

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

REFORM 2, M4 - WATER PRICING REFORM UNDER DELIVERY PRESSURE. Under **NRRP Component C1, Reform 2, Milestone 4**, the reform of the economic mechanism for water resources remains under development, following earlier warnings from the Ministry of Environment regarding risks to timely implementation. A note presented at Government level flagged delays in advancing the legislative framework revising the financing model of the National Administration “Apele Române”, including challenges related to interinstitutional coordination and the tight legislative calendar. In response, authorities are currently preparing amendments to Water Law No. 107/1996 to introduce a cost-recovery model aligned with operational, environmental and resource costs, with support from the World Bank in assessing tariff scenarios. The European Commission has previously highlighted deficiencies in the current pricing system, particularly its inability to generate sufficient investment resources. The final tariff model is expected to be presented in the coming period, while the milestone remains exposed to implementation risks.

Investments

INVESTMENT 6, I19 - REAPPROVAL OF THE WATER CADASTRE INVESTMENT NOTE. The Government approved last week the Government Decision to reapprove the substantiation note for the investment “Implementation of the Water Cadastre”, financed under **NRRP Component C1, Investment I6, Milestone 19**. The measure updates the framework approved through Government Decision No. 1125/2024, following adjustments to the financing structure and implementation calendar. The project budget is revised from RON 177.8 million to RON 180.7 million, reflecting the increase of the VAT rate from 19% to 21% introduced through Law No. 141/2025. The financing structure is also updated after Government Decision No. 1010/2025, which changed the source of funding for Investment I6 from repayable financial assistance to non-repayable NRRP funding, within the allocation of EUR 30 million. The implementation period is also extended from 16 to 19 months. The Decision was also published in the Official Gazette.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3, M35 - PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The draft bill approving the emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 57/2007, under **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 35**, was adopted by the Senate. The act establishes the legal framework for Priority Biodiversity Zones (ZPB), including designation procedures and management regimes, creating the basis for future designation of strictly protected areas. The draft bill will next be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

INVESTMENT 3, M35 - METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ZPB. In parallel, the Ministry of Environment has published a draft order approving the methodology for identifying Priority Biodiversity Zones. The document defines the criteria and process for selecting areas, including both Natura 2000 sites and additional zones, and introduces differentiated protection regimes and potential buffer areas. The methodology also supports the implementation of Milestone 35.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT1a, T49 - DELAYS IN VOLUNTARY COLLECTION CENTRES. The rollout of voluntary waste collection centres (CAV), under **NRRP Component C3, Investment I1.a, Target 49**, which requires 565 centres to be operational by Q2 2026, is progressing slower than required according to industry statements. Despite funding of over EUR 1 billion and a high number of submitted projects, implementation has been slowed by local administrative bottlenecks and limited uptake at municipal level. While some centres are completed or close to completion, the current pace raises risks for meeting the operational deadline set under the NRRP.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T75 - NEW MODERNISED RAIL SEGMENTS OPENED ON ARAD - TIMIȘOARA - CARANSEBEȘ LINE. Around 10 km of modernised railway infrastructure has been reopened to traffic on the Lugoj - Timișoara Est section, as part of the Arad - Timișoara - Caransebeș modernisation project financed through the NRRP. The investment falls under **Component C4, Investment I1, and contributes to Target 75**, which covers the entry into operation of new or modernised railway infrastructure by Q2 2026. According to the information reported, the section brought into operation includes 8.6 km of modernised track, plus a further 900 metres on line 3 in Recaș station. The project is part of the wider upgrade of the Arad - Timișoara - Caransebeș corridor, including electrification works and ERTMS deployment, with the aim of increasing speeds, improving safety and interoperability, and reducing travel times on the Orient/East-Med corridor.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4 - PILOT HERITAGE CENTRES OPERATIONALISED. Four pilot centres for interventions on historic buildings were inaugurated in Avrig by the Ministry of Culture, through the National Institute of Heritage, marking the **completion of Investment I4 under NRRP Component C5**. The centres introduce an integrated model combining research, professional training, material reuse and maintenance, based on circular economy and energy efficiency principles. They are intended to function as testing hubs for technical and operational solutions that can be scaled nationally. According to the Ministry, the results will inform the future framework law on culture, including technical standards, training models and funding mechanisms for heritage protection, while also feeding into ongoing discussions on broader legislative reforms in the cultural sector.

IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR MDLPA PNRR PROJECTS (C5, C10, C15). An order published in the Official Gazette extends the implementation deadline for projects financed under NRRP Components **C5, C10 and C15**, managed by the Ministry of Development, from 30 June to 31 July 2026. The measure applies to approximately 5,300 contracts and is intended to support full absorption of available funds, in the context of a reported absorption rate of 74%. The extension covers investments such as energy renovation and seismic consolidation of buildings, construction of nurseries, and development of local green infrastructure.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M114 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO SECURE DECARBONISATION MILESTONE COMPLIANCE. The draft bill which approves GEO no. 20/2026 aimed at aligning the decarbonisation framework with **NRRP commitments, ensuring the irreversibility of Milestone 114 and the fulfilment of Targets 119 and 119a** on coal phase-out was registered and sent to the responsible committee of the Chamber

of Deputies, to issue a report by 12.05.2026. The ordinance updates the timeline for decommissioning lignite and hard coal capacities, removes previously introduced mechanisms considered to create risks of reversibility (GEO nr. 88/2025), and reinforces the ban on developing or extending coal-based generation. It also introduces stricter sanctions, including fines of up to 7% of turnover.

REFORM 1, M114 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ENERGY DECARBONISATION LAW. The legislative proposal amending GEO No. 108/2022, adopted under **NRRP Component C6, Reform R1, Milestone 114**, received a joint admission report from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies, which introduced changes to the coal phase-out mechanism. The initiative, put forward mainly by PNL deputies, seeks to recalibrate decarbonisation targets based on energy and national security considerations. According to the preliminary position, the decommissioning of lignite and hard coal capacities would be conditioned on the commissioning of new electricity generation capacities, effectively linking coal phase-out to replacement capacity. The proposal maintains the general ban on coal-based generation, while preserving derogations for non-energy uses and exceptions justified by national security considerations. Next, the proposal will be debated and voted in the Chamber of Deputies plenary.

REFORM 1, M114 - COAL MINE CLOSURE FUNDING PROPOSED FOR 2026. The Ministry of Energy has published a draft Government Decision allocating RON 349.98 million in 2026 to Complexul Energetic Valea Jiului for the safe closure, decommissioning and environmental rehabilitation of the Lonea, Lupeni, Livezeni and Vulcan coal mines. The measure is implemented under the state aid framework established by GEO No. 13/2025 and forms part of the broader coal phase-out process, including commitments under **NRRP Component C6, Reform R1, Milestone 114**. The funding covers underground safety works, environmental rehabilitation and land recultivation, as well as limited allocations for employee compensation and professional reconversion. The amount proposed represents a partial allocation compared to the total estimated needs for 2026, with additional funding expected to be approved at a later stage.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T157 – DEROGATION FOR STS PURCHASES IN THE GOVERNMENT CLOUD. MEDAT published a draft ordinance that introduces a derogation for allowing the Special Telecommunications Service (STS) to conclude framework agreements and subsequent contracts before concluding government agreements for the licensing of the necessary software products. The measure targets operating system and database licenses necessary for the operation of IT systems belonging to cloud service users in the internal cloud and **supports the implementation of Target 157 of the NRRP (Component C7, Investment 2)**, regarding the migration of government applications to IaaS/PaaS solutions.

