

March 19-26, 2026

Weekly Report - NRRP and EC Priorities

Report prepared by C. Petrescu, A.M. Anghel, E. Aignătoaei, E. Stamate



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

INVESTMENT I3a, T57 – PROCEDURE FOR USE OF DIGITAL CONTROL EQUIPMENT. The Ministry of Environment has published for public consultation a draft order establishing the procedure for the use of photo-audio-video equipment by the National Environmental Guard, contributing to the implementation of **NRRP Component C3, Investment I3.a, Target 57** on digital monitoring in control activities. The draft operationalises the use of equipment already acquired under PNRR, setting rules for recording, storage, access and deletion of data. It allows recordings to be used as evidence during inspections, including in certain private spaces where environmental risks are suspected, and introduces a general data retention period of up to 6 months, with strict limitations on data use in line with GDPR. The measure removes the gap between equipment acquisition and operational use, enabling the Environmental Guard to carry out digitalised control missions.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

REFORM 1, T92 - UPDATED APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR TOURISM URBAN PLANNING DOCUMENTATION. The 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**, was published in the Official Gazette. 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 NRRP-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

REFORM 1, M114 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO SECURE DECARBONISATION MILESTONE COMPLIANCE. The Ministry of Energy has published a draft emergency ordinance 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, in the context of discussions with the European Commission. The draft 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, and allows the Ministry of Energy to request ANRE to withdraw licences for non-compliant capacities. Additional provisions include short reporting deadlines (5 days) to monitor implementation.

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**, is advancing at committee level, where the Committee for Industries has issued a preliminary report introducing 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. The final position will depend on the joint report with the Committee for Economic Policy.

REFORM 6, M128 - DECARBONISATION OF THE HEATING AND COOLING SECTOR. The legislative proposal which establishes a national framework for the decarbonisation of heating and cooling systems, in line with **NRRP Component C6, Reform 6, Milestone 128**, was tacitly adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The initiative defines a governance structure between the Ministry of Energy and local authorities, aiming to reduce the use of inefficient biomass and dependence on fossil fuels. The proposal also introduces mandatory local heating and cooling plans from 2026 for municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. Next, the legislative proposal will be sent to the Senate, which is the decisional chamber.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

R6, M214 – ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION PERIODS. The Senate registered on March 24 a new legislative proposal aiming to amend and supplement Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, through which **Milestone 214 - Reform 6, Component 8 of the PNRR** was fulfilled, in order to **clarify the contributory nature and the mechanism for capitalizing in the calculation of the pension and of the contribution periods** related to activities carried out under special and exceptional working conditions. Thus, it is ensured that additional contribution periods recognized by law can produce real legal effects in determining pension rights, by capitalizing on them in the annual score and in granting stability points, explicit mentions introduced. The proposal is going to be soon sent to the committees for debate.

R6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNSHIP IN MULTIPLE SYSTEMS. The Senate rejected 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 soon registered for final 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.

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

R4, M387 - REGULATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DOMESTIC PROVIDER. The Chamber of Deputies adopted 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. Next, the law is going to be signed by the President of Romania and published in the Official Gazette.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – EDUCATION LAW UPDATES ADOPTED. This week, Romania’s Chamber of Deputies adopted the law approving **Emergency Ordinance 1/2026**, which introduces amendments to the 2023 Education Laws to better **align teacher training and school operations with current system needs**. We remind you that the Education Laws implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** back in 2023. Key measures of this ordinance include simplifying the evaluation process for primary education pedagogy programs, postponing the closure of the teaching master’s program until the 2027–2028 academic year, and allowing certain high schools to operate with fewer students while maintaining legal status. The ordinance also grants automatic provisional authorization

for some vocational programs, expands accreditation for pedagogical specializations in vocational schools, and suspends the “Cultural Vouchers for Students” program until the 2027–2028 school year, with a decision on its continuation expected afterward. Next, the law shall soon be signed by the President, followed by its publication in the Official Gazette.

MINERIAD CURRICULUM PROPOSAL. Instead, the Senate, acting as the first chamber, has rejected a **legislative initiative** introduced by PNL deputy Florin-Claudiu Roman that sought to **include the 1990 Mineriad as part of the subject “History of Communism in Romania” in pre-university education** starting with the 2027–2028 school year. The proposal aimed to amend the pre-university education law (Law no. 198/2023), which has previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. Its stated goal was to help students better understand Romania’s democratic transition and counter historical ignorance and manipulation. Now the proposal moves to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates

Investments

No relevant updates

General News

AMENDMENTS TO EUROPEAN PROGRAMS AND NRRP. The law which approves GEO no. 45/2025, amending and supplementing the national framework for the use of European funds, both from the 2021–2027 Cohesion Policy and from the PNRR, as well as measures aim to resume social vouchers for food/hot meals in 2025, supplement educational support, financial optimizations for financial instruments, was published in the Official Gazette.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

