

Monthly Report - NRRP and EC Priorities

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National Recovery and Resilience Plan

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

Priority 2: Defence & Security

Priority 3: Social rights

Priority 4: Life quality

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

MONTHLY REPORT ANNEX

National Recovery and Resilience Plan

C1. Water management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T29 - DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SIGNING FOREST NURSERY FUNDING CONTRACTS. The Ministry of Environment has published a new order extending until 16 February 2026 the deadline for signing financing contracts under the PNRR/2025/C2/S/I.2.B call, related to Investment I.2 “Development of modern capacities for producing forest reproductive material,” Component C2: Forests

and biodiversity protection. The extension applies to the call supporting **Target 29, Investment I2**, which aims at the establishment, development, or modernisation of 90 forest nurseries by 30 June 2026, and follows the adoption of the final version of the Specific Guideline. No changes are introduced to eligibility conditions, funding ceilings, or the overall budget of the scheme.

INVESTMENT 3, M34 - PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The Ministry of Environment has published an updated draft Emergency Ordinance amending GEO no. 57/2007, as part of **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 34**. The revision introduces a dedicated chapter on priority biodiversity areas, detailing designation procedures, management regimes, and permitted activities, with a clear distinction between non-intervention and active management zones. The ordinance establishes a legislative basis, while concrete impacts will depend on subsequent secondary legislation.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

REFORM 1, M59 - TOLLRO DEADLINES EXTENDED. The law approving the ordinance which postpones from 1 January 2026 to 1 July 2026 the deadlines set by Law no. 226/2023 on the application of road tariffs on the national road network in Romania was published in the Official gazette. Law 226/2023 fulfilled **NRRP Milestone 59 under Component C4, Reform R1**, by establishing a unified framework for applying both the vignette and the new distance-based toll (TollRo), in line with the “polluter pays” principle and environmental taxation.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T74 - BEI LOANS FOR RAILWAY MODERNISATION. The two laws approving the EUR 300 million financing contracts each with the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the Cluj-Napoca – Oradea - Episcopia Bihor and Caransebeș – Timișoara - Arad railway projects were published in the Official Gazette. Both loans are part of the national co-financing mechanism for NRRP railway investments under **Component C4, Investment I1, and support the implementation of Target 74**, which requires the completion of at least 50% of works by Q2 2026. The loans cover up to half of project costs, with maturities of up to 25 years, and will secure the financial flow needed to maintain construction schedules.

INVESTMENT 2, T77 – RAIL MODERNISATION DELIVERIES ADVANCE. The fifth modernised electric locomotive was delivered to CFR Călători, while SCRL Brașov also announced that the seventh battery-electric shunting locomotive has entered the finishing phase. Both deliveries are part of NRRP **Component C4, Investment I2, supporting Target 77**, which requires 55 electric locomotives to be operational by Q2 2026. The ongoing contract covers 17 modernised electric locomotives and 20 diesel shunting locomotives converted to battery-electric operation.

INVESTMENT 3, T84 - A1 MARGINA–HOLDEA MOTORWAY ADVANCES. CNAIR announced that the Margina-Holdea section of the A1 Lugoj–Deva motorway has reached 52% physical completion. The 9.13 km section, including the Margina–Holdea tunnels, is financed through the NRRP, **Component C4, Investment 3, Target 84**, and is scheduled for completion in 2026. The project covers the construction and commissioning of new TEN-T road infrastructure by Q2 2026. The A1 Margina–Holdea section contributes 9 km to the overall NRRP objective of 429 km of motorway to be delivered under the plan.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4, T112 - DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR TRAINING CALL ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS. Following the launch of the non-competitive funding call under **Component C5, Investment I4, Target 112 of the NRRP**, the Ministry of Culture adopted a new ministerial order approving an updated version of the applicant guide (Version 2.0). The order extends the deadline for submitting applications for professional training courses on the energy efficiency of historic buildings from 20 January to 27 February 2026, at 16:00. Applicants who submitted documentation prior to the approval of the amended guide will be requested to provide clarifications and updated annexes in line with the corrigendum.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M114 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ENERGY DECARBONISATION LAW. This week, a new legislative proposal was registered in Parliament to amend GEO no. 108/2022, fully replacing Article 2 on the ban of new lignite and hard coal capacities. The initiative, put forward mainly by PNL deputies, seeks to recalibrate decarbonisation targets based on energy and national security considerations, citing geopolitical risks and market volatility. The ordinance was previously adopted under the NRRP **Component C6, Reform R1, Milestone 114**. The proposal maintains the general ban on coal-based generation but introduces broad derogations, allowing non-energy uses of coal and authorising new capacities by exception in cases related to national security. Derogations are extended to investments in public services, energy storage, flexible generation, electromobility, and cross-border interconnections, subject to best available techniques and binding CSAT approval, and exclude these capacities from other restrictions under GEO no. 108/2022.