INVESTMENT 4, M165 – PÎCCJ IT INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION. The Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice (PÎCCJ) has completed the implementation of the project **for the IT structure modernization of the institution**. The project was financed under **the NRRP - Component 7, Investment 4**, contributing to the implementation **of Milestone 165** and being estimated at a final value of RON 9,758,043.29, of which the value of the non-reimbursable external financing is RON 8,065,679. The result of the project is **the operationalization of a new LAN network (data-voice) in the institution's headquarters, a structured, homogeneous and secure network**, in compliance with the standards in force. At the same time, specialized IT personnel were trained to manage the new data-voice network. Through its implementation, the project will directly contribute to the fulfilment **of Objective no. 2 of the NRRP** - Increasing the resilience of the judicial system by modernizing the IT infrastructure at central and local level (courts, prosecutors' offices and others).

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF SALARY RECORDS. The Committee for Budget and the Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which aims to amend Law no. 360/2023 on the public pension system which fulfilled

Milestone 214 – Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR and to resolve situations in which essential documents, such as payrolls, no longer exist or are no longer found in the archives, by recognizing the remuneration/salary records, drawn up nominally for each employee, as valid supporting documents. These acquire the same probative value, to the extent that they contain all the elements necessary to establish the monthly income achieved. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be debated in the plenary of the Senate where is expected to be rejected.

REFORM 6, M214 – PENSION FOR ENERGY WORKERS. The Senate issued rejected the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and aims to extend and clarify the classification under special conditions for personnel in coal-fired power plants and coal mining units, including maintenance personnel, introducing the employer's obligation to expressly justify situations in which it only partially recognizes the activity under special conditions. It also provides for the cumulation of reductions in the standard retirement age up to a maximum of 13 years, the granting of an additional point for each month worked under special conditions for certain categories and the assimilation, as internship under special conditions, of periods prior to April 1, 2001 carried out in work groups I and II, in the cases provided for by law. The proposal was also registered at the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate and is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by May 25.

REFORM 6, M214 – NIGHT WORK. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and proposes that the standard retirement age be reduced by one day for every 24 cumulative hours of night work actually performed, given that shifts are, as a general rule, 8 hours long. Therefore, for every 24 hours worked during the night, even if these are performed in separate shifts and on different days, the worker will benefit from the corresponding reduction of the retirement age by one day. It is also established that the minimum retirement age is 60 years, below which the reduction cannot operate. Next, the proposal is expected to be debated and rejected by the Senate plenary.

REFORM 6, M214 – SALARY-PENSION ACCUMULATION. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and establishes that the right to an old-age pension should not be conditional on the termination, suspension or non-existence of a public/private employment relationship. In other words, it explicitly allows the cumulation of salary with the old-age pension, if the pensioner's option is to continue his professional activity - the right to work and the right to an old-age pension are considered compatible. Next, the proposal is expected to be debated and rejected by the Senate plenary.

Context – There are currently 23 legislative initiatives in Parliament to amend Law 360/2023, of which 4 are under debate in the Senate, and 19 under debate in the Chamber of Deputies, of which 14 were rejected by the Senate.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3 – DIGITALIZATION OF NGOs AND SMEs. MIPE modified the specific project guidelines within the NRRP related to **the Digitalization of the Non-Governmental Organizations Sector (Component 7, Investment 9)** and **SMEs (Component 9, Investment 3)**, to allow all beneficiaries to achieve their assumed objectives. The amendments aim to extend the project implementation deadlines, for both NGOs and SMEs, until **June 30, 2026**. To effectively carry out this approach, after the publication of the order approving the updated guidelines, beneficiaries will submit notifications to request the extension in the platform, before the expiration of the current implementation period.

INVESTMENT 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF PIIEC ME/CT PROJECTS. The General Directorate for Regional Development, Innovation and Digitalization, as the Coordinator of Reforms and Investments for the **NRRP**, published an **Instruction** on the implementation of subprojects of indirect participants related to **project calls 1 and 2 financed under Investment I4 - Cross-border and Multinational Projects (PIIEC), Component 9**. The regulations refer to the application of the flat rate, eligible costs within projects and the modification of related contracts, with models available in the Annexes

C10. The local fund

Reforms

REFORM 5, M315 – ADOPTION OF CATUC LEGAL FRAMEWORK. In the context of recent statements by Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan regarding the importance of meeting the milestones of the NRRP, the Employers' Association of Construction Designers (PPC) emphasizes that one of the most relevant objectives for the construction sector remains the adoption **of the Code of Territorial Development, Urbanism and Construction (CATUC)**, according to a press release. At this moment, the draft law whose adoption is necessary for the fulfillment **of Milestone 315, Reform 5, Component 10 of the NRRP** is in parliamentary debate in the decision-making chamber but has not had any updates since 2023 PPC also draws attention to the fact that the current level of budget allocations for design, of approximately 3%, is insufficient compared to the complexity and importance of this process. According to them, through the proposed measures, from reducing administrative deadlines and digitizing processes, to integrating urban and territorial planning and aligning with sustainable development principles, CATUC can mark a decisive step in modernizing the sector.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T377 – NEW HEADQUARTER FOR DIMITRIE GEROTA HOSPITAL. The resort committees of the Chamber of Deputies issued an admission report for the draft bill that approves GEO no. 39/2025. The ordinance contributes to the implementation of the project "**New Headquarters for the Emergency Hospital of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Prof. Dr. Dimitrie Gerota**", part of **the NRRP - Component 12, Investment 2, Target 377**, with a total value of the non-refundable amount of RON 1,028,643,096. The act will most probably be finally adopted in a future plenary session.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

REFORM 4, M387 - REGULATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DOMESTIC PROVIDER. The President of Romania signed the law which approves the emergency ordinance revising the legislation on the regulation of the activity of the domestic provider, in the sense of **clarifying the operation of the payment and record system** established by the Law 111/2022 which met the **Milestone 387 of Reform 4 of Component C13 of the NRRP**. The normative act aims to expand the scope of activities specific to the domestic provider, establishes the payment of the activity by agreement between the parties, details the payment of the domestic provider and regulates the functionalities of the Electronic Platform for the Record of Domestic Activities. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force.

REFORM 6, M398 - SOCIAL ECONOMY. After the adoption of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies registered this month for debate the draft bill approving the emergency ordinance which aims at completing **Milestone 398 of Reform 6, Component 13 of the PNRR**, already fulfilled by GD 876/2022. The draft bill aims to update the legislative framework on employment and unemployment insurance, through measures aimed at digitizing ANOFM services, expanding the categories of beneficiaries and vulnerable groups supported, stimulating employers in the social economy, introducing a stability bonus for NEET youth and simplifying administrative procedures. Next, the Committee for Labour is expected to issue a report by May 5.

