
31. Olt	7
32. Prahova	12
33. Sălaj	4
34. Satu Mare	5
35. Sibiu	6
36. Suceava	10
37. Teleorman	6
38. Timiş	9
39. Tulcea	4
40. Vâlcea	6
41. Vaslui	7

42. Vrancea 6

Upper House:

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
1. Alba	2
2. Arad	3
3. Argeş	4
4. Bacău	5
5. Bihor	4
6. Bistriţa-Năsăud	2
7. Botoşani	3
8. Brăila	2
9. Braşov	4
10. Bucureşti	12
11. Buzău	3
12. Călăraşi	2
13. Caraş-Severin	2
14. Cluj	4
15. Constanţa	4
16. Covasna	2
17. Dâmboviţa	3
18. Dolj	5
19. Galaţi	4
20. Giurgiu	2
21. Gorj	2
22. Harghita	2
23. Hunedoara	3
24. Ialomiţa	2
25. Iaşi	5
26. Ilfov	2
27. Maramureş	3
28. Mehedinţi	2
29. Mureş	4
30. Neamţ	4
31. Olt	3
32. Prahova	5
33. Sălaj	2
34. Satu Mare	2
35. Sibiu	3
36. Suceava	4
37. Teleorman	3
38. Timiş	4
39. Tulcea	2
40. Vâlcea	3
41. Vaslui	3
42. Vrancea	2

4. How many secondary electoral districts are there?

Lower House:

One.

There is one nationwide secondary electoral district where a variable number of mandates are allocated according to votes: (a) insufficient for promoting in the parliament a listed candidate at the level of primary districts; (b) gained by parties that did not pass the threshold. At the same time, 18 seats are allocated to representatives of minorities' organisations that did not succeed to pass the threshold of 5%.

Upper House:

One.

There is one nationwide secondary electoral district where a variable number of mandates are allocated according to votes: (a) insufficient for promoting in the parliament a listed candidate at the level of primary districts; (b) gained by parties that did not pass the threshold.

5. How many tertiary electoral districts are there?

None.

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING.

6. Exactly how are votes cast by voters?

Lower House

Each party presents a closed list of candidates. Each voter casts his/her vote for the party list of his/her choice.

Upper House

Each party presents a closed list of candidates. Each voter casts his/her vote for the party list of his/her choice.

6a. How many votes do they or can they cast?

Lower House

Voters can vote for a list, in which case they have 1 vote.

Upper House

Voters can vote for a list, in which case they have 1 vote.

6b. Do they vote for candidates, for lists, or for both? (please explain)

Lower House

Each party presents a closed list of candidates. Each voter casts his/her vote for the party list of his/her choice.

Upper House

Each party presents a closed list of candidates. Each voter casts his/her vote for the party list of his/her choice.

7. Are the votes transferable?

Lower House

No.

However, votes mentioned at point 4 (votes insufficient for promoting in the parliament a listed candidate at the level of primary districts and votes gained by parties that did not pass the threshold) are 'transferred' from the primary district to the secondary nationwide district for being (re-) distributed.

Upper House

No.

However, votes mentioned at point 4 (votes insufficient for promoting in the parliament a listed candidate at the level of primary districts and votes gained by parties that did not pass the threshold) are 'transferred' from the primary district to the secondary nationwide district for being (re-) distributed.

8. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

It is not the case. Only one vote can be cast.

9. Are there any other features of voting that should be noted?

C. QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVERTING VOTES INTO SEATS.

10. Exactly how are votes converted into seats?

Both Lower and Upper House

PR – d’Hondt

For each primary electoral district, the Electoral Commission calculates the *district’s electoral coefficient*, as a ratio between the total number of votes cast in the specific district in favour of parties having passed the electoral threshold (5%) and the number of mandates allocated to the district. The number of votes received by a specific party list is then divided by the district’s electoral coefficient. The resulting integer number gives the number of mandates won by the party list in the specific district. The remaining votes and seats (mandates) are then communicated to the Central Electoral Commission, in order to be reallocated in a secondary nationwide electoral district.

At national level, remaining votes are summed for each party. Seats are allocated according to the d’Hondt method.

10a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

Both Lower and Upper House

The threshold is 5% for a single party. In the case of alliances, 3% are added for the second party and 1% for any supplementary party.

If so, what is the threshold?

Both Lower and Upper House

The threshold is 5% for a single party. In the case of alliances, 3% are added for the second party and 1% for any supplementary party.

10b. What electoral formula or formulas are used?

Lower House

PR – d’Hondt

Upper House

PR – d’Hondt

11. If there are lists, are they closed, open, or flexible?

Lower House

- closed
- flexible, but in practice virtually closed
- flexible
- flexible, but in practice virtually open

- open

Upper House

- closed
- flexible, but in practice virtually closed
- flexible
- flexible, but in practice virtually open
- open

Definitions: A list is closed if the seats that are awarded to that list are always occupied by the candidates in order of their appearance on the list (i.e., if the list gets x seats then necessarily the top x names on the list get the seats). A list is open if the question of which candidates on the list get the seats that are awarded to the list is determined solely by the votes that each candidate receives. A list is flexible if parties place their candidates in the order they would like to see them elected, but voters can, with varying degrees of ease, change this order through votes they cast for individual candidates.