REFORM 1, M116 - ENERGY MARKET RULES TRANSPOSITION. The Ministry of Energy republished, in revised form, the draft emergency

ordinance amending Law no. 123/2012 on electricity and natural gas. The initiative primarily addresses the delayed transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1711 and the modernisation of electricity market rules, with a supporting relevance for the NRRP. The draft is partially connected to **Milestones 116 and 128**, as it introduces complementary provisions that facilitate the implementation of investments and market models already established through earlier NRRP legislation. These include flexible grid connection arrangements, accelerated commissioning of new generation and storage capacities, and a strengthened legal framework for active customers and collective prosumers.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

R6, M213 – PILLAR 2 PENSIONS’ CONTRIBUTIONS. The Senate tacitly adopted on February 2nd the legislative proposal aiming to amend Law No. 411/2004 by increasing the contribution rate to privately managed pension funds in Pillar 2 by 0.5 percentage points, from January 1, 2026, to reach the rate of 5.25%, and by 0.75 percentage points from January 1, 2027, to reach the rate of 6%. The amendment impacts **Milestone 213, of Reform 6 of Component 8 of the NRRP** which has already been fulfilled and provides for changes to the regulatory framework to ensure the sustainability of Pillar 2 pensions through an increase in contributions in accordance with the provisions of the Fiscal-Budgetary Strategy. Next, the proposal is going to be soon registered at the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

R6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNSHIP IN MULTIPLE SYSTEMS. The Committee for Labour was notified regarding the legislative proposal which aims to resolve the existing inequities between persons who have completed contribution periods, both in the public pension system and in systems not integrated with it, regarding the consideration of the contributory period regardless of the system in which the contribution was paid by amending Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, through which **Milestone 214, Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR** was fulfilled. It also regulates the recognition and valorization of contribution periods completed both in the public pension system and in the own non-integrated social insurance systems (for example, those of special professional categories). The principle of mutual recognition of contribution periods, length of employment or length of service is enshrined, and the pension from the public system is established for the periods completed in any of these systems. Next, the Committee for Labour is expected to issue a report by February 24.

R6, M214 - PENSIONS FOR SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS. The Chamber of Deputies has registered for final debate the legislative proposal that aims to amend Law no. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, Reform 6 of Component 8 of the NRRP**, in the sense that the activities carried out at workplaces provided for by law are considered under special working conditions only if they are carried out under these conditions during normal working hours and not during the entire normal working hours as currently provided by law, given that at least one working day per month or perhaps several days per month, professional training, instruction, maintenance and/or upkeep activities are carried out, activities that cannot be considered special working conditions. Next, the Committee for Labour is expected to issue a report by February 19.

Context - At this moment, there are 18 legislative initiatives in Parliament to amend Law 360/2023 on the public pension system which fulfilled Milestone 214, of which 2 are new and were recently registered at the Senate, 10 have already been rejected by the Senate and 6 have been adopted and are to be debated in the Chamber of Deputies.