REFORM 2, T383 – DEINSTITUTIONALIZED PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. The Official Gazette has published an order of the Ministry of Labor **approving the Procedure for granting and paying the amounts granted to people with disabilities** who, by June 30, 2026, leave residential centres for adults with disabilities and who benefit from the social service of assisted living in the community for independent living. The payments are provided for by GEO 90/2025, and their operationalization contributes to achieving **Target 383, within Reform 2, Component 13 of the PNRR**.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 1, M407 - BETTER REGULATION STRATEGY 2026-2034. In April, the government proposed for adoption the **Better Regulation Strategy 2026-2034**, aimed at strengthening decision-making across central public administration and fulfilling **Milestone 407** under Romania's **NRRP (Reform 1, Component 14)**. The strategy, aligned with recommendations from the European Commission, OECD, and World Bank, seeks to address a fragmented and reactive policymaking system by **introducing data-driven decisions, early and meaningful public consultation, and systematic impact assessments for new legislation**.

REFORM 9, M440 - RESTRUCTURING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE. Following President's Dan refferal, the Constitutional Court ruled that

the **law** approving the emergency ordinance on **the corporate governance of state-owned enterprises**, a key milestone under the **NRRP (Milestone 440, Reform 9)**, is constitutional. In the final form, Deputies removed a significant part of the amendments introduced by the Senate, including provisions related to AMEPIP's role in selection procedures, minority shareholder safeguards and elements of the remuneration framework, arguing that several of these issues had already been regulated by Law No. 158/2025.

Context - There are currently 2 initiatives in Parliament that contribute to the implementation of Milestone 440, both with low chances of passing the vote of the deputies.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE COMPANIES LISTINGS REFORM. At the same time, the Executive advanced a plan to partially list several state-owned companies on the stock exchange. Government's proposal includes selling additional minority stakes of **5-10% in Hidroelectrica (≈ RON 6.2 billion) and 5-7% in Romgaz (≈ RON 3.1 billion), alongside a potential IPO of CEC Bank**. The objective is to raise significant budget revenues while improving transparency and corporate governance, without losing majority state control. This is an objective assumed by Romania through its NRRP, precisely **Target 443 (Reform 9 - Component 14)**, which requires the listing of at least three public enterprises to improve governance and efficiency.

The plan has generated strong political tensions. The ruling coalition is divided, with PSD opposing the sale of stakes in profitable companies, citing risks of undervaluation and loss of strategic control, and proposing a **2-year ban** on such transactions. Following the presentation of the plan, PSD withdrew from the government and submitted a vote of no confidence against the Executive.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS CLASH WITH NRRP GOALS. After the Government presented its aforementioned plan, PSD MP Daniel Zamfir registered in the Senate a new **legislative initiative** that **bans, until 31.12.2027, the sale of state-held shares in national companies, banks, and other state-owned enterprises**. This would effectively block planned stock market listings promoted by the government as a way to raise billions of lei and meet milestones under Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The measure directly impacts **Target 443**.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE PREEMPTION IN STRATEGIC SECTORS. Remaining on this subject, an AUR-signed **legislative proposal** would impose **strict conditions on the stock market listing of state-owned companies**. Again, this is tied to Romania's NRRP commitments under **Target 443**. The initiative mandates that the state retain a minimum two-thirds voting stake in companies deemed part of critical infrastructure, bans transactions that would dilute this threshold, and grants the state veto powers over key decisions, including major asset operations.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS, TIED TO CONTROL SAFEGUARDS. AUR has introduced a second **legislative initiative** on the aforementioned issue, **granting the state and local authorities a right of first refusal in transactions involving public enterprises and**

strategic assets. This means they can step in and take over deals before private buyers, while companies must notify authorities of such transactions within a 45-day window. The proposal targets a wide range of entities, including state-owned companies, banks, insurers, and firms with significant public participation. It also requires government approval for transfers to foreign investors in key sectors like energy, transport, agriculture, healthcare, and critical infrastructure. While the measure aims to strengthen national control, it could hinder Romania's commitment under the NRRP, precisely **Target 443**.

Context - There are currently 3 initiatives in Parliament affect the implementation of **Target 443**, 1 with high chances of passing (the PSD one), while the other 2 (submitted by AUR) have low to medium chances.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 - STAFFING, FUNDING, ABROAD CORPS. A new **government ordinance** amends Romania's Education Laws 198/2023 and 199/2023, introducing **reforms to staffing, funding, and institutional structures across the education system**. We remind you that the Education Laws previously implemented **Milestone 452 of the NRRP (Reform 1, Component 15)**. Key provisions from the new ordinance include filling teaching and university posts through competitive exams, redefining bilingual classes and expanding state financing for certain private and confessional schools. They also broaden access to instructor roles within Interior Ministry training institutions. The ordinance was already published in the Official Gazette, while the **bill for its approval** reached the Parliament for the start of the debates.

REFORM 1, M452 – NEW UPDATE EXTENDS TRAINING, SCHOOL RULES. The **Law** approving GEO 1/2026, which also amends the Education Laws, has been published in the Official Gazette, **updating the legal framework for teacher training and the functioning of educational institutions**. Once again, the Education Laws previously implemented **Milestone 452**. The changes introduce simplified

evaluation and accreditation rules for the “Pedagogy of Primary Education” program, extend the deadline for phasing out the didactic master’s degree to the 2027-2028 academic year, and allow smaller enrolment thresholds for certain vocational and dual-system high schools.

REFORM 1, M452 – STRICTER PHONE RULES IN HIGH SCHOOLS. The Senate has adopted an AUR **proposal** amending the pre-university education law to **tighten rules on banning mobile phones in high schools and standardize how confiscated devices are handled**. A ban can only be approved if at least 75% of the school board is present and must pass with a two-thirds majority, raising the threshold significantly. Schools will also be required to introduce clear procedures for collecting, labeling, storing, and returning devices. We remind you that **Milestone 452 of the NRRP** was previously implemented through the Education Laws (one of them amended through this proposal). Now the bill will soon reach the deputies for a final debate.

REFORM 1, M452 / INVESTMENT 4, T458 – EDUCATION AID REFORM PROPOSAL. UDMR has submitted a **legislative proposal** in the Senate that would **reduce the monthly child allowance for ages 3-18** from 292 lei to 100 lei starting in September 2027, while **introducing a new minimum 250 lei “attendance scholarship” for preschoolers and students**. The initiative is explicitly tied to Romania’s obligations under the NRRP: it modifies already implemented Milestone 452 (Reform 1), while supporting Target 468 (Investment 4), which focuses on reducing early school leaving by lowering the number of schools at high risk of dropout.

REFORM 1, M452 – ANTI-BULLYING INTERVENTION RULES IN SCHOOLS. MP Raisa Enachi has registered a **legislative proposal** in the Chamber of Deputies that **strengthens anti-bullying procedures in pre-university schools** by introducing strict intervention deadlines of 2-5 working days and fines of 5,000-15,000 lei for school principals who fail to comply. The bill requires schools to take immediate protective measures once bullying is confirmed, prioritising the safety of the victim, including possible changes to class, schedule, or limiting the aggressor’s participation in activities, while explicitly forbidding conditioning protection on mediation or forcing victim-aggressor interaction. The proposal also amends the legal framework of pre-university education under Law 198/2023, which implemented **Milestone 452**.