Please repeat questions 2 through 11 of this section for each segment of each directly elected house of the legislature.

D. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF ELECTORAL ALLIANCE.

Definitions: A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together.

Apparentement refers to a legal agreement between two or more lists to pool their votes for the purposes of an initial seat allocation, with seats initially allocated to the alliance then reallocated to the lists in the alliance.

12. What are the possibilities of forming alliances in the system?

Parties may found electoral alliances and compete under the alliance name on joint lists. Such alliances should be registered. The threshold for alliances is calculated as a sum: 5% for the first party in the alliance, 3% for the second one, and 1% for any supplementary party.

12a. Can parties run joint lists?

- Yes
- No

12b. Is there apparentement or linking of lists

- Yes
- No

12c. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?

- Yes
- No

Only if the parties form a registered electoral alliance and run joint lists.

12d. Do parties withdraw their lists or candidates in some constituencies, urging their supporters there to vote for an ally's list or candidate?

- Yes
- No

12e. Other?

13. Are joint lists possible?

Yes.

13a. If joint lists are possible, are they subject to different regulations than single-party lists? For example, higher thresholds, different numbers of candidates that may appear on the list, etc.

Yes. The threshold for alliances is calculated as a sum: 5% for the first party in the alliance plus 3% for the second one, and 1% for any supplementary party.

14. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

- lists of the same party in the same constituency
- lists of the same party from different constituencies
- lists of different parties in the same constituency

15. If candidates can run with the endorsement of more than one party, is this reflected on the ballot?

- No
- No party endorsements are indicated on the ballot paper
- Yes, candidate's name appears once, together with the names of all supporting parties
- Yes, candidate's name appears as many times as there are different parties endorsing him/her, each time with the name of the endorsing party
- Yes, other (please explain):

Part III: Data on Regime Type

Below are various questions about the type of regime--presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential--in your country. There are two potential problems with these questions that should be noted at the outset. First, in some countries there may be a discrepancy between the *de jure* (or legal) situation and the *de facto* (or practical) situation. For example, in Great Britain the Queen still possesses a legal right to veto legislation, but this right has not been exercised since 1707. In the case of such obviously obsolete powers, please answer according to the *de facto* situation. Otherwise, describe the *de jure* situation. A second potential problem is that the questions may not be phrased optimally for the situation in your particular country. In such cases, please answer as best you can, providing some indication of the difficulties as you see them.

A. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEAD OF STATE.

Definitions: The Head of State is typically the highest ranking official in the executive branch of government. Often, this position is held by a president or a monarch, and may be more ceremonial than effective. The Head of Government is usually the highest ranking official in the legislative branch of government. In some systems, this may be someone other than the Head of State (i.e. the prime minister in the Westminster systems), while in other cases, the roles of the Head of State and Head of Government are combined (i.e. in the United States, the president serves as both the Head of State and the Head of Government).

1. Who is the Head of State?

- President
- Monarch
- Prime Minister serves as ceremonial head of state
- Other (please specify)

2. How is the head of state selected?

- Direct election
- Indirect election
- Birth right
- Divine right
- Other (Explain)

2a. If by direct election, by what process?

- Plurality election
- Run-off or two-ballot system
- Other (Explain)

2a1. If by run-off system, how are the candidates selected for the final round?

The 2 (#) candidates with the highest vote totals advance to the second round

Any candidate with at least _____% of the popular vote advances to the second round

2b. If by indirect election, by what process?

Electoral college

Selection by the legislature

Other (Explain)

2b1. If by electoral college, how are electors chosen?

2b2. Does the electoral college deliberate?

Yes

No

2b3. What is the voting procedure used by the electoral college?

2b4. If by the legislature, by which chamber(s) of the legislature? What is the voting procedure used?

3. Does the Head of State have the following powers? Please check all that apply:

3a. Introduce legislation?

Yes

No

3b. Require expedited action on specific legislation? (i.e., set a deadline by which the legislature is required to act on the bill)?

Yes

No

Definitions: A Head of State possesses a partial veto when he or she can target specific clauses of a piece of legislation for veto, while promulgating the rest. In the U.S., such vetoes are sometimes called line item vetoes. A Head of State possesses a package veto when he or she can veto the entire piece of legislation submitted by the legislature, but cannot veto some parts and accept others.

3c. Package veto?

- No
- Yes, and the requirement to override the veto is:

The president may ask the parliament to 're-examine' the legislation project. He/she is allowed to do it only once for a single project. In order to override the presidential veto, the parliament has to re-pass the project with the majority of votes.

3d. Partial veto?

- No
- Yes, and the requirement to override the veto is:

3e. Issue decrees with the power of law?

- Yes
- No

3f. Emergency powers?

- Yes
- No

3g. Negotiate treaties and international agreements?

