

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

REFORM 2, M4 - WATER PRICING REFORM. The Government is preparing, under **NRRP Component C1, Reform 2, Milestone 4**, a new economic mechanism for the water sector, which will require amendments to Water Law No. 107/1996 to better align the revenues of the National Administration “Apele Române” with actual operating and investment costs. According to statements by the Minister of Investments and European Projects, Dragoș Pîslaru, the reform may lead to tariff adjustments, although the expected impact on the population is considered limited. Authorities are currently assessing several scenarios, including World Bank support, with the stated aim of selecting the option with the lowest impact on both consumers and the wider economy. The reform responds to observations from the European Commission, which found that the current pricing system is not uniform and does not generate sufficient resources for water infrastructure investment. The final tariff model is expected to be presented by the Ministry of Environment in the coming period.

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

No relevant updates.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M114 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO SECURE DECARBONISATION MILESTONE COMPLIANCE. The Senate adopted the draft bill which approves GEO no. 20/2026 aimed at aligning the decarbonisation framework with **NRRP commitments, ensuring the irreversibility of Milestone 114 and the fulfilment of Targets 119 and 119a** on coal phase-out, in the context of discussions with the European Commission. The ordinance updates the timeline for decommissioning lignite and hard coal capacities, removes previously introduced mechanisms considered to create risks of reversibility (GEO nr. 88/2025), and reinforces the ban on developing or extending coal-based generation. It also introduces stricter sanctions, including fines of up to 7% of turnover. Next, the draft bill will move forward to the Chamber of Deputies, which will be the decisional chamber.

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

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

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

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

C10. The local fund

Reforms

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. After the adoption of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies registered this week for debate the draft bill approving the emergency ordinance which aims at completing **Milestone 398 of Reform 6, Component 13 of the PNRR**, already fulfilled by GD 876/2022. The draft bill aims to update the legislative framework on employment and unemployment insurance, through measures

aimed at digitizing ANOFM services, expanding the categories of beneficiaries and vulnerable groups supported, stimulating employers in the social economy, introducing a stability bonus for NEET youth and simplifying administrative procedures. Next, the Committee for Labour is expected to issue a report by May 5.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – NEW NURSERY IN BUCOV. Minister Cseke Attila inaugurated **a new nursery in Bucov**, marking the 4th such facility in Prahova County and **the 62nd built** under the government’s “Saint Ana” program, funded through the **NRRP**. The project, worth 15 million lei, has a capacity of 70 children across seven groups and includes modern facilities such as dormitories, playrooms with changing areas and bathrooms, a dining hall, accessible sanitary spaces, and administrative areas, contributing to the national goal of building and equipping 110 nurseries under Investment 1, **Target 457**.

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

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 5, T518 - TRANSELECTRICA ADVANCES SELF-CONSUMPTION PROJECT IN SUBSTATIONS. Transelectrica is implementing a REPowerEU investment under the NRRP, estimated at around EUR 29.6 million, for the installation of photovoltaic systems and battery storage in 29 transformer substations to supply internal services. The project contributes to **Component C16, Investment I5a, Target 518**, which provides for reducing the annual electricity consumption of these substations from 18 GWh in 2022 to

9 GWh by Q2 2026. The systems are configured for self-consumption, without injection into the grid, with the aim of reducing dependence on electricity purchased from the national power system. Works are ongoing in 13 substations, while another 16 are in the design phase and are due to enter execution, with photovoltaic installations already mounted in some locations. The investment is intended to increase the operational autonomy of electricity transport infrastructure, including in outage or system restoration situations, while also lowering operating costs through a potential reduction in grid consumption of up to 50%.

General News

No relevant updates.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

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

FUEL MARKET CRISIS. The draft bill approving GEO Nr. 19/2026 on the fuel market crisis has received an admission report from the responsible Senate committees and is set to be debated and voted in the Senate plenary. The ordinance declares a crisis situation on the oil and petroleum products market and introduces temporary measures, including caps on commercial margins across the supply chain, restrictions on exports and intra-EU deliveries subject to prior approval, and reporting and sanctioning obligations for operators. The act also amends GEO Nr. 12/2026 on the gas market by introducing a mechanism for allocating gas quantities in case of supply imbalances and adjusting minimum storage obligations. Following the Senate vote, the draft bill will continue its legislative process in the Chamber of Deputies, which is the decisional chamber.

SPECIAL GAS PRICING REGIME FOR HOUSEHOLDS. The draft bill which approves the GEO nr. 12/2026 on measures applicable to household gas consumers was tacitly adopted by the Senate after the debate deadline expired, and will now be sent to the Chamber of Deputies as the decisional chamber. The ordinance establishes, for the period 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027, a regulated framework for household gas prices, including a mandatory price formation formula, a fixed supply component and the obligation for producers to deliver part of domestic production at a regulated price. The act also introduces storage obligations for the 2026-2027 winter season and a mechanism for adjusting procurement costs, maintaining administrative intervention across the supply chain. The measure reflects the continuation of regulated pricing for the residential segment, in a transition context toward market liberalisation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EU METHANE REGULATION IN THE ENERGY SECTOR. The Ministry of Energy has republished the draft emergency ordinance establishing the national framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1787 on methane emissions in the energy sector,

relaunching it for public debate. The act sets out the institutional and sanctioning framework, including the designation of competent authorities and the introduction of rules on monitoring, reporting, verification and enforcement applicable to operators across the energy value chain. The updated draft confirms the role of the Ministry of Energy as national coordinator and introduces obligations related to leak detection and repair (LDAR), restrictions on venting and flaring, independent verification and specific requirements for fossil fuel imports. It also establishes a detailed sanctioning regime and inspection powers for competent authorities. The relaunch of the draft indicates that the ordinance may move toward adoption in the coming period, given the need to operationalise the EU Regulation and avoid infringement risks.