Context - There are currently 62 initiatives in Parliament that amend **Milestone 452**, out of which only 3 have high chances of passing the vote.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NURSERY EXPANSION PROGRESS. In April, Development Minister Cseke Attila (UDMR) inaugurated **several**

new nurseries across Romania (in Hunedoara, Maramureș, Prahova, and Satu Mare), under the government’s “Saint Ana” programme, part of the NRRP (Component 15, **Investment 1, Target 457**). The initiative aims to build and equip 110 nurseries nationwide, and has already delivered over 60 units, creating around 4,000 childcare places out of the 4,500 planned under the NRRP. These developments mark steady progress in expanding sustainable early childhood education infrastructure across the country.

INVESTMENT 10, T486 – EPPO PROBES ELECTRIC BUS PROCUREMENT. The European Public Prosecutor's Office has officially launched an **investigation into the procurement of electric school minibuses** funded through Romania’s **NRRP**, following a complaint filed by Investments and European Projects Minister Dragoș Pîslaru. The probe targets **suspicious of inflated prices** in a project aimed at purchasing 3,200 electric minibuses to modernize school transport under Component 15 (Investment 10, **Target 486**), with authorities examining procurement procedures, pricing, and compliance with EU funding rules. The minister said he expects a swift investigation and stressed that anyone found responsible for legal violations will be held accountable, after earlier media reports and internal checks had already flagged potential irregularities

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1 - ACCELERATION ZONES FRAMEWORK DELAYED. A note reviewed by the Government presents the status of **Reform 1 under Component 16**, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and highlights delays affecting **Milestones 508 to 511**. The document shows that Milestone 509, which concerns the legal framework for designating acceleration areas for renewable energy projects, remains under review after multiple rounds of comments from national authorities and the European Commission. It also underlines that progress on Milestone 511, concerning the signature of concession contracts, depends directly on the adoption of that framework. At the same time, Milestone 510 on the national register of eligible state-owned land is under implementation, while Milestone 508 is only partially completed. The note points to the adoption of the legal framework as the next step for moving the reform forward.

Investments

INVESTMENT 5, T518 - TRANSELECTRICA ADVANCES SELF-CONSUMPTION PROJECT IN SUBSTATIONS. Transelectrica is implementing a REPowerEU investment under the NRRP, estimated at around EUR 29.6 million, for the installation of photovoltaic systems and battery storage in 29 transformer substations to supply internal services. The project contributes to **Component C16, Investment I5a, Target 518**, which provides for reducing the annual electricity consumption of these substations from 18 GWh in 2022 to 9 GWh by Q2 2026. The systems are configured for self-consumption, without injection into the grid, with the aim of reducing dependence on electricity purchased from the national power system. Works are ongoing in 13 substations, while another 16 are in the design phase and are due to enter execution, with photovoltaic installations already mounted in some locations. The investment is intended to increase the operational autonomy of electricity transport infrastructure, including in outage or system restoration situations, while also lowering operating costs through a potential reduction in grid consumption of up to 50%.

General News

NRRP ABSORPTION WITHIN THE NEW POLITICAL CRISIS. Because PSD withdrew its support for Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, the Minister of MIPE, Dragoș Pîslaru, warned that **Romania risks losing EUR 8 billion from the NRRP, more than half of the critical reforms being coordinated by the social-democrat ministries. Moreover, 36% of the remaining targets and milestones are also under their responsibility**, the objectives having to be completed by the end of August. According to him, the abandonment of these objectives on the verge of the deadline demonstrates that the priority of the PSD leadership is not the development of Romania, but the avoidance of changes that disturb the party's interests. In this regard, President Nicușor Dan discussed the status of the implementation of the NRRP projects with Dragoș Pîslaru, conveying that, although there is still much to be done, he is confident that the pro-European parties will be responsible regarding the absorption of the NRRP funds, regardless of what happens at the political level.

In this regard, President Nicușor Dan held consultations with the leaders of the pro-European parties PSD, PNL, USR, UDMR to discuss the implementation of the NRRP. Beforehand, Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan had published a message regarding the Government's commitment to complete the NRRP objectives by the deadline. He specified, for the general public, which projects are being financed and how the remaining milestones and targets will be concretely achieved, including a list of the main ones, which will be prioritized, with explanations:

- **Milestone no. 431 (C14, R7)** - Updating the legal framework for integrity for the civil service;
- **Milestone no. 509 (C16, R1)** - Creating a legal framework for the use of state lands as acceleration zones for investments in renewable energy sources;

- **Milestone no. 315 (C10, R5)** - Development of the planning system - Spatial planning, urban planning and construction code;
- **Target 119a (C6, R1)** - Reforming the electricity market, by replacing coal from the energy mix and supporting a stimulating legislative and regulatory framework for private investments in electricity production from renewable sources;
- **Milestone 128 (C6, R6)** - Entry into force of legislative acts introducing measures to decarbonize the heating and cooling sector;
- **Target 197 (C8, R1)** - Structural reform of ANAF and legislative amendments to increase compliance with tax obligations;
- **Milestone 4 (C1, R2)** - Reconfiguration of the economic mechanism of the National Administration "Romanian Waters" (ANAR), to ensure the modernization and maintenance of the national water management system;
- **Milestone 420 (C14, R4)** - Development of a fair and unitary salary system in the public sector;
- **Target 442 (C14, R9)** - Improving the procedural framework for implementing corporate governance principles within state-owned enterprises.

According to him, the adoption of the 9 laws necessary to achieve these objectives will be, beyond disputes and different approaches, a test of responsibility for the political class in Romania. Business organizations in Romania are also calling for the mobilization of the entire decision-making spectrum around reforms on which strategic objectives depend.

NRRP LOANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES. The Ministry of Finance published a draft ordinance which establishes a **RON 10 billion** financing mechanism providing local authorities with **interest-free, short-term loans** to bridge liquidity gaps in NRRP project implementation. Aimed at ensuring all milestones are met by the **August 2026 deadline**, the measure allows municipalities to bypass standard debt limits provided their projects are at least **60% complete**. These loans must be fully repaid by **November 15, 2026**; failure to do so triggers late interest and the potential suspension of state budget transfers.

NRRP FUNDING IN ANAR 2026 BUDGET. A Decision for the approval of the 2026 revenue and expenditure budget of the National Administration “Apele Române” (ANAR), including allocations from both the grant and loan components of the NRRP was adopted by the Government. The total allocation reaches around RON 293 million. **Component C1** remains the core funding source, covering flood risk reduction, hydrotechnical infrastructure and monitoring capacity. Allocations target **Investment I4.2** (including Leșu and Sălard accumulations), **Investment I5** for equipment and emergency preparedness, and **Investment I6** on the water cadastre. Additional, smaller allocations are included under **Component C5 for building renovation and Component C11 for cycling infrastructure**.