FUEL MARKET CRISIS. The Government is expected to adopt today an emergency ordinance declaring a crisis on the oil and petroleum products market, introducing temporary measures to limit price increases and protect consumers, in the context of rising fuel prices driven by international developments. The draft introduces a cap on commercial margins for gasoline and diesel across the entire supply chain, limits exports and intra-EU deliveries subject to prior approval, and allows temporary derogations on biofuel content. It also establishes a strict sanctioning regime, including fines linked to turnover for exceeding price caps or breaching export restrictions, as well as monthly reporting obligations and ongoing monitoring of market impacts. The ordinance also includes adjustments to OUG No. 12/2026 on the gas market, clarifying institutional responsibilities and introducing a mechanism for allocating gas quantities and recalculating minimum storage levels in case of supply imbalances. Additional changes are expected ahead of its adoption.

LOCAL ENERGY SURPLUS FOR SOCIAL COMPENSATION. The legislative proposal allowing local authorities to use surplus renewable electricity to compensate energy bills for vulnerable households received a rejection report from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies. The measure amends Law 123/2012 and establishes a local mechanism managed through council-approved regulations. The surplus will be calculated monthly by the distribution operator. Next, the legislative proposal will be debated in the plenary and is expected to be rejected.

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) was tacitly adopted by the Senate. 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. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT LAW. The legislative proposal regarding the management of biowaste was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 15.04.2026. The initiative replaces Law 181/2020 and sets a new framework for separate collection, composting, and anaerobic digestion. It aligns national rules with EU Regulation 2019/1009 and GEO 92/2021, reopening the internal compost market so producers can meet the same quality standards applied to fertilising products already

circulating in the EU. The proposal was previously rejected by the Senate.

Business & Economy

ECONOMIC OPERATORS OF STRATEGIC INTEREST & STATE INTERVENTION MECHANISMS. The Ministry of Economics published for public debate a draft GEO which establishes a legal framework through which the Romanian state can intervene to protect and maintain strategic economic capacities, especially in situations where they are affected by financial difficulties or risk ceasing their activity, the aim being to ensure economic security and the continuity of the functioning of sectors essential to the national economy. Next, the draft GEO will be adopted in a future Government meeting.

MEASURES FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. The draft bill approving GEO 8/2026, which introduces a comprehensive package of measures for economic recovery, aiming to stimulate investments, exports, research and development, the capital market and the modernization of the economy, including through fiscal and financial support, was adopted by the Senate. Next, the initiative goes to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

THE 2026 STATE BUDGET DECLARED CONSTITUTIONAL. The law on the adoption of the 2026 state budget has been declared constitutional by the Constitutional Court, following complaints filed by the AUR regarding its possible unconstitutionality. Next, the law will be sent to the President of Romania for promulgation and publication in the Official Gazette.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

DIGITAL CONTRIBUTION FOR LARGE PLATFORMS. The legislative proposal which establishes the contribution on digital intermediation income generated in Romania by large digital platforms, regardless of their legal form of organization or fiscal residency was rejected by the

Senate. Next, the initiative goes to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

TRANSPOSITION OF EU DEFENCE PRODUCTS DIRECTIVE. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published a draft Government Decision transposing Delegated Directive (EU) 2026/325, updating the list of defence-related products in line with the revised EU Common Military List (24 February 2025). The draft approves a new national list of military products subject to export, import and transfer controls, replacing the existing framework established by HG No. 524/2025, which will be repealed upon entry into force. The measure ensures alignment with updated EU rules on defence trade controls. The decision is set to enter into force on 5 June 2026.

Borders and migration

HEALTH SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS. The Ministry of Internal Affairs republished and updated last week the draft bill which transposes EU directives and regulations in the field of migration and asylum, establishing the framework for **screening centres, strengthening the protection of foreigners' rights and aligning national legislation with European rules on asylum, return and border control**. Measures are introduced on medical checks, independent monitoring, access to legal aid and services, as well as clearer rules for return and crisis situations. At the same time, the **protection of asylum seekers is strengthened**, their integration is facilitated and authorities are given access to relevant European systems.

Security & crisis management

ROMANIA DEFINES FEMICIDE IN LAW. In an unusual cross-party alliance, Romania's Parliament has adopted a landmark law signed by 273 MPs **that, for the first time, defines “femicide” in national legislation and introduces comprehensive measures to prevent, investigate, and report such crimes** while strengthening protections for women facing violence. The law classifies femicide into intimate, non-intimate, and indirect forms and treats it as qualified murder, covering both direct killings and violent acts leading to death, amid rising concerns as statistics show a man attempts to kill a woman every three days and nearly 50 femicide cases were recorded in the first 10

months of 2025. The legislation also integrates gender equality and anti-violence education into school curricula, backed by funding for awareness initiatives, and amends criminal laws to impose harsher penalties (including up to life imprisonment) for killing a partner, allow investigations to begin ex officio, and enable courts to declare perpetrators unworthy. Now, the law will soon be signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette.

