

Weekly 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

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 1, T26 - AMENDING PRIVATIZATION LAW FOR REFORESTATIONS WITH EU FUNDS. The draft bill on the approval of the ordinance which proposes amendments to Law no. 268/2001 regarding the privatization of companies managing state-owned agricultural land was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance aims to efficiently implement **Investment 1, Target 26** which focuses on

afforestation and reforestation of land, including urban forests. Next, the law will be sent to the President to be signed.

INVESTMENT 3, M34 - PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The Ministry of Environment has published a new draft emergency ordinance establishing the national framework for identifying and reporting strictly protected areas in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. As required under **Milestone 34, Investment I3** of the NRRP, the act introduces the concept of “priority biodiversity zones,” complementing the existing regime under GEO 57/2007 and ensuring alignment with EU strict protection criteria. The ordinance sets the rules for designation and lists the areas automatically included, such as strict protection zones in national and natural parks. It also creates a national catalogue approved by ministerial order.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

STREAMLINED EXPROPRIATION FOR C4 INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS. The law on the approval of the ordinance which proposes

amendments to Law No. 255/2010 on expropriation for public utility to facilitate the implementation of transport infrastructure projects financed through the NRRP, **Component C4** was published in the Official Gazette. The ordinance seeks to accelerate technical and administrative procedures to meet the timelines set in financing agreements.

REFORM 1, T61 - ELECTRIC MINIBUSES FOR TIMIȘOARA. The municipality of Timișoara has signed the contract for the purchase of 30 electric buses of ten metres, financed through the NRRP. The investment adds to the city’s modernised fleet of new trams and trolleybuses. The project contributes to Romania’s reporting under **Target 61 of Component C4, Reform R1**, which requires exceeding by at 3% points the thresholds set by Directive 2019/1161 on clean vehicle procurement.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3. The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure has signed the financing contract with CNAIR for the project on traffic calming measures at the entrances to high risk localities. The initiative aims to improve road safety by reducing vehicle speed and increasing driver attention through specialised warning markings and updated road signs. Implementation runs until 31 August 2026. With a total value of RON 99.99 million, including RON 82.37 million from the NRRP, the project falls under **Component C4, Reform 1 and Investment I3**, and supports Romania’s broader progress on road safety targets under the NRRP.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 3, M123 - GREEN BUDGETING. The draft bill on the approval of the ordinance which establishes a framework for regulating the labeling of budgetary and fiscal expenditures, to promote green budgeting, in line with **Milestone 123, Reform R3, Component C6 of the NRRP**, was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. Next, the law will be sent to the President to be signed.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

M215, R6 – SPECIAL PENSIONS. The Ministry of Labor published on November 19 the draft bill for 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**. The draft bill 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.

M214, R6 - PENSIONS FOR SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS. PSD MPs have submitted to the Senate a 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. The legislative proposal will soon be sent to the specialized committees for debate.

M205, M207, M237 - TAX REFORM. The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies adopted this week the law from the 2nd Package of fiscal-budgetary measures introducing extensive amendments to the Fiscal Code, the Fiscal Procedure Code and other normative acts, aiming at strengthening financial discipline and modernizing the administration, which is correlated with the commitments in the **NRRP, namely Milestone 205 (analysis of the fiscal system), Milestone 207 (amendments to the Fiscal Code for the simplification and expansion of ecological taxation) and Milestone 237 (information system for automatic property valuation)**. Among the measures are the taxation of large assets, stricter rules for companies (share capital, insolvency, dividends), the digitalization of fiscal procedures and the expansion of electronic payments. The Parliament changed the law according to the decision of the Constitutional Court from October and is expected to be soon signed by the President.

REFORM 6, MILESTONE 209 – INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BANK. The Government adopted the decision which brings some changes to the GD no. 1204/2022 on the establishment, organization and operation of the Investment and Development Bank - S.A. which fulfilled **Milestone 209, of Reform 6, Component 8** of NRRP. This decision aims to expand the areas of intervention for the IDB and for European funds other than those coordinated by the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, with the IDB having the possibility to implement financial instruments (loans and guarantees) distributed as a financial intermediary. Another important change brings some additional clarifications regarding the mechanism of guarantee from the state and of making payments by the Ministry of Finance, in

the event of the execution of the state guarantee. The decision was already published in the Official Gazette and entered into force.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

I4 - LOW-ENERGY-CONSUMPTION PROCESSORS AND SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS. MIPE has published the list of projects accepted for funding under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan – Component 9 – Support for the private sector, research, development and innovation – Investment 4. Cross-border and multinational projects – low-energy-consumption processors and semiconductor chips – call 1 ‘IPCEI ME/CT – indirect participants’.

