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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

MMAP FLAGS RISKS FOR NRRP MILESTONES 4 AND 31. A note presented by the Minister of Environment in the Government meeting this week outlines the status of two NRRP milestones under the Ministry's responsibility, namely **Milestone 4 under Component C1, Reform 2**, concerning the reform of the economic mechanism for water resources, and **Milestone 31 under Component C2, Reform 2**, concerning the national biodiversity strategy. For Milestone 4, the draft law revising the financing model of the National Administration "Apele Române" aims to introduce a cost-recovery system covering operational, environmental and resource costs, with financing needs estimated at around RON 23 billion over 15 years, but still requires completion of the legislative process within a tight calendar. For Milestone 31, the biodiversity strategy remains under interministerial review, with delays in the environmental approval process and the risk of triggering a full SEA procedure. The note explicitly flags risks related to lack of interministerial agreement and procedural delays, both milestones carrying a potential penalty of EUR 972.5 million.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

INVESTMENT 3, M34 - PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The Government adopted last week the emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 57/2007, as part of **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 34**. The ordinance introduces a dedicated chapter on priority biodiversity areas, detailing designation procedures, management regimes, and permitted activities, with a clear distinction between non-intervention and active management zones. The act establishes the legislative basis for the future designation and operation of these areas, while concrete impacts will depend on subsequent secondary legislation. The draft bill approving the ordinance has also been registered in Parliament and sent to the responsible Senate committees, which are expected to issue a joint report by 21.04.2026.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

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.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

MINISTRY OF ENERGY FLAGS RISKS AND NEXT STEPS ACROSS NRRP PORTFOLIO. A note presented by the Minister of Energy in the Government meeting this week provides a consolidated status update on the Ministry's NRRP portfolio, covering six investments, namely renewables, green hydrogen, gas-fired CHP, photovoltaic manufacturing, storage and industrial energy efficiency, under **Targets 125, 131, 134, 138, 139 and 141**, as well as three reforms, namely **Reform 1 on the electricity market, Reform 4 on renewable hydrogen and Reform 6 on the decarbonisation of heating and cooling, under Milestones 116, 126 and 128**. The document points to uneven implementation across the portfolio, with delays linked to grid connection, payment processing, equipment delivery, on-site execution and permitting. It is particularly negative on photovoltaic manufacturing, where both supported projects have effectively failed and the Ministry has already asked MIPE to start the procedure for removing the investment from the NRRP. At the same time, the note shows that legislative closure is still incomplete for the three reform files, including Reform 6, for which the draft GEO was still under preparation, with Government adoption planned for May 2026.

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.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

No relevant updates.

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

R6, M398 - SOCIAL ECONOMY. The Senate adopted 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 draft bill is expected to be soon registered with the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

R2, 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 9, M440 - RESTRUCTURING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE. The draft bill approving the emergency ordinance on the **corporate**

governance of state-owned enterprises, a key milestone under the **NRRP (C4.R2/M79, C6.R2/M121, C14.R9/M440)**, was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and sent to the President for promulgation. 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. The President subsequently referred the law to the Constitutional Court, arguing that the legislative process breached the principle of bicameralism, as substantial changes were introduced at the Chamber of Deputies without prior review by the Senate. The referral also questions the new wording on management benefits, arguing that it could broaden the scope of reimbursable advantages and weaken oversight of public spending. The Presidency site no longer appears to host the individual promulgation-track link previously associated with the file, which may indicate an intentional website update following the constitutional referral, but this does not change the active procedural status of the law. The reform can now enter into force only if it clears constitutional review, which makes the Court's decision relevant for avoiding the loss of around EUR 500 million in EU funding.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – A NEW NURSERY IN SATU MARE. Last week, Minister Cseke Attila inaugurated a newly built nursery in Satu Mare, marking the **61st facility completed under the “Saint Ana” program**, financed through Romania's NRRP, Component 15. The

initiative aims to construct, equip, and operationalize a total of 110 nurseries as part of **Investment 1**, contributing to the achievement of **Target 457**, which focuses on expanding early childhood education infrastructure across the country.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1 - ACCELERATION ZONES FRAMEWORK DELAYED. A note reviewed by the Government last week 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

No relevant updates

General News

INFORMATIVE NOTE REGARDING THE TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING REFORMS SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIAL PENALTIES. The Ministry of Investment and European Projects has published an informative note regarding the timeline for implementing reforms subject to substantial penalties. The implementation of the revised 2025 NRRP has entered a critical phase, with adherence to deadlines intensified by the risk of substantial penalties. Although Romania has already received approximately €10.72 billion (around 50% of the total),

progress on reforms remains uneven, and some institutions have not presented credible remedial measures. In this context, the government has established an accelerated 2026 calendar targeting the completion of key milestones, including: **Milestone 4** (economic mechanism for water resources), **Milestone 31** (biodiversity framework), **Milestone 315** (Territorial Planning and Urbanism Code), **Milestone 126** (hydrogen strategy), **Milestone 128** (decarbonization of heating and cooling), **Milestone 116** (energy regulatory framework), **Milestone 196 and 197** (fiscal reform and ANAF restructuring), **Milestone 420** (public sector wage law), **Milestone 431** (public integrity framework), and **Milestone 509** (use of state lands for renewable energy), alongside critical targets such as **T119a** (closure of coal capacities) and **T442** (corporate governance in state-owned enterprises).