R6, M215 – SPECIAL PENSIONS. The Constitutional Court postponed again for February 11 the debate on the law regulating the special pensions of magistrates and auxiliary personnel in the judiciary, in accordance with the need to fulfill **Milestone 215, Reform 6, Component 8 of the NRRP**. This law proposes to gradually increase the retirement age and introduce a minimum length of service of 35

years for judicial personnel, in line with the public pension system. At the same time, the method of calculating the pension is modified (55% of the average gross income of the last 60 months, with a ceiling of 70% of the net income) and assimilated seniority is gradually eliminated. The measures aim to standardize regulations and ensure fair treatment for all categories in the field of justice.

Investments

R1, I1 – NAFA DIGITALIZATION. The National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) has launched a chatbot - an intelligent virtual assistant - designed to help taxpayers quickly obtain general information about their tax obligations. In a first stage, which is the testing phase, the ANA chatbot will be available only in users' SPV accounts, later being accessible directly from the institutional portal. The chatbot is part of the project "Development of current remote services (electronic or telephone), through new functionalities and/or creation of new services - ANAF e-Services", part of the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Component C8 - Fiscal reform and pension system reform, Reform 1 - Reform of the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) through digitalization, Investment 1 - Increasing voluntary compliance of taxpayers through the development of digital services.** The launch of the chatbot marks a new concrete stage in the modernization of tax administration, and through this project, ANAF aims to improve the way it offers remote services and reduce taxpayers' effort to fulfill tax obligations.

C9. Support for the private sector, research, development, and innovation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C10. The local fund

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

R3, T360 - MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL POLE EAST (PEME). The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the contribution of the City Hall of Sector 3, opens the first stage of the development of the new **Medical Educational Pole East (PEME)** through the project **Center for the Development of Competencies for Personnel in the Public Health System (CDCS)**. The program benefits from a funding of **RON 63,014,779.09** through **NRRP - Component 12, Reform 3, Target 360**, for the achievement of which it is necessary to operationalize two such centers.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

REFORM 2, T383 – PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. The draft bill approving the Emergency Ordinance that introduces significant measures to achieve **Target 383 of the NRRP (Component 13, Reform 2)** was sent for a joint report to the Committee for Labour and the Committee for Public Administration of the Senate. It aims to deinstitutionalize adults with disabilities and significantly reduce their numbers in institutions by **June 30, 2026** and clarifies the role of the **professional personal assistant** as a certified individual providing care and expands the definition of protection measures to include a broad spectrum of social services, such as home care, mobile teams, and sheltered housing. A central feature is, furthermore, the introduction of a new social service: **assisted living in the community for independent living**, which empowers individuals with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives within a community setting. Next, it is expected that the notified committees to issue a report.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – RECENT EDUCATION LAW UPDATES. This month, three new laws amending the Education Laws* were published in January in the Official Gazette. The (1) **first law** ensures **free transport for final-year students**, including during national exams, even after classes end. The (2) **second law enhances accessibility in higher education for students with disabilities or special educational needs**, providing adapted spaces, support services, hybrid participation, and access to mobility programs. The (3) **third law increases the minimum share of university-provided internships from 50% to 75%**, with half organized externally, starting with the 2029 - 2030 academic year. *The Education Laws had previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**.

REFORM 1, M452 - TEACHER TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION. Last month, the Romanian Government adopted an **emergency**

ordinance updating Education Laws 198/2023 and 199/2023 to revise teacher training and school accreditation. Key changes include **delaying the phase-out of the teaching master’s program until 2027–2028, simplifying accreditation for pedagogy programs, allowing smaller vocational and dual-system high schools to operate**, granting automatic provisional authorization for certain qualifications, and **expanding accreditation to new pedagogical specializations**. We remind you that the Education Laws had previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The ordinance has been sent to Parliament for approval and will be reviewed by the Chamber of Deputies’ committees by February 11.

