
ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION





GENERAL INFORMATION

Romania's territorial origin was formed in 1859 as a personal union of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia and officially named Romania in 1866. In 1877, it declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire. Two world wars and a Soviet occupation were followed by communist rule, which was swept away by the Romanian Revolution in 1989. Shortly after, in 1990, the first free elections since 1937 were held. The current constitution was adopted in 1991 and has re-established Romania as a semi-presidential republic. It has a parliament with two chambers, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The members of both houses are elected according to a system of proportional representation for four-year terms. The Romanian President, currently Klaus Iohannis, is elected directly. Both the government and the president hold executive functions. The country joined the NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007. It is not yet a member of the Schengen area or the Eurozone. Romania is divided into 41 counties, and the municipality of Bucharest (capital). The official currency is the Leu. The current Romanian Government is led by the social democratic PSD party in coalition with the liberal ALDE. Viorica Dăncilă (PSD) is serving as Prime Minister since January 2018. Former MEP Corina Crețu from the same party became European Commissioner for Regional Policy in the Juncker Commission in 2014. ■

ECONOMY

Romania is one of the fastest growing economies in the EU. In 2017, the GDP growth rate was slightly lower than seven per cent with an overall GDP of 211.8 Billion Euro. In spring 2018, unemployment in Romania reached a new historic low of 4.3 per cent, which is below EU average. Per capita GDP has risen steadily since 2015: In 2017, it was 9,500 Euro. However, Romania's economic boom has started to cool down in 2018. With a share of 56.2 per cent of GDP, the service sector is the country's most significant growth-driving sector. Industry covers 30.1 per cent and agriculture 4.4 per cent. Bucharest, the capital, is one of the largest financial and industrial centres in Eastern Europe. Trade is mostly focusing on EU Member States (75 per cent), with Germany and Italy being the country's largest trading partners. With a national debt ratio of 34.4 per cent of GDP in the first quarter of 2018, Romania has the fourth-lowest rate in the EU. Regarding the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the Romanian Presidency aims to push for a higher and more ambitious long-term EU budget after 2020. ■



PRIORITIES

The motto of the Romanian Presidency is “Cohesion, a shared European value”. The Presidency will focus on sustainable and fair growth while promoting connectivity and digitalisation and strengthening Industrial Policy. It will put security challenges and enlargement in the spotlight and aims to enhance Europe’s global role. It wants to stimulate solidarity between Member States and to work towards equal opportunities for women and men. The Presidency considers cohesion as an expression of unity in the EU. It aims to promote economic and social convergence and close the development gaps between regions. To improve competitiveness, it wants to concentrate in particular on four priority areas:

EUROPE OF CONVERGENCE

The Romanian Presidency wants to preserve the fundamental freedoms and aims for a fully functional Single Market. It is convinced that the best growth-enhancing policy is to diminish the differences within the living standards of the regions. The Multiannual Financial Framework should support the objectives set in the in the Treaties constituting the EU. Cohesion Policy and Agricultural Policy should stay in the focus alongside new challenges, like digitalisation. The Presidency will concentrate on closing the digital gaps between Member States and fostering digital skills. It wants an EU-wide Industrial Policy and will work on a clear regulatory framework for the Energy Union. ■

A SAFER EUROPE

Safeguarding the external borders is a key issue for the Romanian Presidency. It aims to carry out the Schengen evaluation mechanism further and will pay attention to interoperability between IT systems in the EU. The fight against terrorism remains another priority. The European Public Prosecutor’s Office should be installed and terrorism-related crimes should be added to its tasks. The Presidency wants to combat radicalization – especially online – and is dedicated to making the EU more resilient to cyber-attacks. Police cooperation is to be further harmonised and shall focus on new challenges. ■