The conclusion is that successful implementation depends on the rapid and coordinated adoption of these legislative and regulatory measures, mostly by mid-2026, many requiring political approval and interinstitutional cooperation. To avoid penalties estimated between €770–973 million for each major unmet reform, a strict monitoring mechanism has been established, with biweekly reporting and continuous government-level evaluation. Meeting the listed milestones is therefore not merely a formal obligation but a critical condition for maintaining EU funding and Romania’s credibility within the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

LOCAL ENERGY SURPLUS FOR SOCIAL COMPENSATION. The legislative proposal allowing local authorities to use surplus renewable electricity to compensate energy bills for vulnerable households was rejected by the Senate, the decisional chamber. The measure sought to amend Law 123/2012 and establish a local mechanism managed through council-approved regulations.

FUEL PRICE STABILISATION MEASURES. The Government adopted last week an emergency ordinance introducing measures to stabilise diesel prices, and has submitted it to Parliament for approval. 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. The draft bill approving the ordinance has been registered in Parliament and sent to the relevant committees for a joint report, expected by 21.04.2026.

Business & Economy

AMENDMENTS REGARDING THE INSOLVENCY OF INDIVIDUALS. The draft bill which substantially modifies the insolvency regime for individuals by expanding access to the procedure, protecting the family home, clarifying the treatment of claims, and strengthening the powers of administrators and the insolvency commission, in accordance with EU law (Directive (EU) 2019/1023), was updated and republished on the MEDAT website. Next, the draft law should be approved by the Government and sent to the Parliament for its adoption.

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/2811 (FACILITATING ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS). The Ministry of Finance published for public debate a draft bill which transposes Directive (EU) 2024/2811 (facilitating access to capital markets) and introduces measures to simplify companies' access to the stock exchange, especially for SMEs, as well as to increase investor protection. Next, the draft law should be approved by the Government and sent to the Parliament for its adoption.

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/2994. The Government approved the draft bill that includes a series of proposals to simplify the formalities/procedures for the authorization/registration with the FSA of certain types of AIFs, proposals intended to constitute the regulatory framework applicable to the distribution of units of UCIs (e.g. UCITS and AIFs) through the global account, and the transposition into national legislation (at the level of GEO no. 32/2012) of the provisions of art. 1 of Directive (EU) 2024/2994, regards the treatment of concentration risk arising from exposures to central counterparties and counterparty risk for transactions in centrally cleared derivative financial instruments. Next, the draft law will be sent to the Parliament for its adoption.

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

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

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. Active since at least 2024, the campaign compromised devices globally to harvest credentials and sensitive information. Authorities warn that the operation is part of Russia's ongoing hybrid warfare against Western states, underscoring the need for stronger cybersecurity measures and continued international cooperation, including in Romania.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

SENATE COMMITTEE BACKS SOCIAL HOUSING REFORM. The Senate's Labor Committee has issued an admission report on a **legislative proposal** initiated by PSD MPs, aimed at **updating Romania's social assistance framework**. The draft bill expands the definition of vulnerable groups to explicitly **include individuals and families living in inadequate or overcrowded housing, as well as young people at risk of social marginalization with incomes below the legal minimum living threshold**. It also integrates housing conditions into anti-poverty policies, recognizing access to adequate housing as essential to preventing social exclusion, and broadens eligibility for public housing owned by central and local authorities. Now, the proposal will most probably be adopted by the Senate's plenary, in one of the sittings organized after the Easter vacation.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

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, targeting essential costs for maintaining bee colonies, particularly feed during periods without nectar flow was sent to the responsible committees to issue a report by 21.04.2026. 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.

FOREST COMPENSATION SCHEME UPDATED. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft Government Decision amending the framework for compensating forest owners affected by logging restrictions imposed through forest management plans. The act updates the existing scheme by tightening eligibility conditions, including proof of forestry services and confirmation of the absence of significant illegal logging, and by standardising the required documentation. It also introduces a more structured administrative process, with centralised transmission and verification of applications, and clarifies payment rules, allowing compensation to be granted within the current budget year or later, depending on available funds. The total budget of the scheme is capped at RON 998 million, with applicability for the period 10 August 2023 to 31 December 2027, alongside specific transitional provisions for 2023.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

No relevant updates.

Rule of law

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. It also proposed automatic links between findings of bad faith or gross negligence by the Superior Council of Magistracy and disciplinary liability, as well as requiring judges and prosecutors to take out professional liability insurance at their own expense. Now, the proposal moves to the Senate for a final debate.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.