NRRP ABSORPTION RATE FOR MDLPA. Minister Cseke Attila announced that **MDLPA has an absorption rate of 77% on the four**

components of the NRRP that it coordinates, predicting that, in the last two weeks, this figure has increased by 4%, and by the end of the summer there is a chance of an absorption of almost 100%, therefore:

- Through **component C5** - Renovation Wave, absorption is 79% and works worth over RON 8.8 billion have been settled;
- For projects in **component C10** – Local Fund, payments of almost RON 7.4 billion were made, the absorption rate being 77%;
- For the construction of cycle tourism routes (through **component C11** - Tourism and culture), payments of RON 115.7 million were made, with absorption of 81%;
- The absorption rate for the construction of modern and environmentally friendly nurseries (**component C15** - Education) is 72%, with paid works of over RON 1 billion.

We recall that, at the beginning of this month, the Ministry of Development extended the deadline for the implementation and completion of the settlement of investments financed by the ministry through the NRRP until July 31, 2026.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION. The draft bill on approving the emergency ordinance establishing the national institutional framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on alternative fuels infrastructure (AFIR) received an admission report with no amendments from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance replaces the previous regime based on Directive 2014/94/EU and ensures compliance with EU obligations across all transport modes. The ordinance designates the Ministry of Energy as coordinating authority, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and other relevant institutions, sets national targets for electric recharging, hydrogen, LNG and shore-side electricity infrastructure, particularly along TEN-T and in urban nodes, and introduces monitoring and reporting obligations to the European Commission.

FUEL PRICE STABILISATION MEASURES. The draft bill approving GEO no. 24/2026 which introduces measures to stabilise diesel prices was adopted by the Senate. The act provides for a temporary reduction of the excise duty on diesel by RON 0.3/litre for the duration of the crisis situation declared under GEO No. 19/2026. It also introduces a solidarity contribution on revenues from crude oil extracted in Romania, applicable only when the monthly average Brent price exceeds USD 70/barrel, with differentiated calculation mechanisms for crude sales and refined products. The ordinance further amends GEO No. 19/2026 by limiting retail fuel price increases to once per day, while allowing unrestricted price reductions, and establishes reporting, control and sanctioning rules for operators. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

BAN ON PUBLIC INCENTIVES FOR FOSSIL FUEL BOILERS. The law approving the ordinance transposing Article 17(15) of Directive (EU) 2024/1275 was challenged by the President before the Constitutional Court after being adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and sent for promulgation. The ordinance bans public financial incentives for new standalone fossil fuel boilers, with limited exceptions for maintenance, automation systems, and gas boilers connected to networks transporting renewable gases. The constitutional referral challenges the amendment introduced by the Chamber of Deputies, which created a temporary two-year exception allowing public funding for standalone fossil fuel boilers in buildings connected to thermal points serving fewer than 50 final users. The President argues that this exception contradicts the EU directive, weakens environmental protection and may expose Romania to continued infringement risk. Promulgation is therefore suspended pending the Constitutional Court's decision.

ECODESIGN RULES FOR HOUSEHOLD TUMBLE DRYERS. The Ministry of Economy has published a draft Government Decision establishing the national framework for applying Regulation (EU) 2023/2533 on ecodesign requirements for household tumble dryers. The act

designates the competent authorities for market surveillance, sets obligations for producers and importers to ensure compliance with EU requirements, and introduces a sanctioning regime for non-compliance.

ECODESIGN RULES FOR COOKING APPLIANCES. The Ministry of Economy has published a draft Government Decision establishing the national framework for applying Regulation (EU) 2024/1103 on ecodesign requirements for household ovens, hobs, and range hoods. The act designates the competent authorities for market surveillance, sets obligations for producers and importers to ensure compliance with EU requirements, including access to spare parts and repair information, and introduces a sanctioning regime for non-compliance.

ECODESIGN RULES FOR COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION. The Ministry of Economy has published a draft Government Decision establishing the national framework for applying Regulation (EU) 2019/2024 on ecodesign requirements for commercial refrigeration appliances with direct sales function. The act designates the competent authorities for market surveillance, sets compliance obligations for producers, importers and distributors, including documentation and spare parts availability, and introduces a sanctioning regime for non-compliance.

ECODESIGN RULES FOR ELECTRIC MOTORS. The Ministry of Economy has published a draft Government Decision establishing the national framework for applying Regulation (EU) 2019/1781 on ecodesign requirements for electric motors and variable speed drives. The act designates the competent authorities for market surveillance, sets compliance obligations for producers and importers, including technical documentation requirements, and introduces a sanctioning regime for non-compliance.

F-GAS IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft bill establishing the national framework for applying Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases. The act replaces Law No. 120/2024 and sets out the institutional responsibilities, control mechanisms and sanctioning regime for operators placing, using, importing or exporting F-gases and related equipment. It designates the Ministry of Environment as coordinating authority, assigns market surveillance to the Environmental Guard and customs controls to the Romanian Customs Authority, and introduces fines and criminal sanctions for non-compliance, including breaches related to leakage control, certification, labelling and reporting.

REVISED STATE AID RULES FOR ENERGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES. The draft bill approving the ordinance on the state aid scheme for sectors exposed to carbon leakage due to indirect CO2 costs was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. Eligible companies in industries such as metallurgy, paper, and industrial gases will receive annual subsidies, in one or two instalments, with a EUR 150 million/year cap based on EU ETS revenues. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

FUEL MARKET CRISIS. The draft bill approving GEO Nr. 19/2026 on the fuel market crisis was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 12.05.2026. The ordinance declares a crisis situation on the oil and petroleum products market and introduces temporary measures, including caps on commercial margins across the supply chain, restrictions on

exports and intra-EU deliveries subject to prior approval, and reporting and sanctioning obligations for operators. The act also amends GEO Nr. 12/2026 on the gas market by introducing a mechanism for allocating gas quantities in case of supply imbalances and adjusting minimum storage obligations.

SPECIAL GAS PRICING REGIME FOR HOUSEHOLDS. The draft bill which approves the GEO nr. 12/2026 on measures applicable to household gas consumers was also registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 12.05.2026. The ordinance establishes, for the period 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027, a regulated framework for household gas prices, including a mandatory price formation formula, a fixed supply component and the obligation for producers to deliver part of domestic production at a regulated price.

TEMPORARY VAT CUT FOR FUELS. A legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians would amend the Fiscal Code to introduce a temporary reduced VAT regime for motor fuels, with a 5% rate in the first three months and 9% thereafter, linked to Brent price developments. The measure would apply to gasoline, diesel and LPG used as automotive fuel. The proposal has been sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 05.05.2026. Given the political origin of the initiative and the need for both parliamentary support and an EU VAT derogation, its chances of final adoption appear limited.

REOPENING OF CLOSED INDUSTRIAL WASTE LANDFILLS FOR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS. The legislative proposal which aims to amend OG No. 2/2021 on waste landfilling and GEO No. 61/2025 implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act (EU) 2024/1252 was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 05.05.2026. The initiative would allow the controlled reopening of definitively closed industrial waste landfills in order to recover critical raw materials or other valuable materials identified through historical data or preliminary analyses.

UPDATED NECP. The Ministry of Energy has published a draft Government Decision approving the updated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030, marking the transition of the document into the formal adoption phase after nearly two years of revisions and consultations. The updated version, published on 9 April 2026, integrates the European Commission's recommendations on the revised targets and measures to align Romania with EU climate and energy objectives. The plan outlines national commitments across key sectors, including energy, transport, industry and agriculture, with a long-term objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and significant emission reductions by 2030. It also confirms the role of major projects such as Neptun Deep, new nuclear capacities and expanded renewable energy deployment, alongside measures on energy efficiency, storage, grid modernisation and hydrogen. The draft Government Decision indicates that formal approval of the updated NECP may follow in the coming period.