EUROPE, A STRONGER GLOBAL ACTOR

The Romanian Presidency wants to speed up the implementation of the Global Strategy. The aim is to improve the EU’s defence capabilities while advocating a stronger partnership with NATO. It wants to pay special attention to the Western Balkans. Turkey is seen as an important partner of the EU in many areas. The Presidency wants to develop concrete EU responses to the European aspirations of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. It stresses the outstanding importance of transatlantic relations in maintaining the global multilateral order and the role of the EU in supporting effective multilateralism. International trade is a priority. ■

EUROPE OF COMMON VALUES

Romania sees cohesion as a common European value: More cohesion improves citizens’ trust. For Romania, mobility is key for the labour market integration of citizens. It will seek more educational and vocational training opportunities to close access gaps. It wants to work towards equal opportunities and equal treatment for women and men, reduce gender-based discrimination in the labour market and the gender pay gap. It emphasizes equal treatment for Member States and transparency within the EU institutions and aims to fight against online disinformation and fake news. ■



WHO IS WHO

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CLICK ON THE PORTRAITS

PSD

Social Democratic Party

ALDE

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats

PSD

VASILICA-VIORICA
DĂNCILĂ

Prime Minister

ALDE

ALDE

independent

TEODOR-VIOREL
MELEȘCANU

Foreign Affairs

PSD

EUGEN ORLANDO
TEODOROVICI

Public Finance and interim
Minister for Regional
Development

PSD

TUDOREL
TOADER

Justice

PSD

ȘTEFAN-RADU
OPREA

Business Environment,
Commerce and
Entrepreneurship

SORINA
PINTEA

Health

IOAN
DENEȘ

Waters and Forests



> WHO IS WHO

ALDE

PSD

PSD

PSD

GRAȚIELA LEOCADIA
GAVRILESCU
Vice PM, Environment

VIOREL
ȘTEFAN
Vice PM

ANA
BIRCHALL
*Vice PM for Romania's
Strategic Partnerships'
Implementation*

CARMEN DANIELA
DAN
Internal Affairs

PSD

ALDE

PSD

PSD

PETRE
DAEA
*Agriculture and
Rural Development*

ANTON
ANTON
Energy

ROVANA
PLUMB
*European Funds and interim
Minister for Transport*

BOGDAN GHEORGHE
TRIF
Tourism

PSD

ALDE

PSD

PSD

NATALIA-ELENA
INTOTERO
Romanians Abroad

VIOREL
ILIE
Liaison with Parliament

NICOLAE
HURDUC
Research

GEORGE
CIAMBA
European Affairs



> WHO IS WHO

PSD

PSD

PSD

PSD

ECATERINA
ANDRONESCU

Education

GABRIEL-BENIAMIN
LEȘ

National Defence

MARIUS-CONSTANTIN
BUDĂI

*Labor and
Social Justice*

NICULAE
BĂDĂLĂU

Economy

PSD

PSD

PSD

VALER-DANIEL
BREAZ

Culture

ALEXANDRU
PETRESCU

*Communications and
Information Society*

CONSTANTIN-BOGDAN
MATEI

Youth and Sports



POLICY FIELDS

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Unity and cohesion are essential for the Romanian Presidency to enhance the citizens' trust in the European Project. For this reason the Romanian Presidency will use the negotiations on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and the post-2020 cohesion package to contribute accordingly. Two weeks before the European Parliament Elections, the Presidency wants to use the Informal Summit in Sibiu to advocate greater citizen involvement in the European decision-making process. Enlargement Policy will get more awareness from the Romanian Presidency. Regarding Brexit, it stresses the collaboration between the European institutions and Member States. ■

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Presidency is committed to working closely together with the High Representative, in order to reinforce the Common Security and Defence Policy. It is a priority for the Presidency to align CSDP initiatives with similar NATO procedures in an effort to further deepen the EU-NATO relationship. The Western Balkans and Turkey are identified as important partners and the Presidency pursues a continued and partly closer relationship with them. Romania also intends to deepen the Eastern Partnership further.