Context - There are 49 bills in the Parliament that seek to amend the already implemented Milestone 452. Concerning the bills from the Parliament, 17 are in the first chamber – 8 with low chances of passing, 8 with medium chances and 2 with high chances (one is a bill for the approval of an ordinance). Subsequently, in the second chamber there are 32 bills – 31 have low chances of becoming laws and 1 has high chances (a bill approving an already into force ordinance).

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – NEW NURSERIES OPENED ACROSS ROMANIA. Under the national “Saint Ana” Program, financed through **NRRP Component 15**, Romania continues expanding modern, energy-efficient nurseries as part of **Target 457 (Investment 1)**, which aims to build, equip, and operate 110 facilities. This month, Odobești inaugurated its first nursery in Vrancea County, serving 70 children with classrooms, playrooms, a multifunctional educational area, a medical office, dining and sanitary facilities, and a landscaped outdoor play area. In addition, **two new nurseries opened in Baci (Cluj) and Hârșova (Constanța)**, each with 40 places and modern, nZEB-compliant features such as solar panels and advanced ventilation. The Odobești facility, funded with RON 12.7 million by the Ministry of Development, makes the city the first in Vrancea to offer safe, sustainable, and modern early childhood education infrastructure.

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 2, T525 - GUIDELINES FOR ENERGY ONE-STOP SHOPS UNDER REPOWEREU. The Ministry of Development has published a

draft order approving the specific guidelines for NRRP **Component C16, Reform 2, linked to Target 525** on the opening of physical energy one-stop shops. The measure implements GEO no. 92/2024 and targets the establishment and operational setup of advisory desks at county level and in Bucharest. The guidelines address 41 county councils and the Bucharest City Hall, providing 100% NRRP financing for eligible costs related to basic equipment and IT infrastructure. The total allocation amounts to EUR 175,438, with a maximum eligible budget of EUR 4,177 per one-stop shop, excluding VAT.

Investments

INVESTMENT 5, M522 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR USING OPTICAL FIBRE. The draft bill approving the ordinance regulating the use of optical fibre embedded in the electricity transmission grid operated by Transelectrica has received a favourable report from the competent committees of the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance establishes the legal basis for exploiting available fibre capacity, while preserving its primary role in ensuring the safe operation of the National Power System. The measure supports the implementation of NRRP **Component C16, Investment I5, Milestone 522**, which targets the operationalisation of the Teletrans data centre by Q1 2026. The draft bill will next be debated and voted on in the Chamber of Deputies.

General News

AMENDMENTS TO THE NRRP REGARDING FINANCIAL CONTROL AND CORRECTIONS. The Government adopted the GO 3/2026, which amends and completes the framework applicable to the prevention, detection and sanctioning of irregularities in the use of funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism. The intervention mainly aims at introducing the application of proportional financial corrections, extending the obligations to report irregularities to the European Commission and clarifying the regime applicable to private beneficiaries, in the context of alignment with updated European financial rules and the pressure to comply with the NRRP milestones and targets.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/869 ON WORKERS' PROTECTION. The Government adopted and published in the Official Gazette the Government Decision transposing Directive (EU) 2024/869, part of the Clean Industrial Deal. The decision introduces amendments to existing national acts on occupational safety to align rules on exposure to carcinogens, mutagens, and reproductive toxicants. Key changes include revised definitions, the removal of outdated provisions on lead compounds, new exposure limits for all diisocyanates, adjusted biological limit values for lead, and updates to preventive medical services.

REPAIRABILITY INDEX FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. The legislative proposal introducing a mandatory repairability index for electrical and electronic equipment was sent to the responsible committees to issue a report by 24.02.2026. The initiative, submitted by MPs from USR, UDMR, and PSD, establishes a legal framework for displaying a standardized repairability score on products, packaging, and at points of sale, including online, with the stated objective of increasing the repair rate of EEE and supporting sustainable consumer choices.

BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT LAW. The legislative proposal regarding the management of biowaste was sent to the responsible committees to issue a report by 24.02.2026. The initiative replaces Law 181/2020 and sets a new framework for separate collection, composting, and anaerobic digestion. It aligns national rules with EU Regulation 2019/1009 and GEO 92/2021, reopening the internal compost market so producers can meet the same quality standards applied to fertilising products already circulating in the EU.

ENERGY CYBERSECURITY RESPONSE CENTRE (CRISCE). This week, a legislative proposal was registered in Parliament to establish the Energy Cybersecurity Incident Response Centre (CRISCE) as a specialised structure within the Ministry of Energy, organised at directorate-general level and reporting directly to the minister. The proposal designates CRISCE as the competent authority for applying Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366 on the cybersecurity of cross-border electricity flows, establishes continuous monitoring and incident response tasks, and sets cooperation mechanisms with the National Directorate for Cyber Security and EU counterparts. Compared to a previously published draft emergency ordinance, the parliamentary initiative limits primary legislation to the general framework, leaving organisational details, staffing, and procedures to be set by ministerial orders, and provides for funding from Modernisation Fund interest and own revenues.

DEROGATIONS FOR SIBIU - PITEȘTI MOTORWAY IN PROTECTED AREAS. The Ministry of Transport has published a draft Emergency

Ordinance introducing targeted derogations from GEO no. 57/2007 to allow the continuation of works on the Sibiu–Pitești Motorway, a strategic TEN-T project. The measure is justified by terrain instability identified during execution works within the sustainable conservation area of Cozia National Park. The draft allows limited construction works, land occupation, and temporary or permanent removal of land from the forest fund and agricultural circuit, strictly for this investment. Environmental impact assessment procedures and the obligation to obtain an environmental permit remain fully applicable.

ELECTRICITY RISK PREPAREDNESS PLAN. The Ministry of Energy published a draft Government Decision approving Romania’s Electricity Risk Preparedness Plan, developed under Regulation (EU) 2019/941. The plan sets the national framework for preventing and managing crisis situations affecting electricity supply, in coordination with regional and European mechanisms.

FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR A1 MOTORWAY APPROVAL. The law approving the EUR 500 million financing agreement between Romania and the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the co-financing of the A1 Sibiu - Pitești Motorway was published in the Official Gazette.

INTEGRATED IT SYSTEM FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND ADMINISTRATION (SIIAFM). The Government adopted and published in the Official Gazette the Government Decision approving the substantiation note for the investment project “SIIAFM”, financed through the 2021–2027 POCIDIF Programme. The project aims to digitalise all AFM. operations via a unified platform hosted in the Governmental Private Cloud, ensuring automated fund management, transparent project monitoring, and public access through a Transparency Portal. The total value is RON 144.8 million and the implementation period is 29 months.

Business & Economy

COMMON RULES TO PROMOTE THE REPAIR OF GOODS - DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1799. The Authority for Consumer Protection published for public debate a draft bill which transpose into national law Directive (EU) 2024/1799, which establishes common rules strengthening the provisions on the repair of goods, with the aim of contributing to the proper functioning of the internal market, while ensuring a high level of consumer and environmental protection. The draft bill will most likely be approved in a future Government meeting and then sent to the Parliament for its adoption.

TRANSPOSITION OF DAC9 AND AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF TAX INFORMATION. The Government adopted a ordinance which transposes into national legislation the provisions of Directive (EU) 2025/872 - DAC9, which introduces an EU system for filing and exchanging tax information for multinational enterprises, establishing at national level rules for the automatic exchange of information on

the Additional Tax Information Declaration and the necessary framework for the application of the declaration obligations provided for by DAC9.

Digital tech, research and innovation

AFM INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIIAFM). The Government adopted a decision that approves the Substantiation Note for the implementation of the investment "Integrated Information System of the Environmental Fund Administration (SIIAFM)", an initiative to digitize the AFM, fully financed by the European Regional Development Fund through POCIDIF 2021–2027. The aim is to increase the efficiency of environmental protection fund management processes and improve the services offered to citizens, the business environment and public institutions. The decision was also published in the Official Gezette.

