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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

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T75 - GOVERNMENT REVIEWS PROGRESS ON CLUJ–ORADEA RAILWAY PROJECT. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan analysed the implementation status of the electrification and rehabilitation project of the Cluj-Napoca - Oradea - Episcopia Bihor railway line, financed under the **NRRP, Investment I1, contributing to Target 75** on modernised rail infrastructure. The project covers over 166 km, with a total value exceeding RON 7.6 billion (excluding VAT), and has reached an average physical progress of 42.72%. Authorities reviewed implementation bottlenecks and outlined next steps, including clarifying technical documentation, continuing discussions with contractors and accelerating expropriation procedures. The 2026 state budget includes the national co-financing, with the objective of

reaching agreed milestones with the European Commission by August 2026 and completing all four sections by end-2027.

INVESTMENT 3, T84 - RISK OF DELAYS ON A7 MOTORWAY AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF EU FUNDS. The Association Pro Infrastructură warns of a significant risk that sections of the A7 Ploiești - Siret motorway will not be completed within the NRRP deadline, which could affect the absorption of up to EUR 2.17 billion in grants. According to the analysis, progress remains uneven despite parts of the corridor already opened to traffic, with several critical structures (bridges and viaducts) still at early stages. Meeting the August 2026 deadline would require substantial mobilisation of workforce and continuous execution, including night shifts. Even under these conditions, the timeline is assessed as difficult to meet, especially on the Adjud - Săbăoani section. The project is part of **NRRP Component C4, Investment I3, contributing to Target 84** on operational motorway infrastructure, and delays could impact Romania's ability to meet agreed milestones with the European Commission.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

REFORM 1, T92 - UPDATED APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR TOURISM URBAN PLANNING DOCUMENTATION. The Government adopted last week a decision which updates the approval methodology for urban planning and technical documentation in tourism, in line with GEO no. 31/2025, aiming to reduce permitting timelines under **Target 92 of NRRP Component C5, Reform R1**. The measure introduces fixed deadlines for the approval process, including 30 days for document analysis, 15 days for issuing approvals, and 15 days for requesting clarifications. Applicants are given up to 60 days to submit revisions. Documentation linked to PNRR-funded investments is prioritised, and approvals can now be issued at specific project design stages. The update also clarifies required documents and procedural steps, addressing delays caused by previously unclear and incomplete rules.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 11 - WHITE AREAS. This Order amends the State Aid Scheme "Supporting the use of communications services through different types of instruments for beneficiaries, with an emphasis on white areas" , extending the deadline for payment of aid to beneficiaries until June 30, 2026, being part of **Component 7, Investment 11**. We remind you that the said scheme is intended to ensure coverage of high-speed internet access in areas where the market cannot provide these services on its own. The state aid is granted in the form of a non-refundable subsidy (grant), based on a financing contract, based on the most economically advantageous offer.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

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

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C10. The local fund

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

REFORM 6, M398 - SOCIAL ECONOMY. The Committee for Labour was notified regarding 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 March 31.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 1, M402, T403 - UPDATE OF INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS. A working meeting to **begin the annual update of Institutional Strategic Plans (PSI)** took place on Tuesday at Victoria Palace. The session outlined key steps and deadlines in the process, contributing to the achievement of **Milestone 402** and **Target 403** under Romania's **NRRP (Reform 1, Component 14)** reform agenda. PSI documents serve as the main management tool for ministries, aligning national and sectoral strategies with budget planning and implementation.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 - EDUCATION REFORM CHANGES. This week, the Senate's Education Committee has approved a report supporting the **draft bill** to endorse Emergency Ordinance 1/2026, which amends the Education Laws no. 198/2023 and 199/2023 by **updating the legal framework for teacher training and school operations**. We remind you that through these two laws, **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15) of the NRRP** was previously implemented. Concerning the ordinance, the provisions include simplifying evaluation for the "Primary Education Pedagogy" program, delaying the teaching master's deadline to 2027–2028, allowing certain high schools to operate with fewer students, and extending or granting automatic authorization for some vocational and pedagogical programs. Previously adopted by the deputies, the bill is set to have one last debate and vote on in the Senate plenary.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

AMENDMENTS TO THE NRRP REGARDING FINANCIAL CONTROL AND CORRECTIONS. The draft bill approving GO 3/2026, which amends and completes the framework applicable to the prevention, detection and sanctioning of irregularities in the use of funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, was registered Chamber of Deputies for final debate and vote.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