IMPLEMENTING DORA REGULATION. After the adoption of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies registered this month for debate the draft bill which approves the **national framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 (DORA)**, designating the **NBR and ASF as competent authorities** and introducing operational and **reporting obligations for financial entities**. It also establishes a strict sanctioning regime (fines of up to 10% of turnover), along with supervision, testing, and institutional cooperation procedures. These measures impact the entire financial sector and relevant providers, increasing compliance requirements and legal risk, while ensuring the uniform implementation of the EU framework on digital operational resilience. The Committee for Budget also issued an admission report and the plenary is expected to adopt soon the draft bill.

TRANSPOSITION OF DAC8 AND REPORTING OF CRYPTOASSETS. The Committee for Budget of the Chamber of Deputies issued an admission report for the draft bill approving GEO 71/2025 which transposes the DAC8 Directive and **introduces expanded tax reporting obligations for crypto-asset service providers, banks and tax intermediaries**, including the annual collection and transmission of user and transaction data. It establishes strict procedures for registration, tax due diligence and automatic exchange of information between states, starting with transactions in 2026. Non-compliance with the obligations attracts significant sanctions and can lead to the blocking of activity, increasing compliance costs and legal risk for operators in the financial and digital sector. Next, the draft bill is expected to be soon adopted by the Chamber of Deputies

Digital tech, research and innovation

APT-AV PLATFORM. The Government decision approving the Substantiation Note on the necessity and opportunity to make investment expenditures related to the project "Development of advanced technologies to ensure cybersecurity, through malware detection and analysis platforms and applications - APT-AV Platform" was published in the Official Gazette. To this end, two main tools will be created: **a national malware identification platform (ROMAL)** and an **antivirus solution based on artificial intelligence (NEXT BYTE)**, aimed at increasing the level of protection and efficiency of institutions. Financing is provided from European funds and the state budget, and the implementation of the project is coordinated by the Romanian Intelligence Service.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY. The legislative initiative that establishes an **inter-institutional committee coordinated by the DNSC** to support cooperation, analysis and communication between authorities in the field of cybersecurity in Romania was rejected by the Senate and registered at the Chamber of Deputies for final debate. The act clarifies the legal framework for researching and reporting ICT vulnerabilities, so that acts carried out in good faith, without prejudice and respecting strict rules for system protection, **do not constitute a crime**.

DECISION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON THE EU AI STRATEGY. The Romanian Chamber of Deputies adopted an opinion **supporting the implementation of the EU strategy for Artificial Intelligence**, focusing on enhancing economic competitiveness and productivity. This position emphasizes reducing digital gaps between member states, facilitating SME access to AI through specialized financing and hubs, and promoting European technological sovereignty to decrease external dependencies. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of responsible AI use, ensuring transparency, human control, and the protection of fundamental rights, while proposing an institutional cooperation mechanism between national parliaments to coordinate future EU legislation.

IT USAGE IN THE INTERNAL WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT. The **General Secretariat of the Government (SGG)** has launched a pilot project for **the use of artificial intelligence in internal work**, as part of efforts to modernize public administration in Romania. The initiative aims **to streamline workflows and increase institutional productivity**, while respecting European rules on the use of AI. The project includes several compliance steps, such as assessing the risk level of the system, creating an internal governance framework for artificial intelligence, establishing rules of use, and introducing the system into an internal registry of AI applications. It also saw the first training session for employees, focused on **artificial intelligence literacy**, an obligation under European AI legislation, which requires institutions to ensure adequate skills for staff working with such systems. Authorities state that this project pilots how the central administration can align with new European requirements and marks a step towards the digitalization and modernization of public institutions.

Health Union

IVF PROGRAM 2026 - 2030. The government decision that extends the national social program to boost birth rates by providing vouchers of up to **15,000 RON** per beneficiary for IVF treatments and medication was adopted by the Government and published in the Official Gazette. Available to **10,000 applicants annually** between 2026 and 2030, the program targets women aged 24–42 and allows for up to three interventions per person over the program's duration. Applications are managed through a **mandatory digital platform** on a first-come, first-served basis, aiming to mitigate high medical costs and address Romania's declining fertility rates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

SAFE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The draft bill approving the emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 62/2025 for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 - SAFE was tacitly adopted by the Chamber of Deputies after the debate deadline expired. The ordinance introduces a more detailed institutional and financial framework for the rapid operationalisation of the SAFE Plan, in the context of the 30 May 2026 deadline for signing eligible contracts. It clarifies the roles of institutions involved in coordination and fund management, strengthens the role of the Prime Minister's Chancellery in overseeing implementation and negotiations with the European Commission, and details the responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance in managing the loan. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Senate for final debate.

STATE INTERVENTION IN STRATEGIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY. The Ministry of Economy published this week a draft emergency ordinance expanding the expropriation framework and introducing mechanisms allowing the state to acquire shares or take over functional assets of companies declared of strategic interest in the defence industry. The measure aims to accelerate investments in critical defence capacities in the context of increased security risks and NATO/EU obligations. The draft was discussed by the Government in this week's meeting, but has not yet been adopted.

Borders and migration

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS. The Government adopted the emergency ordinance which establishes the **legal framework for the employment of foreigners in Romania**, regulating the authorization and operation of placement agencies, the **obligations of employers and the conditions under which they can directly employ foreign workers**, including the establishment of financial guarantees and sanctions. The act introduces a **new digital mechanism for the admission of foreigners through the WorkinRomania.gov.ro platform**, replacing the current system of employment permits, and brings changes to the long-stay visa regime, including new types of visas, clarification of the conditions for granting and the collection of biometric data. At the same time, transitional rules are provided for the implementation of the new system, deadlines for the adoption of subsequent acts and the relevant previous provisions are repealed, in order to ensure the transition to the new legislative framework. The ordinance was also published in the Official Gazette and the draft bill approving it registered at the Senate for debate.

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. After the adoption of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies registered this month the 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 Committee for Defence is expected to issue a report by May 15.

Security & crisis management

ROMANIA HAS A FIRST TIME ANTI-FEMICIDE LAW. Swiftly adopted by the Parliament, the **law** backed by 273 MPs, which **introduces in Romanian law the legal notion of “femicide”**, has been signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette. The legislation responds to alarming statistics: nearly 50 femicides occurred in the first ten months of 2025, with a man attempting to kill a woman every three days. All forms of femicide are now seen as aggravated homicide. Authorities will collect and report standardized data on domestic violence and femicide, coordinated by ORAPO, while risk-assessment tools will guide judicial intervention. The Ministry of Education will introduce gender equality and non-violence topics in schools. Penal and procedural codes will be amended to include harsher penalties, automatic investigations, and potential inheritance disqualification for perpetrators, aiming for faster protection of women and girls.

