

Press release

ONG: Predoiu mocks the removal of the Special Department
and ruins MCV's prospects of improvement

The Civil Society has turned down the draft legislation proposed by the Ministry of Justice, regarding the removal of the Special Department. **Funky Citizens, alongside Declic and VeDem Just demand from the Ministry of Justice, Cătălin Predoiu, to wait on Venice Commission's opinion, before submitting the initiative to the Parliament.**

The current draft legislation does not meet MCV's terms, nor the Venice Commission's recommendations. **With such an initiative, Romania will still be constantly monitored by MCV and will not adhere to the Schengen Area.**

The draft legislation formally removes the Special Department and establishes a new similar legislative body, with fewer prosecutors that are not specialized in corruption investigation or organized crimes, and are designated by the CSM Plenary.

We are currently witnessing a political game that is supposedly a legislation. The Minister of Justice, Cătălin Predoiu, abandons his draft legislation (which is now up for the final vote in the Senate), and proposes a divergent legislation.

Although two years ago Cătălin Predoiu considered that DNA and DIICOT were perfectly efficient for investigating the magistrates, he is now avoiding these two specialized institutions just to please his political associates, PSD and UDMR, the so-called 'Parents of the Special Department'.

Now, PNL joins PSD and UDMR and wrecks the possibility of a well-functioning justice sector in Romania. The new draft legislation is a new step forward towards the ending of DNA and DIICOT, institutions that are already deteriorated, and the return to a 2000s-like justice.

In reality, the draft legislation is a fish tale for the citizens, the justice sector and the European institutions, but what's worse is that it does not tackle the quintessential problem: there are thousands of corruption cases unresolved in the judiciary sector. The draft proposed by the Ministry of Justice takes into account political opinions and speculations instead of citizens' interests demanded from the judiciary sector. Its social impact has not even been assessed. From our point of view, this draft legislation does not meet the necessary standard so as to assure justice's independence and democratic law.

By adopting this mock legislation to disband the Special Department, Romania risks not only to lose the chance of entering the Schengen Area, but it also jeopardizes the money from PNRR, because it does not account for justice independence and the fight against corruption, as it has been previously stated. A new condemnation by the CJUE regarding the violation of the democratic law will end Romania's financing from the European Union.