

person related by affinity with the subject of the declaration (brother-in-law/sister-in-law, father-in-law/mother-in-law, son-in-law/daughter-in-law) ”.

According to art. 4 para. (1) lit. d) of Law No. 133/2016 on declaration of assets and personal interests (in force in 2020), the subject of the declaration shall declare the financial assets of the subject of declaration and family members, his/her cohabitee, including as beneficial owners, namely the monetary amount in the national currency or a foreign currency which exceeds the value of 15 average national salaries and which does not represent the object of a deposit in a financial institution.

According to Government Decision No. 678/2019 on the approval of the amount of the average monthly salary in the economy, the average salary per economy in 2020 was 7,353 MDL.

The Evaluation Rules state that undeclared income or expenditure are relevant for financial integrity, including but not limited to insofar as they relate to prohibited secondary incomes, tax evasion, or violation of anti-money laundering provisions. (art. 6 para. (1)). The rules also provide that the Annex to the Evaluation Rules defines the method for calculating undeclared wealth (art. 6 para. (2) of Evaluation Rules).

c. Reasoning

The Commission is required to verify that a candidate's wealth acquired in the past 15 years corresponds to the declared revenues, as per art. 8 para. (4) lit. b) of Law No. 26/2022.

On 4 August 2020, the candidate and her husband purchased $\frac{3}{4}$ of a house³ in Chisinau municipality, which was paid for by a mortgage and from savings of 8,000 EUR (est. 157,920 MDL) from the candidate's and her husband's salaries. In March 2020, the candidate's husband was required to submit an annual declaration for 2019, in which he did not declare any cash savings. The husband would have been required to declare cash savings if they had exceeded the value of 15 average salaries in the economy, which was 119,295 MDL for 2020. As the 8,000 EUR of cash savings that the candidate claimed to have used to purchase the house in August 2020 amounted to 157,920 MDL, the Commission asked the candidate to explain how she and her husband were able to save around 40,000 MDL (est. 2000 EUR) over a period of five months.

The candidate explained the accumulation of the additional savings of about 40,000 MDL between the end of March and the beginning of August 2020 by the fact that she and her husband were still living with her parents at the time, were actively looking for real estate to buy and therefore wanted to accumulate additional savings. The candidate also explained that she was working for the Council of Europe Office in the Republic of Moldova, and was not required to pay taxes on her income, and that her husband was working as a judge. According to the candidate, this allowed them to accumulate the savings. The candidate was able to address any

³ Idem.

