

# Moldova Defections May Break Impasse on President

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CHISINAU — Three lawmakers quit Moldova's communist party on Friday in an attempt to break a deadlock of more than two years over the election of a new president.

The trio said they might now back a presidential candidate from the governing pro-Europe alliance, which appears to have the numbers in parliament to win the Nov. 18 vote.

Reforms have been delayed in Moldova because of a political stalemate that has blocked the election of a president since Sept. 2009.

The president is elected by winning the support of at least 61 of the 101 deputies. But parliament has been evenly divided between communists and the Alliance for European Integration, and neither side has been able to muster the required majority.

*(Reuters)*

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