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**Press release**

Transparency International Romania draws attention upon the fact that the image and the credibility of justice, in general, and of the Public Ministry, in particular, were severely affected by the scandal created around the manner of organizing the contest and expresses its concern regarding the potential fraud in the nomination contest for the directive functions of the judges and prosecutors.

TI-Romania requires to the Superior Council of Magistracy the postponement of the contest validation/invalidation procedure until the definitive outlining of the case by the authorized entities, in order to avoid affecting the carrying and the results of the criminal investigation, as well as to be able to decide the contest's outcome, disposing of all the necessary probations and proofs.

TI-Romania underlines the fact that the nomination of some persons in directive functions by a decision that could be subsequently contested as illegal, could affect the entire activity of the respective judicial institutions. All the posterior acts of these persons could become nullities, leading consequently to an effect over the entire judicial activity. Thus, the suspension of the procedure is meant to prevent the put into practice of a potentially vicious and illegal decision.

After the complete solution of the case, The Superior Council of Magistracy will be able to resume the nomination into directive functions procedure, by validating the contest in the case that the authorized entities have decided that there was no legal trespass or, on the contrary, by canceling the contest and renewing the procedure.

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