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

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 9 - INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNANCE REFORM. A decision published in the Official Gazette introduces **changes to the functioning of the Interministerial Committee supporting the implementation of Reform 9** on improving corporate governance procedures for state-owned enterprises under **NRRP Component 14**. The new rules allow the participation, upon members' proposal, of invited representatives from the National Bank of Romania, local authorities' associations, other public institutions, civil society and experts. The Committee will now be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister without portfolio responsible for state reform, with leadership delegated, when necessary, to a representative appointed by the Secretary-General of the Government. Additionally, two

new institutions have been added to the Committee’s official composition: the Agency for State Domains and the Authority for State Assets Administration.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4, M449 - AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL DIALOGUE LAW. The Chamber of Deputies’ committees have issued a rejection report on a legislative proposal to amend Law 367/2022 on social dialogue, legislation that had previously implemented **Milestone 449 (Investment 4, Component 14)** of the NRRP. The proposal sought to **allow individuals whose employment contracts have ended, but who are contesting the legality of their dismissal or claiming rights from a prior period, to retain their union membership throughout the legal proceedings**, provided they receive union assistance. These individuals would not, however, be counted when determining a union’s representativeness. The plenary of the Chamber of Deputies, acting as the decision-making body, is expected to definitively reject the initiative in line with the committees’ report.

C15. Education

Reforms

EDUCATION MINISTER UPDATES NRRP COMPONENT 15 PROJECTS. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC), coordinating reforms and investments under **NRRP Component 15**, says that **out of 6,500 funding contracts, only 99 have been suspended or terminated**, mainly due to procurement difficulties, lack of qualified staff, or bureaucratic delays. In some cases, local needs were lower than initially estimated, particularly for digital infrastructure, as many schools received pandemic-related funding for IT equipment. Given the current economic context and rising costs, MEC proposed **revising C15 measures, adjusting targets and budgets to ensure objectives are met by August 31, 2026**. Only projects with start orders and consistent progress will continue, while some contracts exceeding budgets or lacking procurement procedures were suspended or terminated. MEC is also seeking alternative funding for initiatives removed from NRRP, such as “Școala ONLINE” through PoCIDIF and a rural school campus in Prundu Bârgăului. Specialized teams have been established to audit and monitor all Component 15 projects and address any reported irregularities.

REFORM 1, M452 - EXTENSION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES DURING PARENTAL LEAVE. The Chamber of Deputies' Education Committee has issued an admission report with amendments to the **bill allowing doctoral studies to be extended during parental or accommodation leave** for children up to age 2 (or 3 for children with disabilities). The amendments clarify that the rule applies to successive leave periods, with each period pausing and proportionally extending the duration of doctoral programs. To align with the Legislative Council's observations, the committees also broadened the provisions to cover not only mothers or birth-related leave but also individuals who adopt, are entrusted with a child, provide foster care or emergency placement, or are appointed as guardians. The initiative amends Education Laws No. 198/2023 and No. 199/2023, which implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The bill is now expected to be adopted soon by the Chamber of Deputies in plenary session.

REFORM 1, M452 - FREE PREP-CLASS TEXTBOOKS. The Education Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has issued an admission report with amendments to the **bill requiring the Ministry of Education to provide free textbooks and teaching materials**, both printed and digital, to all students in preparatory classes across state, accredited private, and denominational schools. The amendments **introduce a new type of scholarship, the Olympic Excellence Scholarship I and II**, in addition to those established under Law No. 198/2023. The value of these scholarships may be supplemented by educational institutions' administrative boards using funds from local authorities or other legally obtained income. Within 90 days of the law's entry into force, the Ministry must establish the list of teaching materials to be provided. The bill also amends the Law on Pre-university Education (No. 198/2023), which previously fulfilled **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**, and is expected to be adopted soon by the Chamber's plenary.

