

## Chairman Adrian Zuckerman Congratulates the People of Moldova for Defending Democracy

We congratulate the people of Moldova, PAS, and President Maia Sandu for preserving democracy in Moldova. President Sandu and the government of Moldova demonstrated incredible leadership and resilience in the face of unprecedented interference by the Russian Federation in the parliamentary elections.

The Kremlin spent, at last count, more than \$400 million to undermine Moldova's democratic process — attempting to buy votes with dark money, deploying armies of bots and fake accounts on TikTok and Telegram, and engaging in a variety of illegal campaign activities.

Yet truth and democracy won the day against the tsunami of disinformation and lies promulgated by the authoritarian Russian government and its secret services. Democracies and free people showed their courage and pushed back against the darkness from Moscow. The United States and European leaders and citizens stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Moldova in their quest to preserve freedom and the rule of law.

The courage of Moldovans shows the world that free people will not be silenced by the malign influence of authoritarian actors who seek to steal freedom and democracy. Moldova has chosen freedom, justice, and Europe — and in so doing, has strengthened the cause of democracy everywhere.

Recent statements by U.S. leaders and diplomats reinforce this solidarity. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee <u>underscored its bipartisan support</u> for Moldova's right to free and fair elections, while a group of <u>former U.S. Ambassadors to Romania, Moldova, and the OSCE</u> declared their firm backing for Moldova's European path.

We encourage all free people to learn from the courage of the Moldovan, Romanian, and Ukrainian peoples — and to have the same resolve in rejecting authoritarian darkness wherever it arises.

## Adrian Zuckerman

Chairman, Alianta