EXTENSION OF FAST-TRACK RULES TO GAS STORAGE PROJECTS. A new legislative proposal seeks to update the framework for projects of national importance in the gas sector by extending its scope to underground gas storage infrastructure, in the context of broader efforts to accelerate strategic energy investments. The proposal expands the application of Law No. 185/2016 to include storage facilities and associated infrastructure, such as compression stations, measurement and regulation stations, technological nodes and related electrical installations. It also clarifies the land regime, allowing temporary occupation of public forest land for project implementation, including through derogations from forestry legislation. At the same time, simplified permitting procedures currently applicable to gas transmission projects would also apply to storage projects, supporting faster development of storage capacity and related infrastructure.

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

NEW EIB FINANCING FOR A1 MOTORWAY COFINANCING. The draft bill to approve a EUR 500 million financing contract signed in January 2026 between Romania and the European Investment Bank, for the continued cofinancing of the Sibiu-Pitești section of the A1 Motorway, part of the TEN-T network, was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 07.04.2026. This represents the second EIB loan for the same objective, following the financing approved by Law no. 19/2026, bringing total EIB support for the project to EUR 1 billion. The loan may cover up to 50% of eligible project costs, excluding VAT and expropriations, and can be drawn in up to 10 tranches within 36 months.

TAX INCENTIVES PROPOSED FOR NATURAL GAS-BASED CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. The legislative proposal which aims to stimulate higher-value processing of natural gas in Romania through fiscal incentives for investments in the gas-based chemical and petrochemical industry was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 31.03.2026. Initiated by MPs from PNL, USR and PSD, the proposal amends the Fiscal Code to encourage the use of domestic gas production, including future output from projects such as Neptun Deep, for domestic industrial processing. The initiative introduces corporate tax exemptions for reinvested profits for five years, the possibility of super-accelerated depreciation for new investments, and exemptions from local taxes on buildings and land used for these

activities, subject to state aid rules.

SPECIAL GAS PRICING REGIME FOR HOUSEHOLDS. The draft bill which approves the Emergency Ordinance on the temporary administrative pricing regime for household gas consumers and district heating producers, applicable between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 31.03.2026. The measure confirms the continuation of regulated intervention on the residential segment during the transition toward full market liberalisation. Among others, the draft establishes a mandatory price formation formula and suppliers and direct heating producers must ensure a minimum storage level of 90% of national capacity ahead of the 2026-2027 winter season. Non-household consumers, including SMEs, are not covered by dedicated protection measures.

Business & Economy

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/2864 – ESAP. The draft law which **transposes into national legislation Directive (EU) 2023/2864 - ESAP, on the establishment and operation of the European Single Access Point**, by amending a series of regulatory acts in the financial sector to introduce clear obligations for the publication and transmission of information to ESAP, was adopted by the Senate. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/2994 - CENTRAL COUNTERPARTIES (CCPS). The law which amends Law No. 236/2022 in order to align the national framework with the new European provisions on **concentration risk arising from exposures to central counterparties (CCPs)** and with the prudential supervision requirements provided for by **Directive (EU) 2024/2994**, was published in the Official Gazette.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

No relevant updates.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

NATIONAL STRATEGY ON IMMIGRATION. The Ministry of Internal Affairs published for consultation a draft decision which approves the National Strategy on Immigration 2026–2030, establishing the strategic framework for the management of migration, asylum and integration of foreigners, in line with European policies. It aims to reduce illegal migration, strengthen the asylum system, manage borders efficiently and develop legal migration to cover the labor shortage. It also promotes the social integration of foreigners, institutional cooperation and the provision of the necessary resources for the implementation and monitoring of the measures. After the period of public consultation, the decision is expected to be adopted by the Government.

Security & crisis management

No relevant updates.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

MINIMUM WAGE SET TO INCREASE FROM JULY 2026. The Government **has approved** an increase of the **national gross minimum wage** from **4,050 RON to 4,325 RON per month**, effective **1 July 2026**. This raises the hourly rate to 25.949 RON based on a standard 166.667-hour work month. The increase represents a **6.8% rise**, or 275 RON gross per month, resulting in a net wage of **2,699 RON** for eligible employees. The Decision was already published in the Official Gazette.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

NATURA 2000 NETWORK EXPANSION. The Government approved and published in the Official Gazette the Government Decision amending GD 685/2022 to designate an additional 27 Sites of Community Importance as Special Areas of Conservation. The measure continues the process launched earlier this month through GD 984/2025, which designated 19 new sites. The normative act supports Romania's compliance with the Habitats Directive and the ongoing infringement procedure 2020/2238 concerning delays in site designation. As such, the proposal formalises the protected status of these 27 sites by adding them to GD 685/2022. All selected sites already have approved management plans and conservation measures, which remain the basis for regulating activities within these areas.