MINISTRY TIGHTENS DRUG CONTROL, ADDS NEW SUBSTANCES. In April, the Interior Ministry has issued a **draft bill expanding Romania’s controlled substances list and tightening rules on handling, storage, and destruction of drugs**, in line with **EU Delegated Directive 2025/2062** and UN decisions on newly emerging synthetic substances. The changes introduce 16 new substances on the list of high-risk or risk drugs, and introduces stricter rules on the use of seized drugs for research or training purposes. It also mandates 10-year retention of counter-samples, and formalizes destruction procedures through authorized operators and expanded commissions.

SENATE REJECTS CROSS-BORDER CRIME BILL. Romania’s Senate, acting as the first chamber, has rejected a **legislative proposal** introduced by an independent MP aimed at **strengthening the country’s ability to combat cross-border crime**. The initiative proposed measures such as risk analysis at key entry points, joint operational teams between authorities, secure information-sharing systems, closer cooperation with Europol, and rapid intervention on high-risk transports. Now, the initiative moves to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate, with low chances of passing the vote of the MPs.

FBI AND EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DISRUPT GRU CYBER OPERATION. President Nicușor Dan announced that **the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, alongside international partners including **Romania’s Intelligence Service (SRI)**, has **dismantled a**

prolonged cyberattack targeting sensitive infrastructure across multiple Western countries. According to the FBI, cyber actors linked to Russia's military intelligence agency, the GRU, exploited vulnerable routers to intercept and steal military, government, and critical infrastructure data through DNS hijacking operations, enabling access to encrypted communications.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

PARLIAMENT RESTORES PAID SICK LEAVE FOR VULNERABLE PATIENTS. The Chamber of Deputies (decisional forum) has adopted amendments to GEO 91/2025, **restoring full payment from the first day of medical leave for several vulnerable categories of insured patients**, reversing a previous rule under which the first day of sick leave was unpaid. The measure targets patients with chronic conditions included in national health programmes, oncology patients and those with rare diseases, individuals receiving day hospitalisation, and cases of medical-surgical emergencies, ensuring full financial coverage from the onset of incapacity for work. The Law shall soon be signed by the President of Romania and published in the Official Gazette.

Young people & equality

SENATE REJECTS SOCIAL HOUSING REFORM BILL. The Senate has also rejected a PSD-backed **draft bill** seeking to reform social assistance by **explicitly recognizing poor or overcrowded housing as a factor of social vulnerability** and **expanding protections for young people at risk of marginalization**. In this case as well, the Chamber of Deputies will soon review the bill and give a final vote on the matter.

EXPANDED SOCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES. The senators have adopted a **bill** approving GEO 23/2026, introducing **expanded financial support for low-income families, households with children with disabilities, and pensioners**. The package increases the family support component of the minimum inclusion income by 17% to 31%, raises disability benefits for children by 18.4% (severe), 71% (accentuated), and 14.8% (moderate), and doubles the educational incentive from 133 lei to 265 lei. It also provides financial aid to public and military pensioners with monthly pensions of up to 3,000 lei. The bill now moves to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

NEW YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & SUBSIDY SCHEME. Former labour minister Florin Manole has published for public consultation a **draft government decision** introducing **new labour market incentives**, including a “stability bonus” for young people and expanded employer subsidies. **Young first-time employees** hired on permanent contracts would receive 1,000 lei per month in the first year and 1,250 lei in the second year, provided they submit timely applications and monthly proof of continued employment. Employers gain broader access to subsidies.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

TEMPORARY STATE AID SCHEME FOR BEEKEEPERS. The legislative proposal which introduces a state aid scheme for 2026- 2028 to support beekeepers was adopted by the Senate. The initiative addresses gaps not covered under the National Strategic Plan and is subject to prior authorisation by the European Commission. Eligible beneficiaries include registered individual beekeepers and legal entities holding officially recorded and veterinary-authorised bee colonies. The aid amounts to EUR 12 per bee family per year, for three years, within a total ceiling of RON 93.5 million, financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Agriculture. The scheme may be cumulated with other support measures and is protected from seizure in enforcement proceedings. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY DATA NETWORK. The draft bill on the approval of the emergency ordinance establishing the Agricultural Sustainability Data Network was adopted by the Senate. The ordinance aligns Romania with the updated EU framework and is intended to support agricultural policymaking, including CAP-related design and sustainability monitoring. It also provides for financial incentives for participating farmers, data integration from existing agricultural databases, and a dedicated institutional structure within the Ministry of Agriculture to manage the system and its relationship with the European Commission. Next, the draft bill will also be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

BEAR INTERVENTIONS. The draft bill on the approval of the emergency ordinance on immediate interventions in brown bear incidents within localities was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance revises the intervention framework, redefines operational methods, and clarifies the responsibilities of local authorities. It introduces the definition of the “habituated bear,” simplifies intervention procedures, and updates feeding rules. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

BEAR MANAGEMENT QUOTAS FOR 2026. The draft bill amending GEO No. 81/2021, initiated mainly by UDMR parliamentarians, was also adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The draft bill introduces a structured national framework for managing the brown bear population, moving from ad hoc interventions to predefined annual quotas. For 2026, the act sets a national prevention quota of 859 bears and an intervention quota of 110 bears, with distribution across counties and hunting grounds. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

2026 BUDGET PROPOSED FOR GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE AID SCHEME. The Ministry of Agriculture has published a draft Government

Decision to supplement GD No. 325/2025 by introducing the budget allocation for 2026 under the de minimis aid scheme supporting vegetable production in protected spaces. The draft allocates RON 275 million for 2026, financed from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and channelled through the county agricultural directorates. The measure allows the scheme to continue in 2026 without changing the existing eligibility rules or payment mechanism.

DANUBE DELTA MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Ministry of Environment has republished an updated draft Government Decision on the approval of the Management Plan of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, replacing GD No. 763/2015 and moving the file closer to adoption. The plan sets the management framework for the Delta, including conservation measures, zoning rules and conditions for economic activities across protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. According to the substantiation note, the revised version mainly simplifies the presentation of information from an initial document exceeding 7,000 pages and includes technical updates.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK EXPANSION CONTINUES. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft Government Decision amending HG No. 685/2022 to designate an additional 19 sites of Community importance as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), marking the third such update after the changes introduced through GD No. 984/2025 and GD No. 139/2026. The measure continues the phased completion of the Natura 2000 network, apparently by splitting the designation process into successive steps, and again targets sites for which management plans and conservation measures have already been approved. The draft is linked by the initiator to Romania's obligations under the Habitats Directive and to infringement procedure 2020/2238 concerning delays in designation. Its impact is mainly administrative and legal, while the practical effects on land use remain those already set through the existing management plans.

CEREAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. A legislative proposal initiated by SOS senators has been registered in Parliament, introducing a temporary regime to restrict imports of cereals from third countries during harvest periods. The draft requires prior approval from the Ministry of Agriculture for such imports and extends restrictions across the supply chain, including storage, processing and commercialisation without authorisation. The proposal also establishes strict documentation and transit rules, alongside a significant sanctioning regime, including fines, confiscation of goods and potential suspension of activity. The measure would apply annually for up to 120 days, corresponding to harvest periods set by Government decision. Given its restrictive approach to trade and the political profile of the initiators, the proposal currently has a low likelihood of adoption.