Health Union

INCREASED BIRTH RATE OF INFERTILE COUPLES. The Ministry of Labor published for public debate a draft Government Decision on the approval of the Social Program of National Interest to Support Couples and Single People, to Increase the Birth Rate. The beneficiaries of the Program are infertile couples, married or unmarried, and infertile single women, who have a recommendation from a specialist doctor for specialized medical procedures that will result in an increase in the birth rate. Next, the draft will be most likely adopted in a future Government meeting.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

ROMANIA SECURES MAJOR EU SAFE FINANCING FOR DEFENCE AND DUAL-USE INFRASTRUCTURE. Romania has obtained the second-largest allocation under the EU SAFE programme, through long-term loans supporting defence capabilities and dual-use infrastructure, following the approval of its National Investment Plan in November 2025. The financing covers EUR 9.53 billion for projects of the Ministry of National Defence, EUR 4.2 billion for dual-use transport infrastructure managed by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, and EUR 2.8 billion for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other national security structures, including civil protection. The SAFE loans benefit from AAA-level interest conditions, with a 45-year maturity and a 10-year grace period, and are intended to support defence capability development alongside industrial cooperation and local production.

Borders and migration

HEALTH SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS. The Ministry of Internal Affairs launched in public consultation a draft bill which ensures the transposition of a series of EU Directives and Regulations on migration and asylum, establishing rules for screening centers for foreigners and strengthening the protection of their rights, including access to health services and assistance. At the same time, it aligns Romanian legislation with the new European rules on asylum, migration, return and border control. Next, the draft bill is going to be adopted and registered at the Parliament for debate.

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. The Senate registered a new legislative proposal who aims to strengthen the Romanian state's capacity to prevent and combat cross-border crime through measures such as operational risk analysis at strategic entry points, institutional cooperation and secure exchange of information. It provides for the formation of joint operational teams, permanent collaboration with Europol and the rapid application of measures on high-risk transports, without affecting economic operators. At the same time, a minimal annual reporting mechanism on the implementation of the law is established. Next the proposal is going to be debated by the specialized committees.

Security & crisis management

MPs ADVANCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AGAINST FEMICIDE. The Senate has adopted a **legislative initiative** against femicide, signed by 273 MPs. The bill legally defines femicide as the intentional killing of a woman or her death resulting from violent acts or other crimes, whether by a family member or a third party. It strengthens measures for preventing violence, protecting victims, and ensuring prompt intervention by authorities. Senators' amendments also assign the Ministry of Education to fund educational and awareness programs on gender equality and non-violence. The bill, which builds on the original proposal introducing femicide into Romanian law, will now go to the deputies for final debate.

ROMANIA RATIFIES OCCAR FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. Romania has ratified, through a new law, the framework agreement with **OCCAR**, allowing participation in defence equipment programs like the European Patrol Corvette without immediate financial commitments. Managed by the Ministry of National Defence, participation and budget contributions will be approved for each program individually, in line with European Defence Fund-funded projects. The agreement also sets administrative limits pending rules on privileges and immunities.

GENERAL SORIN CÎRSTEA APPOINTED CSAT SECRETARY. President Nicușor Dan placed General Mihai Șomordolea into reserve and relieved him from his position as State Counsellor. At the same time, **General Sorin Cîrstea was appointed State Counsellor and Secretary of the Supreme Council of National Defence (CSAT)**. Mihai Șomordolea held key positions within CSAT between 2008 and 2015. General Sorin Cîrstea is a career military officer, holds a PhD in military sciences, has received international decorations, and has participated in multiple overseas missions, including in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

81 PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS TO START IN FEBRUARY. In February 2026, the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) will run **81 free professional training programs for 1,349 participants across county employment agencies and Bucharest.** The programs with the most spots include security agent, commercial worker, data entry/operator, kitchen assistant, HR clerk, digital skills and cybersecurity, hairdresser, cook, occupational safety inspector, and plumbing/gas installer. Braşov, Dâmboviţa, and Cluj will host the largest numbers of participants. Interested individuals can contact their local employment agency or view courses at www.anofm.ro.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