DRAFT NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030. The Ministry of Environment has published the draft National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation 2030, setting Romania's policy directions for ecosystem protection and restoration, in line with EU targets. The document outlines two main pillars, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, including energy, transport and agriculture. While it does not introduce direct obligations at this stage, it signals future regulatory and permitting implications, particularly through stricter environmental conditions in project planning, authorisation and access to EU funding. The strategy is accompanied by an action plan and monitoring framework, defining institutional responsibilities, performance indicators and implementation mechanisms. It also points to the expansion of protected areas, development of biodiversity monitoring systems and increased reliance on EU funding instruments.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

SENATE LEGAL COMMITTEE REJECTS ANTI-COMMUNIST BILL. This week, the Senate Legal Committee has rejected a **legislative proposal** initiated by USR MPs that **sought to ban communist organizations, symbols, and the promotion of communist-era figures** or individuals guilty of crimes against humanity. In its rejection, the committee cited constitutional protections on freedom of expression and association, as well as existing legislation and European Court of Human Rights case law, arguing the draft contained elements of unconstitutionality. The proposal had included strict measures such as banning communist symbols in public spaces and place names, as well as criminal penalties for promoting or supporting communist ideas or organizations, with exceptions for educational, artistic, and scientific purposes. Now, the proposal shall soon be rejected in the plenary session of the Senate and then sent to the deputies for a final debate.

Rule of law

SENATE PASSES CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORM BILL. The Senate (first chamber) has adopted a **legislative initiative** signed by AUR MPs aimed at **improving criminal proceedings and strengthening protections for victims, particularly minors**. The bill shifts jurisdiction for child sexual abuse cases to tribunals for greater specialization, expands victims' rights including easier access to information and online complaints, and allows faster communication of legal documents via email. It also streamlines preliminary procedures to reduce delays, clarifies rules on digital searches and preventive measures, and introduces new provisions for victim protection during and after trials. Ongoing cases will remain under the jurisdiction of the courts and prosecutors already handling them at the time the law enters into force. Next, the bill will reach the Chamber of Deputies for a final round of debates.

USR PROPOSES JUDICIAL REFORM MEASURES. Parliamentarians from USR have submitted a series of legislative proposals to the Chamber of Deputies in **response to issues highlighted by the Recorder documentary “Captured Justice”** (Justiție capturată), addressing concerns over judicial independence, political influence, and interest groups within the judiciary. The proposals also **align with recommendations from the Venice Commission, GRECO, and the European Commission**.

1. **Inspectorate leadership reform:** The **first proposal** introduces a three-stage appointment procedure for the Chief and Deputy Chief

Inspectors of the Judicial Inspection, sets 4-year non-renewable mandates, limits intervention in individual cases, and expands transparency obligations, including annual activity reports.

2. **Limiting prosecutorial overruling:** The **second proposal** removes the ability of high-ranking prosecutors to directly overturn decisions of lower-level prosecutors to prevent abuse of centralized authority.

3. **External audit of case allocation:** The **third proposal** strengthens independent auditing of randomized case distribution, covering both technical and procedural aspects, human interventions, and mandates public reporting of any legal violations.

4. **Delegation and secondment of judges and prosecutors:** The **fourth proposal** limits delegations to 6 months and secondments to 3 years, ensures they are only to vacant positions, and prohibits bypassing competitive recruitment to protect judicial independence.

5. **Investigation of judicial offenses:** The **fifth proposal** reassigns responsibility for investigating crimes by judges and prosecutors based on the nature of the offense, granting DNA jurisdiction over corruption, DIICOT over organized crime and terrorism, and returning other cases to ordinary prosecutor offices; transitional rules govern ongoing cases.

Public Prosecutor leadership reform: The **sixth proposal** restricts political involvement in appointing/removing the Prosecutor General, DNA Chief Prosecutor, and DIICOT Chief Prosecutor, sets 5-year non-renewable terms, and clarifies hierarchical control over prosecutorial decisions, including in DNA and DIICOT.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.