Climate change

SOCIAL CLIMATE PLAN. The draft bill approving Emergency Ordinance No. 119/2024 on the preparation of Romania's National Social Climate Plan (PNSC) was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance, in force since 2024, provides the legal framework for

accessing EU Social Climate Fund (SCF) resources under Regulation (EU) 2023/955. The draft bill will now proceed to the plenary for debate and vote. This step aims to complete the legislative procedure and ensure consistency between the parliamentary process and the ongoing preparation of the PNSC, which remains under public consultation and outlines Romania's investment and social support measures for 2026 - 2032.

REDISTRIBUTION OF EU ETS REVENUES. The law approving GEO No. 55/2025 on the management of revenues from the auctioning of EU ETS allowances, previously adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, has been returned by the President to Parliament for re-examination. The ordinance updates the national framework to align with the EU rules applicable from 2025, including the unified auctioning framework for stationary installations and aviation. The re-examination request argues that the Chamber of Deputies introduced substantive amendments that were not reviewed by the Senate, raising bicameralism concerns and reopening the legislative process.

MODERNIZING GAS NETWORKS. The draft bill on the approval of the ordinance which proposes amendments to legislation concerning the Environmental Fund was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance aims to modernize and expand natural gas transportation and distribution networks to integrate low-carbon gases. Next, the law will be sent to the President of Romania for promulgation.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

PSD WITHDRAWAL TRIGGERS GOVERNMENT CRISIS. On April 20, 2026, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) withdrew its political support for Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan (PNL), escalating tensions within Romania's governing coalition and accusing the prime minister of economic and social harm caused by his policies. Following the refusal of the PM to withdraw from the Executive, the social democratic ministers stepped down and the party has rallied with far-right AUR and PACE (SOS Romania + POT) parties and submitted a vote of no confidence, which shall be voted on May 5.

SENATE REJECTS TWO MINOR SOCIAL MEDIA BAN BILLS. The Romanian Senate has rejected two legislative proposals aimed at **restricting minors' access to social media**, both seeking to introduce **a 16-year minimum age for account creation** and stricter obligations for digital platforms operating in Romania. The (1) **first initiative**, signed by independent deputy Ștefan-Alexandru Băișanu, proposed an outright ban on access for users under 16 and imposed broad duties on platforms to verify age, prevent targeted advertising and harmful content exposure, and cooperate with national child protection and data authorities, while controversially including sanctions for parents. The (2) **second proposal**, initiated by independent deputy Raisa Enachi, similarly sets a 16-year threshold but focuses more narrowly on proportional age verification mechanisms, data minimisation, and platform transparency. In the next period, both bills shall reach the deputies for a final debate

USR PUSHES UNIFIED STATE DIGITAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM. USR senators have registered in the Senate a new **legislative proposal** introducing a **unified national digital governance framework for public institutions**. The initiative requires all existing and new government applications to integrate with national registries such as RUIP, ODN and RFROD, while eliminating locally managed access systems in favor of **centrally defined digital roles tied to official functions**. Public institutions would be required to update registry data within 10 working days, with IT providers obliged to reflect changes automatically in system permissions.

PROPOSAL: AUTOMATIC END OF MANDATE ON CONVICTION. A **legislative initiative** registered in Parliament by Claudiu Năsui (USR) proposes that **the mandates of deputies and senators end automatically upon a final criminal conviction for intentional offences**. The aim is to introduce a strict integrity standard for elected officials, ensuring that a definitive conviction immediately triggers the loss of mandate without additional interpretation or procedural discretion.

Rule of law

EU DATA ORDERS TIGHTEN ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE. The government has adopted and sent to Parliament a **bill** implementing **EU Regulation (EU) 2023/154**, establishing a **legal framework in Romania for European orders on the production and preservation of electronic evidence in criminal investigations and post-conviction enforcement**.

NEW PROSECUTOR APPOINTMENTS, DIICOT NOMINATION REJECTED. President Nicușor Dan has signed the decrees **appointing new leadership for Romania’s main prosecutorial institutions for three-year mandates**, while refusing to validate one proposed appointment for DIICOT. The changes cover the General Prosecutor’s Office, the National Anticorruption Directorate, and DIICOT, marking a broad reshuffle of top judicial leadership.

DEPUTIES TO REJECT HOUSE ARREST SENTENCING BILL. Chamber of Deputies' Legal Committee has rejected a **legislative proposal** initiated by MP George Becali that would **have allowed courts to impose house arrest as a form of serving prison sentences for non-violent offenses**. This bill is now expected to be formally rejected by the Chamber’s plenary (decisional body), in line with the committee’s report.

DEPUTIES REJECT MAGISTRATES’ LIABILITY BILL. The Chamber of Deputies, acting as the first chamber, has rejected an AUR-backed **legislative proposal** that sought to **significantly tighten the liability regime for judges and prosecutors**. The bill aimed to expand the definition of judicial error to include failure to comply with rulings of the Constitutional Court and binding decisions of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, while introducing mandatory state recourse actions against magistrates and extending the timeframe for such claims. Now, the proposal moves to the Senate for a final debate.

Civil society

PARLIAMENT ADVANCES ANTI-SLAPP LAW FOR PUBLIC INTEREST CASES. The Chamber of Deputies has adopted and sent to the Senate a **government-backed bill** transposing **EU Directive 2024/1069** on **protection against manifestly unfounded or abusive legal proceedings (SLAPP cases) targeting individuals involved in public-interest activities**. The law defines “public mobilisation” and “matters of public interest”, while also clarifying what constitutes abusive litigation designed to silence or discourage such activity. It introduces fast-track procedures allowing courts, upon request, to dismiss clearly unfounded claims and require plaintiffs to post security, with strict deadlines for responses in urgent proceedings.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new economic foreign policy

ROMANIA-UNITED STATES EXCHANGE PROGRAM LAUNCHED. Romanian Foreign Minister Oana Țoiu and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio have finalized the **MECEA agreement**, officially launching the "Romania–United States Exchange Program." This initiative, based on the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, aims to deepen bilateral cooperation in strategic sectors such as defense, energy, technology, and critical minerals while strengthening people-to-people ties. The program will facilitate visits by U.S. federal officials and Congressional delegations to Romania to foster institutional dialogue and mutual understanding of regional security challenges.

Reforming the international system

THE STRATEGIC NORTH-SOUTH AXIS OF THE THREE SEAS. Leaders of the **Three Seas Initiative (3SI)**, including president Nicușor Dan, have reaffirmed the North-South corridor, connecting the **Baltic, Black, and Adriatic Seas**, as a vital strategic pillar for European economic resilience and regional security. Through the Dubrovnik Declaration, the initiative emphasizes strengthening infrastructure, energy, and digital connectivity across the Eastern Flank to bolster the European Union's internal market and enhance collective defense capabilities against geopolitical challenges.

MONTHLY REPORT ANNEX

From a total of **8 normative acts** adopted this month aimed at modifying or implementing reforms or investments within the NRRP, **2 emergency ordinances, 2 Government Decisions and 2 ministerial orders** were adopted by the Government and its related ministries. **2 laws** were adopted by the Parliament. The measures primarily cover **Component C15 (4 acts)**, followed by **Components C1, C5 and C13 (2 acts each)**, while **Components C2 and C10 are covered by 1 act each**.