REFORM 1, M452 - EXPANDED TEACHER SECONDMENT. The Chamber of Deputies has approved a **legislative proposal expanding the range of persons and institutions where teachers and auxiliary staff can be seconded** in the interest of education, now including DJIP/DMBIP and the Ministry of Education and Research. The bill amends the Law on Pre-university Education No. 198/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The initiative is justified by the fact that advisers and experts working within the Ministry and its territorial structures often come from teaching and auxiliary staff, bringing valuable experience, direct knowledge of school realities, and familiarity with the educational system's needs to the development and implementation of public education policies. The proposal will now be sent to the Senate for final debate.

REFORM 1, M452 - DAILY NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER PROPOSAL. At the same time, the Senate has rejected a **legislative proposal**, submitted by AUR MPs, that would have allowed directors of all public and private pre-university schools **to start the daily educational program with the Romanian national anthem and the Lord's Prayer**, with student participation being optional. The initiators aim to "connect students with the national cultural and spiritual heritage", citing the absence of current regulations on integrating national symbols and spiritual elements into daily school routines. The bill also amended the Law on Pre-university Education No. 198/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The proposal will now be sent to the

Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

REFORM 1, M452 - COMBINED DEGREE PROPOSAL. A new legislative proposal recently registered in the Senate suggests that for **regulated professions offering integrated university programs combining Bachelor's (Cycle I) and Master's (Cycle II) studies over 5 to 6 years, students should be awarded both Bachelor's and Master's diplomas**. Specifically, the proposal provides that graduates of the 6-year Architecture program, totaling 360 ECTS credits, receive the Architect diploma. This bill also amends and supplements the Law on Higher Education No. 199/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452, Reform 1 – Component 15**.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - FIRST NURSERY OPENS IN HARGHITA. Minister of Development Cseke Attila inaugurated this week **the first nursery in Harghita County**, located in Lupeni, and the 37th completed nationally under the government's "Saint Ana" nursery construction program – financed through the **NRRP (Component 15, Investment 1, Target 457)**. The facility, with a capacity of 70 children, meets European standards and includes educational spaces, playgrounds, administrative areas, and staff facilities. Built to nZEB standards, and with an investment of RON 17.5 million, the new nursery features solar panels, photovoltaics, and modern ventilation and climate systems.

INVESTMENT 6, T473 - PROGRESS ON DUAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM. The Ministry of Education and Research (MEC) shared an update on the pilot program to develop regional consortia for dual education, funded by Romania's **NRRP (Component 15, Investment 6, Target 473)**. The program initially included 29 projects, but two were canceled due to construction delays, and 19 others faced issues with contracts, leaving only 8 projects actively moving forward. One of these, the PRODUAL consortium, started in January 2023 and includes two universities, eight schools, one local authority, and six companies, working together over 15 years to provide practical training for dual education students. By October 1, 2025, construction progress on the integrated campus was: classrooms and labs 34%, canteen and library 31%, auditorium/multipurpose space 27%, dormitory 31%, exterior works 10%, and sanitary installations 20%. The campus is expected to be completed by August 31, 2026.

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

NEW DISTRIBUTION OF THE BUDGET FOR REFORMS/INVESTMENTS UNDER THE NRRP. The government published for public debate a draft decision that approves **the amendment of the multiannual budget related to the reforms and investments undertaken within the NRRP** , in accordance with the Council Implementing Decision of 17 November 2025, in order to ensure predictability as well as the possibility of disbursing the amounts received from the European Commission related to non-reimbursable and reimbursable financial assistance, in relation to the needs of the reform/investment coordinators in order to ensure good financial management.

CHANGING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION. There were published two MIPE orders, one that modifies the **composition of the Investment Committee for the Fund of Funds for digitalization, climate action** and other areas of interest, while the other one modifies **the composition of the Investment Committee for the Recovery Venture Capital Fund** under Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ACT. The Government adopted the Government Emergency Ordinance implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 on critical raw materials. The act sets the national institutional structure and procedural rules for authorising extraction, processing, and recycling projects, with the objective of simplifying permitting, increasing administrative clarity, and strengthening Romania's capacity to handle strategic industrial developments. The accompanying draft bill approving the ordinance has also been registered with the Senate and referred to the responsible committees, which must issue their report by 25.11.2025.

FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR A1 MOTORWAY APPROVAL. The Government also adopted the draft bill approving the EUR 500 million financing agreement signed on 8 October 2025 between Romania and the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the co-financing of the A1 Sibiu - Pitești Motorway. The project, part of the TEN-T Core Network, spans 122 km across five sections and is co-funded through the 2014–2020 Large Infrastructure Operational Programme (POIM) and the 2021–2027 Transport Programme, with total non-reimbursable EU support of around RON 9.27 billion. The draft bill has now been sent to parliament, with the Chamber of Deputies as the first chamber, and referred to the responsible committees to issue a report.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF PUBLIC DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE. At the Parliament was registered a new legislative initiative, signed by USR MPs, proposes **the first unitary legal framework** for the recording, administration and security of public digital infrastructure. The project also provides for the creation of **the National Platform of Public Digital Infrastructure (PNIDP)** – a single registry of all digital resources used by public institutions: domains, websites, applications, software licenses, IT equipment and projects financed from public funds.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

CSAT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24. Romanian President Nicușor Dan has convened **a session of the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT) on Monday, November 24, 2025**, at 12:00, at the Cotroceni Palace. The agenda includes the National Defense Strategy 2025-2030, the Strategic Defense Analysis, a report on national efforts in the first seven months of 2025 to prevent and combat drug trafficking and consumption, an assessment of risks, threats, and vulnerabilities for 2026, and a consolidated report on Romania's participation in NATO's crisis management exercise "CMX-25." Other current national security topics will also be discussed.

GOV TO LEGIFERATE ON PROTECTION ORDER VIOLATIONS. This week, the Ministry of Interior released for public consultation a **draft emergency ordinance requiring police to immediately bring anyone who violates a protection or provisional protection order before the prosecutor**, who will decide on preventive measures such as detention or judicial control. The measure aims to ensure a rapid and firm state response to protect victims, addressing the recent social context marked by increasing domestic violence and its severe consequences, including cases of homicide. After the public consultation, the ordinance will be adopted by the Government and sent to Parliament for approval.

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROPOSAL. In the same line, new **legislative proposal** submitted to the Senate aims to **strengthen Romania's response to domestic violence** by **clarifying police powers, introducing faster and stricter protective measures for victims,**

and ensuring strict accountability for authorities issuing and enforcing protection orders. As the initiator considers, the bill responds to rising domestic violence cases, including deaths of women under protection, highlighting gaps in the current legal framework that limit police intervention when victims deny abuse out of fear or pressure. Key provisions include: clearly defining imminent risk to allow police action even if the victim denies abuse; risk assessment based on objective police findings rather than victim statements; authority to detain perpetrators for 24 hours in imminent danger cases; disciplinary or criminal liability for officials failing to follow procedures; mandatory archiving and verification of risk assessment forms for transparency; and harmonization with the Penal Code, criminal procedure, and international standards.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION BILL ADOPTED. The Chamber of Deputies' committees have approved, via report, a draft bill aimed at **strengthening protection measures for domestic violence victims to prevent repeat offenses**. The initiative responded to Romania's alarming situation – 51 cases of femicide in the last 11 months, especially since no less than 1,900 violations of these orders were registered this year. Key provisions of the bill included automatic validity of provisional protection orders until a judge decides, expanded eligibility to request new protection orders (including relatives and accredited social service providers with the victim's consent), and mandatory risk assessment by judges when modifying or canceling orders, especially if the offender is not under probation monitoring. The bill is expected to be adopted by the deputies (decisional forum) in the next stage.

BILL TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION ORDERS REJECTED. Instead, the same committees from the Chamber of Deputies have issued a rejection report for a legislative proposal by two independent MPs aimed at amending Law No. 26/2024 on protection orders to strengthen safeguards for victims of violence and harassment. The draft sought to **expand the definition of violence to include economic and digital abuse, isolation, continuous monitoring, forced marriage, and coercion regarding pregnancy**. It also proposed stronger provisional protection measures, clear conditions for police intervention, and tighter collaboration with social services. The amendments aimed to clarify and align the law with European best practices and international recommendations, explicitly recognizing psychological, economic, and digital forms of abuse while extending the duration of provisional protection orders. Given the report, the Chamber of Deputies is expected to reject the proposal in an upcoming plenary session.