- No
- Yes, provided the following additional requirements are met:

International agreements negotiated by the president must be approved by the parliament.

3h. Commander of the armed forces?

- Yes
- No

3i. Initiate referenda or plebiscites?

- Yes But only after consulting the parliament.
- No

3j. Refer legislation to the judicial branch for review of constitutionality?

- Yes
- No

3k. Convene special legislative sessions?

- Yes

X No

However, if the president declares the state of emergency or the state of siege outside a legislative session, the parliament is convoked *de jure*.

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

Definitions: In some countries, the Head of Government is directly elected, in elections that may or may not occur concurrently with legislative elections. In these cases, the Head of Government is said to be elected independently of the legislature. In others, the Head of Government is the leader of the governing party or governing coalition in the legislature, and so, the selection of the Head of Government depends upon the distribution of seats in the legislature. In these cases, the Head of Government is not elected independently of the legislature.

4. Is the Head of Government elected independently of the legislature?

- Yes
- No

4a. Is the Head of Government also the Head of State?

- Yes
- No

4b. If the Head of Government is not elected independently of the legislature, how is the Head of Government selected?

- Appointed by the head of state alone
- Appointed by the legislature alone
- Nominated by the head of state, and approved by the legislature
- Nominated by the legislature, and approved by the head of state
- Other (Please explain):

5. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the composition of the cabinet? Please check all that apply.

- Names ministers and assigns portfolios alone
- Nominates ministers for approval by the president
- Reviews and approves ministerial nominations made by the president
- Dismisses ministers and reassigns portfolios at own discretion
- Other (Please explain):

6. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the policy making process?

Please check all that apply:

- Chairs cabinet meetings
- Determines schedule of issues to be considered by the legislature
- Determines which alternatives will be voted on by the legislature, and in which order
- Refers legislative proposals to party or legislative committees
- Calls votes of confidence in government
- Other (Please explain):

Once nominated by the President, the Prime Minister has to elaborate a general government program, that needs to be approved (together with the Cabinet as a whole) by the Parliament. Moreover, the Prime Minister presents reports and declarations related to the Government's policy in front of the Senate or Chamber of Deputies.

C. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CABINET

7. By what method(s) can the cabinet be dismissed? Please check all that apply:

- By the head of state acting alone
- By the prime minister acting alone *In case the Prime Minister resigns.*
- By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of all legislators is required
- By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of those legislators voting is required
- By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):
- Other (Please explain):

If the Prime Minister (1) enters a situation of incompatibility, (2) loses his/her electoral rights, (3) dies, or (4) hasn't been able to exercise his/her attributions for 45 days.

D. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LEGISLATURE

8. Can the legislature be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections? _____No ___**X**___Yes:

X By the head of state acting alone

But only if the Parliament did not give a vote of confidence for the Government's formation in term of 60 days (since first asked) and only after having rejected at least two calls for Government's investiture. The Constitution asks for the President to consult first with the heads of the two Chambers of the Parliament and with the leaders of the parliamentary groups.

By the prime minister acting alone

By majority vote of the legislature

By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):

Other (Please explain):

9. If the legislature can be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections, are there restrictions on when and how the legislature can be dissolved? Please check all that apply:

X On the timing of dissolution (e.g. not within one year after a legislative election) (Please explain):

The legislature cannot be dissolved during the last 6 months of the President's term of office. The legislature can be dissolved only once in the same year.

X As a response to action/inaction by the legislature (e.g. only when the legislature has censured the cabinet; only if the legislature fails to pass the budget) (Please explain):

The president can dissolve the legislature only if the Parliament did not give a vote of confidence for the Government's formation in term of 60 days (since first asked) and only after having rejected at least two calls for Government's investiture. The Constitution asks for the President to consult first with the heads of the two Chambers of the Parliament and with the leaders of the parliamentary groups.

X Other (Explain):

Parliament cannot be dissolved during state of mobilization, war, siege or emergency.

10. Is there a second chamber of the legislature? No _____ Yes , it is:

- directly elected
- indirectly elected through the following process:

10a. If there is a second chamber and it is indirectly elected, are those who choose its members:

- wholly regional and/or local officials?
- partly regional and/or local officials?
- not necessarily regional and/or local officials?

10b. If there is a second chamber, does it have specific and exclusive legislative powers (i.e. the power to reject the executive's proposed budget)?

- No
- Yes (Please explain):

Yes, but very few and rather insignificant.

10c. If there is a second chamber, does it have the power to remove the cabinet or censure its ministers?

- Yes
Only both Chambers, in a joint meeting, can give a vote of non-confidence to the cabinet as a whole.
- No

E. FEDERALISM

11. Is there a constitutionally guaranteed division of power between the central government and regional and/or local governments?

- Yes
- No

12. Does the central government have the power to remove elected officials of regional and/or local governments?

- Yes *Under circumstances stated by the law of local public administration no. 215/2001.*
- No

F. REFERENCES

Please list any resources that were consulted in the preparation of this report, or that the CSES community may find especially helpful in understanding the political system described here.