SENATE REJECTS HARSHER PENALTIES FOR SELLING DRUGS TO MINORS. Instead, the Senate has rejected a **legislative initiative** proposed by PNL deputies that aimed to **impose stricter punishments for selling drugs to minors**. The initiative would have established prison terms of 5-15 years for general drugs and 10-20 years for high-risk substances, along with the suspension of certain rights. Supporters argued the current law treats drug sales to minors only as an aggravating circumstance, insufficient given rising youth drug use and trafficking. Even so, the proposal now moves to the deputies for a final debate.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

SENATE REJECTS BURNOUT PREVENTION LAW. This week, Romania's Senate rejected a **USR-proposed law** aimed at **preventing professional** burnout through organizational and psychosocial measures in the workplace, without requiring medical diagnosis. The legislation would have obliged employers to annually inform employees about burnout risks, integrate psychosocial hazards into general risk assessments, and, for firms with over 50 employees, conduct specific evaluations using tools recommended by the Ministry of Labor and the Romanian College of Psychologists. It also proposed annual prevention plans, confidential reporting mechanisms, optional paid recovery days, and support for voluntary psycho-emotional counseling. Now the initiative will be in the final debate of the deputies.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

No relevant updates

Climate change

REDISTRIBUTION OF EU ETS REVENUES. The draft bill approving the ordinance on the management of revenues from the auctioning of EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) allowances was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance updates the national framework to align with the new EU rules applicable from 2025, including unified auctioning for stationary installations and aviation under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2830. The law will next be sent to the President of Romania to be signed.

ETS2 - PROCEDURE FOR GHG EMISSIONS AUTHORISATION. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft order establishing the procedure for issuing and revising greenhouse gas emissions authorisations for entities placing excise fuels on the market, operationalising GD No. 907/2025 and the implementation of ETS2. The procedure applies to upstream operators, such as fuel suppliers, importers and warehouse keepers, which become responsible for monitoring and reporting emissions associated with fuels placed in consumption. Authorisation is conditional on submitting a monitoring plan aligned with EU rules, while operators must comply with annual reporting and surrender obligations. The absence of an authorisation prohibits the activity of placing fuels on the market, effectively linking market access to ETS2 compliance.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

SENATE REJECTS BAN ON PROMOTING COMMUNIST FIGURES. Romania's Senate has rejected a **USR legislative initiative** that sought to **prohibit organizations, symbols, actions, and promotion of the cult of communist personalities**, as well as individuals guilty of crimes against humanity or violations of fundamental human rights. The law aimed to prevent the spread of ideas and principles that caused historical trauma and threatened democratic society. Key provisions included banning statues, plaques, and public naming of schools, streets, or institutions after such figures; criminalizing the public promotion of communist ideas (6 months–5 years), creating or supporting communist organizations (3–10 years), and distributing communist symbols (3 months–5 years). Denying or minimizing the effects of communism would have been punishable by 3 months–3 years in prison or fines, with exceptions for artistic, scientific, educational, or public debate purposes. The bill will now move to the Chamber of Deputies (decisional forum).

Rule of law

DEPUTIES ADOPT LAW EXPANDING ASSET DECLARATIONS. In the absence of a debate within the legal deadline, the Chamber of Deputies has tacitly adopted a **legislative proposal** requiring that **asset declarations for public officials to include the rights and obligations of a declarant's spouse and dependent children**, to the extent the declarant can be aware of them. Failure to disclose such information carries criminal or contraventional liability. The Constitutional Court had previously ruled on May 29, 2025, that Article 3(2) of Law 176/2010 is constitutional only to the extent it does not apply to a declarant's spouse or adult dependent children, with the decision applying prospectively and not affecting previously submitted declarations. The senators will soon receive the proposal for its final debate.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA-EGYPT MILITARY COOPERATION. The Government adopted last week the draft bill **ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding on military cooperation between the Government of Romania**, represented by the Ministry of National Defense, **and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt**, represented by the Ministry of Defense, signed in Cairo on November 2, 2025. The memorandum contains **provisions regarding purpose, definitions, areas of cooperation, forms of cooperation, implementation, the joint military committee, financial aspects, visits, protection of exchanged classified military information, jurisdiction, dispute settlement** and final provisions. The draft bill was also registered for debate at the Chamber of Deputies.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

ACCESSION TO THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (TAC). The law which approves Romania's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the protocols that amended it , in order to deepen relations with ASEAN member states and strengthen cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, was signed by the President of Romania and will be published in the Official Gazette.