SENATE REJECTS AUR BILL ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING FOR PROTECTION ORDERS. The Senate has rejected a legislative proposal by AUR MPs aimed at enhancing electronic monitoring for protection orders. The bill sought to **introduce technical features allowing the real-time sharing of the monitored person's approximate location (within ~1 km) with the protected individual** and to set rules for adapting or procuring monitoring devices. The proposal will soon be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

EXPERIENCE- AND EDUCATION-BASED MINIMUM WAGE PROPOSAL. A third proposal recently registered in the Senate by AUR MPs aims to introduce **a differentiated national minimum gross wage based on work experience and education level**, requiring employers to apply the corresponding increases or face fines of 5,000–10,000 lei per affected employee. The proposal aims to address labor migration and high school dropout rates, which lawmakers attribute to the lack of financial incentives under a uniform minimum wage. Under the bill, the minimum wage would increase with seniority (+10% for 3–5 years, +7.5% for 5–10 years, +5% for 10–15 years, +2.5% for 15–20 years, and +2.5% beyond 20 years) and be adjusted by education coefficients ranging from 1.00 for unskilled workers to 2.00 for employees with higher education or a doctorate. These coefficients would apply to the base minimum wage, with proportional adjustments for part-time work.

PSD PROPOSES CLARIFYING SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS IN PENSIONS LAW. PSD MPs have submitted a new bill to the Senate aiming to clarify that, **under the Pensions Law, work should be considered “special conditions” only for the hours actually worked in such conditions**, excluding periods spent on activities like training, maintenance, or professional development. The proposal addresses situations where employees often fail to qualify for special work groups because even one or more days per month are spent on these auxiliary activities, despite having worked most of the month in special conditions and having contributions paid by the employer for that time. The bill ensures that only the hours genuinely worked in special conditions are recognized in the CNPP records.

Young people & equality

AUR PROPOSES RETENTION-BASED SUBSIDIES FOR YOUNG WORKERS. AUR MPs have introduced another bill to the Senate, this time to **optimize employer subsidies for hiring young graduates by linking payments to long-term job retention**. The current monthly subsidy of RON 2,250 would be split into a RON 1,250 “employer retention” payment and a RON 1,000 “employee retention” bonus, both disbursed after 12 months if the employment continues. This measure aims to curb the quick termination of contracts once subsidies expire, improving program efficiency and ensuring better use of public funds.

SENATE REJECTS YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP BILL. The Romanian Senate has rejected a **legislative proposal** by POT MPs aimed at

supporting youth entrepreneurship to boost economic initiative and strengthen the business environment. The bill would have **exempted young entrepreneurs from income or profit taxes for three years for their first business**, created the “**First Business**” program **guaranteeing up to 80% of a loan of up to EUR 100,000**, and set clear eligibility rules, including no prior businesses or outstanding taxes. Certain sectors, such as gambling, speculative real estate, tobacco, alcohol, and weapons, would have been excluded. The proposal will now move to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES THE INCREASE OF DISABILITY BENEFITS. Following its adoption by Parliament, the law approving Emergency Ordinance no. 50/2024 has been published in the Official Gazette. The legislation **raises the monthly allowance for adults with severe disabilities from 70% to 80% of the social reference indicator** and **the social benefit for children with severe disabilities from 60% to 70% of the same indicator**, while benefits for individuals with medium or pronounced disabilities remain unchanged.

PROPOSAL TO RECOGNIZE MORE DISABILITY GRADES FOR EMPLOYMENT. AUR MPs have proposed a new bill to **recognize individuals with disability grades I and II as persons with disabilities for employment purposes**, provided they can perform professional activities according to their abilities and medical recommendations. Currently, only grade III is recognized. The initiative aims to correct a legislative gap that unfairly excluded those in grades I and II from workplace rights and disability recognition, hindering professional integration and creating legal uncertainties for employers, aligning the law with social realities and principles of inclusion and equality.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

FARMER'S CREDIT. The law on the approval of the ordinance which proposes extending measures aimed to support liquidity access for SMEs and large enterprises in agriculture affected by the Ukraine conflict was published in the Official Gazette. The normative act extends the deadline for grant payments to December 31, 2030. The state aid scheme budget increases by RON 646 million, totaling a maximum of RON 1,461.5 million.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EU REGULATION ON GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS. The Government Decision establishing the institutional framework and national measures for implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks, and agricultural products was published in the Official Gazette. Among others, the act designates the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as the competent authority responsible for examining applications for registration, amendment, and cancellation of geographical indications for spirit drinks, as well as for managing the National Register of Geographical Indications - Spirit Drinks (RNIG-BS).