PROMOTION OF AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS THROUGH SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS. The legislative proposal on promoting agri-food products through short supply chains and digital traceability, and integrating them into public procurement, received a rejection report from the responsible committees of the Senate. The initiative, introduced by AUR, SOS, and POT MPs, together with several PSD deputies, aims to strengthen local agri-food systems by prioritising products sourced from short supply chains in public tenders and retail networks, supporting cooperation between farmers and public institutions. However, the initiative can be viewed as largely populist and lacking financial clarity, with low chance of adoption. The proposal will next be debated and voted on in the Senate.

EMERGENCY STATE AID FOR ORCHARD SECTOR. The General Secretariat of the Government published a draft Government Decision establishing an emergency financial support scheme for orchard producers affected by the late spring frost in April-May 2025. The measure implements the exceptional EU support mechanism set out in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2061 and provides partial compensation for climate-related losses, within the limits established at EU level. The draft decision introduces a nationwide grant scheme of up to EUR 2,000 per hectare for producers with orchards affected by at least 30%.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

PARLIAMENT ADVISORY ROLE ON EU APPOINTMENTS. A new law, published last week in the Official Gazette, **requires Parliament to provide a consultative opinion on candidates proposed by the Government for positions in EU institutions**, particularly for European Commission membership. The specialized committees of both Chambers must transmit their opinion to the Government within 10 days.

Rule of law

LAW FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN CROSS-BORDER CIVIL CASES. The Romanian Government adopted a bill **allowing parties and their representatives in cross-border civil cases to attend hearings remotely via audiovisual tools**, in line with **EU Regulation 2023/2844**. The law ensures identity verification, security, confidentiality, and data protection, while giving courts discretion based on technology availability and parties' consent. Notifications will provide technical instructions and hearing times, and lawyers, translators, or interpreters can also join remotely. The measure aims to digitalize the judiciary and improve access to justice for participants in other EU states. The bill has already reached the Parliament for approval, with the deputies being expected to debate these provisions by February 24.

Civil society

SENATE REJECTS NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY REGISTRY FOR NGOS. The Senate rejected a legislative proposal that would have created a **National Registry of Funding and Transparency for associations and foundations**, managed by the Ministry of Justice and NAFA. The proposal would have required organizations to report annual income and/or funding over 10,000 RON, public/EU funds, and activity or audit reports, with non-compliance potentially leading to warnings, funding suspension, or operational suspension. With low chances of becoming law, the bill will next be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA-EGYPT MILITARY COOPERATION. The Ministry of Defense has issued a draft bill in public transparency ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding on military cooperation between the Government of Romania, represented by the Ministry of National Defense, and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Defense, signed in Cairo on November 2, 2025. The memorandum contains provisions regarding purpose, definitions, areas of cooperation, forms of cooperation, implementation, the joint military committee, financial aspects, visits, protection of exchanged classified military information, jurisdiction, dispute settlement and final provisions.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

THE “PEACE COUNCIL”, CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. US President Donald Trump launched a new international body in Davos, called the Peace Council, which would aim to ensure peace in the Gaza Strip. President Trump would be the chair of the Council and would have the power to invite members, decide the frequency of meetings, and break voting ties. In this pseudo-UN, created precisely to replace the UN, it appears that EU countries, with the exception of Hungary and Bulgaria, have chosen to stay away or reject Donald Trump's offer. Romania is among these countries, although for now President Nicușor Dan has stated that Romania will analyze US President Donald Trump's invitation to join a new international body in the Supreme Council for National Defense.

MONTHLY REPORT ANNEX

From a total of 6 normative acts adopted this month aiming at modifying or implementing reforms or investments within the NRRP, 1 GEO and 2 Orders were adopted by the Government and its related ministries. 3 Laws were adopted by the Parliament.