Business & Economy

IMPLEMENTING DORA REGULATION. The Chamber of Deputies registered this week for debate the draft bill which approves the national framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 (DORA), designating the NBR and ASF as competent authorities and introducing operational and reporting obligations for financial entities. It also establishes a strict sanctioning regime (fines of up to 10% of turnover), along with supervision, testing, and institutional cooperation procedures. These measures impact the entire financial sector and relevant providers, increasing compliance requirements and legal risk, while ensuring the uniform implementation of the EU framework on digital operational resilience. Next, the Committee for Budget is expected to issue a report by May 5.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

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

implementation of the project is coordinated by the Romanian Intelligence Service.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY. The debate and adoption period of the legislative initiative that establishes an **inter-institutional committee coordinated by the DNSC** to support cooperation, analysis and communication between authorities in the field of cybersecurity in Romania was extended to 60 days. The act clarifies the legal framework for researching and reporting ICT vulnerabilities, so that acts carried out in good faith, without prejudice and respecting strict rules for system protection, **do not constitute a crime.**

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

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. The Senate rejected the legislative proposal who aims to **strengthen the Romanian state's capacity to prevent and combat cross-border crime** through measures such as operational risk analysis at strategic entry points, institutional cooperation and secure exchange of information. It provides for the formation of joint operational teams, permanent collaboration with Europol and the rapid application of measures on high-risk transports, without affecting economic operators. At the same time, a minimal annual reporting mechanism on the implementation of the law is established. Next the proposal is expected to be soon registered with the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS. The Government adopted the emergency ordinance which establishes the legal framework for the employment of foreigners in Romania, regulating the authorization and operation of placement agencies, the obligations of employers and the conditions under which they can directly employ foreign workers, including the establishment of financial guarantees and sanctions. The act introduces a new digital mechanism for the admission of foreigners through the [WorkinRomania.gov.ro](https://www.workinromania.gov.ro) platform, replacing the current system of employment permits, and brings changes to the long-stay visa regime, including new types of visas, clarification of the conditions for granting and the collection of biometric data. At the same time, transitional rules are provided for the implementation of the new system, deadlines for the adoption of subsequent acts and the relevant previous provisions are repealed, in order to ensure the transition to the new legislative framework. Next, the ordinance is going to be soon registered at the Parliament for debate and approval.

Security & crisis management

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

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

SENATE REJECTS SOCIAL HOUSING REFORM BILL. At the same time, the Senate has also rejected a PSD-backed **draft bill** seeking to reform social assistance by **explicitly recognizing poor or overcrowded housing as a factor of social vulnerability** and **expanding protections for young people at risk of marginalization**. The proposal aimed to align social policies with housing realities by broadening the definition of vulnerable groups, improving access to public housing, and including at-risk youth among beneficiaries of minimum social assistance, covering housing, education, healthcare, and employment support. In this case as well, the Chamber of Deputies will soon review the bill and give a final vote on the matter.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

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

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY DATA NETWORK. The Government adopted last week the emergency ordinance establishing the Agricultural Sustainability Data Network (ASDN/RDDA), which reorganises the existing farm accountancy system into a national tool for collecting and analysing economic, environmental and social farm-level data. The act is expected to be published in the Official Gazette in the coming period. The ordinance aligns Romania with the updated EU framework and is intended to support agricultural policymaking, including CAP-related design and sustainability monitoring. It also provides for financial incentives for participating farmers, data integration from existing agricultural databases, and a dedicated institutional structure within the Ministry of Agriculture to manage the system and its relationship with the European Commission.

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

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

No relevant updates.

Rule of law

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

Key appointments include:

- **General Prosecutor's Office (PÎCCJ):**
 - Prosecutor General: Cristina Chiriac
 - Deputy: Marius Voineag
- **National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA):**
 - Chief Prosecutor: Ioan-Viorel Cerbu
 - Deputies: Marius-Ionel Ștefan, Marinela Mincă
- **Organized Crime and Terrorism Directorate (DIICOT):**
 - Chief Prosecutor: Codrin-Horațiu Miron

- Deputy: Alex Florin Florența

The President also rejected the nomination of Gill-Julien Grigore-Iacobici for a DIICOT deputy position, a decision linked in public debate to concerns over integrity and reputational issues, while supporters of the appointment highlighted professional experience in the prosecution system.

DEPUTIES TO REJECT HOUSE ARREST SENTENCING BILL. Chamber of Deputies' Legal Committee has rejected a **legislative proposal** initiated by MP George Becali that would **have allowed courts to impose house arrest as a form of serving prison sentences for non-violent offenses**. The bill targeted specific categories such as pregnant women, caregivers of children under three or of at least three minors, and individuals over 65, while also setting supervision and revocation rules, but is now expected to be formally rejected by the Chamber's plenary (decisional body), in line with the committee's report.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new foreign economic policy

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

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.