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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

INVESTMENT 3, M35 - METHODOLOGY FOR PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft order approving the methodology for identifying Priority Biodiversity Zones (ZPB), as part of **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 35** on the designation of strictly protected areas. The methodology allows ZPB identification both inside existing protected areas and

outside them, introduces differentiated protection regimes ranging from non-intervention to active management, and permits the creation of buffer zones where conservation objectives require additional restrictions. It also relies on broader ecological criteria, including virgin and old-growth forests, wetlands, marine habitats, ecological corridors and semi-natural grasslands, while requiring owner consent or local authority approval for certain private or local public land categories.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T75 - NEW MODERNISED RAIL SEGMENTS OPENED ON ARAD - TIMIȘOARA - CARANSEBEȘ LINE. Around 10 km of modernised railway infrastructure has been reopened to traffic on the Lugoj - Timișoara Est section, as part of the Arad - Timișoara - Caransebeș modernisation project financed through the NRRP. The investment falls under **Component C4, Investment I1, and contributes to Target 75**, which covers the entry into operation of new or modernised railway infrastructure by Q2 2026. According to the information reported, the section brought into operation includes 8.6 km of modernised track, plus a further 900 metres on line 3 in Recaș station. The project is part of the wider upgrade of the Arad - Timișoara - Caransebeș corridor, including electrification works and ERTMS deployment, with the aim of increasing speeds, improving safety and interoperability, and reducing travel times on the Orient/East-Med corridor.

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 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 was registered and sent to the responsible committee of the Chamber of Deputies, to issue a report by 12.05.2026. 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.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4, M165 – PÎCCJ IT INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION. The Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice (PÎCCJ) has completed the implementation of the project **for the IT structure modernization of the institution**. The project was financed under **the NRRP - Component 7, Investment 4**, contributing to the implementation **of Milestone 165** and being estimated at a final value of RON 9,758,043.29, of which the value of the non-reimbursable external financing is RON 8,065,679. The result of the project is **the operationalization of a new LAN network (data-voice) in the institution's headquarters, a structured, homogeneous and secure network**, in compliance with the standards in force. At the same time, specialized IT personnel were trained to manage the new data-voice network. Through its implementation, the project will directly contribute to the fulfilment **of Objective no. 2** of the NRRP - Increasing the resilience of the judicial system by modernizing the IT infrastructure at central and local level (courts,

prosecutors' offices and others).

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

R6, M214 – PENSION FOR ENERGY WORKERS. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and aims to extend and clarify the classification under special conditions for personnel in coal-fired power plants and coal mining units, including maintenance personnel, introducing the employer's obligation to expressly justify situations in which it only partially recognizes the activity under special conditions. It also provides for the cumulation of reductions in the standard retirement age up to a maximum of 13 years, the granting of an additional point for each month worked under special conditions for certain categories and the assimilation, as internship under special conditions, of periods prior to April 1, 2001 carried out in work groups I and II, in the cases provided for by law. Next, the proposal is expected to be debated and rejected by the Senate plenary.

R6, M214 – NIGHT WORK. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and proposes that the standard retirement age be reduced by one day for every 24 cumulative hours of night work actually performed, given that shifts are, as a general rule, 8 hours long. Therefore, for every 24 hours worked during the night, even if these are performed in separate shifts and on different days, the worker will benefit from the corresponding reduction of the retirement age by one day. It is also established that the minimum retirement age is 60 years, below which the reduction cannot operate. Next, the proposal is expected to be debated and rejected by the Senate plenary.

REFORM 6, M214 – SALARY-PENSION ACCUMULATION. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and establishes that the right to an old-age pension should not be conditional on the termination, suspension or non-existence of a public/private employment relationship. In other words, it explicitly allows the cumulation of salary with the old-age pension, if the pensioner's option is to continue his professional activity - the right to work and the right to an old-age pension are considered compatible. Next, the proposal is expected to be debated and rejected by the Senate plenary.

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

INVESTMENT 2, T377 – NEW HEADQUARTER FOR DIMITRIE GEROTA HOSPITAL. The resort committees of the Chamber of Deputies issued an admission report for the draft bill that approves GEO no. 39/2025. The ordinance contributes to the implementation of the project "**New Headquarters for the Emergency Hospital of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Prof. Dr. Dimitrie Gerota**, part of **the NRRP -**

Component 12, Investment 2, Target 377, with a total value of the non-refundable amount of RON 1,028,643,096. The act will most probably be finally adopted in a future plenary session.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

R4, M387 - REGULATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DOMESTIC PROVIDER. The President of Romania signed 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. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 1, M407 - BETTER REGULATION STRATEGY 2026-2034. The government has proposed for adoption the **Better Regulation Strategy 2026-2034**, aimed at strengthening decision-making across central public administration and fulfilling **Milestone 407** under