Moreover, the Romanian Presidency will support the enhancement of the EU's position in the global multilateral system. An improvement of the WTO according to current standards is supported. ■

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Romanian Presidency strives to improve the stability of the Eurozone in order to ensure prosperity and economic growth in the EU. In doing so it seeks to promote risk-reducing measures to bolster the economic and monetary union and to complete the Banking Union. Harmonisation of the Member States' jurisdictions is to be fostered to encourage more investments and ensure better financing opportunities for SMEs. The Presidency promotes a renovated VAT system for e-commerce as well as fair taxation for the digital economy, including a possible international solution. It intends to stimulate discussions on the creation of a corporate common tax base. ■

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Combating illegal migration and terrorism remains a priority for the Romanian Presidency. It aims to push for a comprehensive European approach on migration and

asylum and to strengthen Frontex. The Schengen evaluation mechanism and the development of interoperability of IT systems at EU level are further key topics. The Presidency wants to prepare the operationalisation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, deepen judicial cooperation in the EU between criminal and civil law and proceed with negotiations on the electronic evidence package. Romania will pay particular attention to the Western Balkans in these areas. ■

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Regarding social policy, the Romanian Presidency is committed to consolidating labour mobility, ensuring equal rights for mobile workers within the EU as well as supporting their reintegration after returning to their Member State of origin. It aims to create fair and healthy working conditions for all and promote equal pay. It will continue negotiations on the coordination of social security systems and the constitution of a European Labour Authority. In the interest of ensuring sufficient healthcare for all citizens, Romania intends to discuss patient mobility, equal medical supply as well as the access to vaccination and solutions against antimicrobial resistance. ■



> POLICY FIELDS

COMPETITIVENESS

The Romanian Presidency strives to free the Single Market from remaining barriers to trade and to finalise legislation on compliance and enforcement of harmonised products. It wants a more balanced and transparent set-up for online platforms and seeks to complete the policy process on the P2B Regulation. Furthermore, it will push ahead with the modernisation of copyright law. It wants to work towards a long-term vision for Industry Policy by 2030, which benefits from the EU's diverse industrial base, the assets of digitalisation and the circular economy. The automotive and defence industries will receive increased attention. Romania aims to move on with negotiations on the Horizon Europe Programme. ■

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

To ensure a more competitive, sustainable and safer mobility, continuing negotiations on the mobility packages, the Connecting Europe Facility, the proposal on railway passengers' rights and the road infrastructure safety management file will constitute key priorities. The Romanian Presidency will also devote particular attention to all digitalisation issues in order to

maximise Europe's potential for the development of the digital economy, particularly in areas such as blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things and 5G. In the field of energy, it will continue the EU's efforts to implement the Energy Union initiatives and focus on achieving energy and climate change goals post-2020 and on ensuring energy transition. ■

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The Presidency will focus on the negotiations on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in the context of the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. It will work on the details for the next programming period. Animal health protection is also on the agenda. In the field of forestry, attention is paid to the active engagement of Member States in the UN Forum on Forests and to a review of efforts in the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy. Moreover, the Presidency will proceed with the multiannual management plans of the Common Fisheries Policies as well as on the future Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the Control Regulation. ■

ENVIRONMENT

The Romanian Presidency is determined to implement the principles of sustainable development through an integrated approach. Efforts will be directed towards advancing the EU's agenda on climate change to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to ensure a transition to a low-carbon economy. Another important item on the Presidency's agenda will be to make significant progress in the negotiations on the LIFE programme. Particular attention will also be paid to ensuring efficient water management and to promoting biodiversity. ■

EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT

A specific focus lies on a "Connecting Education" concept highlighting the key topics of mobility, inclusion and excellence. This includes further work on the proposal for a regulation on the Erasmus+ Programme. Young people should be supported in their job search. Regarding Europe's cultural heritage, the Presidency aims to achieve progress on the proposal for a regulation stipulating the Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027). Furthermore, it will concentrate on increasing opportunities to participate in sport projects for people with less social and economic resources. ■





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