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

LUDOVIC ORBAN LEAVES PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY ROLE. President Nicușor Dan and his presidential adviser Ludovic Orban have **mutually agreed to end their collaboration**, according to presidential decree. Orban had served as presidential adviser on domestic policy since October 6, 2025, and his revocation decree will be published in the Official Gazette. Sources indicated the decision followed Orban's public criticisms of PSD and the judiciary regarding special pensions, while the president was mediating coalition discussions on the topic. However, Orban suggested **his dismissal was linked to a comment about the president's image being used in the Bucharest City Hall election campaign**. He expressed willingness to collaborate again if the president desires. Separately, Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan mentioned in an interview that Orban could potentially return to PNL, though the decision is up to the party leadership.

NEW PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS. Instead, President Nicușor Dan has signed several decrees **appointing new advisers within the Presidential Administration**. Among the appointments, **Sorin Costreie**, former adviser to liberal prime ministers between 2020 - 2023 during the drafting of education laws, will serve as presidential adviser for education and research, while former Health Minister **Vlad Voiculescu** (USR) will take the role of honorary adviser for resilience, innovation, and European solidarity. Additionally, Vlad Ionescu has been appointed as state adviser for Foreign Policy, Strategic Partnerships, and Romanians Abroad, **Mădălina-Gabriela Fătu** joins the General Secretariat, and **Șerban Iftime** becomes honorary adviser in the Department of Economic and Social Policies. These appointments take effect on November 17 and December 1, 2025.

ADRIAN ȚUȚUIANU NAMED AEP PRESIDENT. The Parliament has voted **Adrian Țuțuianu as the new president of the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP) for an 8-year term (2025 - 2033)**, effective December 15, 2025. Țuțuianu, former Defense Minister, PSD senator, and state secretary at the General Secretariat of the Government (2022- 2025), was the sole candidate, nominated by PSD in line with coalition agreements. He resigned from PSD upon submitting his candidacy, in accordance with the law prohibiting the AEP president from holding party membership.

Rule of law

PARLIAMENT APPROVES NEW CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST RULES. Parliament has adopted a law establishing a **clear and unified**

framework to prevent conflicts of interest before and after holding public office, now published in the Official Gazette. The measures aim to strengthen transparency, impartiality, and public trust, aligning with OECD recommendations from the PIAC Working Group. Key provisions include restrictions on post-employment activities only when they overlap with duties from the previous 12 months, mandatory electronic declarations via the e-DAI platform (with fines of 2,000 - 10,000 RON for non-compliance), and automatic nullification of contracts that violate the rules. Sanctions on employers and pre-approval requirements for private employment have been removed, and former local and county councillors are no longer subject to post-mandate restrictions. Authorities must set up responsible structures and internal procedures within 90 days, while inter-institutional protocols for database access must be finalized within 120 days. The National Integrity Agency (ANI) will oversee declarations, apply sanctions, and manage compliance through a specialized structure and integrity inspectors, with fines of RON 2,000 - 10,000 for institutions failing to designate responsible personnel within a year.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF MD. The new Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Alexandru Munteanu, paid a visit to Romania on November 13, where he met with senior Romanian officials such as President Nicușor Dan, Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan and Senate President Mircea Abrudean. During the meeting, Romanian officials expressed support for the Republic of Moldova on all levels, such as state modernization, reforms and European integration, as well as continued collaboration between the two states.

Also, on November 19, the foreign policy committees of the Senate of Romania and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova held a joint meeting to discuss the advancement of the European integration process as the Republic of Moldova fulfills its commitments, Romania's support for the European integration agenda of the Republic of Moldova, and the European Union's support for the Republic of Moldova.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.