Romania's **NRRP (Reform 1, Component 14)**. The strategy, aligned with recommendations from the European Commission, OECD, and World Bank, seeks to address a fragmented and reactive policymaking system by **introducing data-driven decisions, early and meaningful public consultation, and systematic impact assessments for new legislation**. A new Interministerial Monitoring Committee, coordinated by the General Secretariat of the Government, will oversee implementation.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE COMPANIES LISTINGS REFORM. At the same time, the Executive is advancing a plan to partially list several state-owned companies on the stock exchange, as part of its NRRP commitments (**Target 443, Reform 9 - Component 14**). The proposal includes selling additional minority stakes of **5-10% in Hidroelectrica (~ RON 6.2 billion) and 5-7% in Romgaz (~ RON 3.1 billion), alongside a potential IPO of CEC Bank**. The objective is to raise significant budget revenues while improving transparency and corporate governance, without losing majority state control.

This initiative is backed by a broader reform of state-owned enterprises, triggered by a pilot analysis showing **RON 4.2 billion in debts and over RON 1.1 billion in losses across 22 companies**. The Government plans restructuring, mergers, modernization, and selective closures, combined with gradual capital market listings. Implementation will be phased, with clear deadlines and reporting obligations, and later extended to a portfolio of over **1,500 state-owned companies**.

The plan has generated strong political tensions. The ruling coalition is divided, with PSD opposing the sale of stakes in profitable companies, citing risks of undervaluation and loss of strategic control, and proposing a **2-year ban** on such transactions. Meanwhile, the Government argues listings are required under NRRP and bring private capital, transparency, and efficiency. Independent analyses (e.g., CFA Romania) support the measure, highlighting potential **multi-billion lei revenues**, improved governance, and capital market development—while maintaining state control.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS CLASH WITH NRRP GOALS. After the Government presented its aforementioned plan, PSD MP Daniel Zamfir registered in the Senate a new **legislative initiative** that **bans, until 31.12.2027, the sale of state-held shares in national companies, banks, and other state-owned enterprises**. This would effectively block planned stock market listings promoted by the government as a way to raise billions of lei and meet milestones under Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The measure directly impacts **Target 443 under Reform 9, Component 14 of the NRRP**, which requires the listing of at least three public enterprises to improve governance and efficiency. While the proposal frames the ban as a safeguard of national economic and strategic interests amid instability, it risks complicating commitments tied to EU funding.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS, TIED TO CONTROL SAFEGUARDS. Remaining on this subject, an AUR-signed **legislative proposal** would impose **strict conditions on the stock market listing of state-owned companies**. Again, this is tied to Romania's NRRP commitments under **Target 443 (Reform 9, Component 14)**. The initiative mandates that the **state retain a minimum two-thirds voting**

stake in companies deemed part of critical infrastructure, bans transactions that would dilute this threshold, and **grants the state veto powers over key decisions**, including major asset operations. Proponents argue the safeguards are necessary to prevent loss of strategic control through equity dilution, but the proposal could significantly constrain investor participation and complicate the implementation of NRRP-related listing targets.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 - STAFFING, FUNDING, ABROAD CORPS. A new **government ordinance** amends Romania’s Education Laws 198/2023 and 199/2023, introducing **reforms to staffing, funding, and institutional structures across the education system**. We remind you that the Education Laws previously implemented **Milestone 452 of the NRRP (Reform 1, Component 15)**. Key provisions from the new ordinance include filling teaching and university posts through competitive exams, redefining bilingual classes and expanding state financing for certain private and confessional schools. They also broaden access to instructor roles within Interior Ministry training institutions. The ordinance also strengthens the administrative framework for students preparing for defense and security careers and establishes the Romanian Corps for Education Abroad, responsible for managing teaching staff deployed internationally through bilateral agreements. The ordinance was already published in the Official Gazette, while the **bill for its approval** reached the Parliament for the start of the debates.

REFORM 1, M452 – NEW UPDATE EXTENDS TRAINING, SCHOOL RULES. The **Law** approving GEO 1/2026, which also amends the Education Laws, has been published in the Official Gazette, **updating the legal framework for teacher training and the functioning of educational institutions**. Once again, the Education Laws previously implemented **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The changes introduce simplified evaluation and accreditation rules for the “Pedagogy of Primary Education” program, extend the deadline for

phasing out the didactic master’s degree to the 2027-2028 academic year , and allow smaller enrolment thresholds for certain vocational and dual-system high schools.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NEW NURSERIES. The Minister of Development, Cseke Attila, has inaugurated new nursery units in Hunedoara and Maramureş counties under the government programme “Saint Ana,” continuing the expansion of early education infrastructure financed through **NRRP (Component 15, Target 457, Investment 1)**. Nationally, the programme has now delivered 65 nurseries totaling around 4,000 places out of the 4,500 planned under the NRRP, with 110 units targeted overall. The new buildings meet nZEB energy efficiency standards and are equipped with solar panels and modern ventilation systems, supporting a broader effort to expand sustainable childcare infrastructure.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

NRRP ABSORPTION WITHIN THE NEW POLITICAL CRISIS. Because PSD withdrew its support for Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, the Minister of MIPE, Dragoș Pîslaru, warned that **Romania risks losing EUR 8 billion from the NRRP, more than half of the critical reforms being coordinated by the social-democrat ministries - 57%. Moreover, 36% of the remaining targets and milestones are also under their responsibility**, the objectives having to be completed by the end of August. According to him, the abandonment of these objectives on the verge of the deadline demonstrates that the priority of the PSD leadership is not the development of Romania, but the avoidance of changes that disturb the party's interests. In this regard, President Nicușor Dan discussed the status of the implementation of the NRRP projects with Dragoș Pîslaru, conveying that, although there is still much to be done, he is confident that the pro-European parties will be responsible regarding the absorption of the NRRP funds, regardless of what happens at the political level.

NRRP FUNDING IN ANAR 2026 BUDGET. A draft Government Decision has been published for the approval of the 2026 revenue and expenditure budget of the National Administration “Apele Române” (ANAR), including allocations from both the grant and loan components of the NRRP. The total allocation reaches around RON 293 million. **Component C1** remains the core funding source, covering flood risk reduction, hydrotechnical infrastructure and monitoring capacity. Allocations target **Investment I4.2** (including Leșu and Sălard accumulations), **Investment I5** for equipment and emergency preparedness, and **Investment I6** on the water cadastre. Additional, smaller allocations are included under **Component C5 for building renovation and Component C11 for cycling infrastructure.**

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

REVISED STATE AID RULES FOR ENERGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES. The draft bill approving the ordinance on the state aid scheme for sectors exposed to carbon leakage due to indirect CO2 costs was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. Eligible companies in industries such as metallurgy, paper, and industrial gases will receive annual subsidies, in one or two instalments, with a EUR 150 million/year cap based on EU ETS revenues. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

FUEL MARKET CRISIS. The draft bill approving GEO Nr. 19/2026 on the fuel market crisis was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 12.05.2026. 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.

SPECIAL GAS PRICING REGIME FOR HOUSEHOLDS. The draft bill which approves the GEO nr. 12/2026 on measures applicable to household gas consumers was also registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 12.05.2026. 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.

TEMPORARY VAT CUT FOR FUELS. A legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians would amend the Fiscal Code to introduce a temporary reduced VAT regime for motor fuels, with a 5% rate in the first three months and 9% thereafter, linked to Brent price developments. The measure would apply to gasoline, diesel and LPG used as automotive fuel. The proposal has been sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 05.05.2026. Given the political origin of the initiative and the need for both parliamentary support and an EU VAT derogation, its chances of final adoption appear limited.

REOPENING OF CLOSED INDUSTRIAL WASTE LANDFILLS FOR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS. The legislative proposal which aims to amend OG No. 2/2021 on waste landfilling and GEO No. 61/2025 implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act (EU) 2024/1252 was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 05.05.2026. The initiative would allow the controlled reopening of definitively

closed industrial waste landfills in order to recover critical raw materials or other valuable materials identified through historical data or preliminary analyses.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE ON CYRBERSECURITY. The legislative initiative signed by MPs of the governing coalition (PSD-PNL-USR-UDMR) that establishes an inter-institutional committee coordinated by the DNSC to support cooperation, analysis and communication between authorities in the field of cybersecurity received a joint admission report from the responsible committees of the Senate. The act clarifies the legal framework for researching and reporting ICT vulnerabilities, with respect to the strict rules for system protection, having a high chance of being adopted.

IT USAGE IN THE INTERNAL WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT. The **General Secretariat of the Government (SGG)** has launched a pilot project for **the use of artificial intelligence in internal work**, as part of efforts to modernize public administration in Romania. The initiative aims **to streamline workflows and increase institutional productivity**, while respecting European rules on the use of AI. The project includes several compliance steps, such as assessing the risk level of the system, creating an internal governance framework for artificial intelligence, establishing rules of use, and introducing the system into an internal registry of AI applications. It also saw the first training session for employees, focused on **artificial intelligence literacy**, an obligation under European AI legislation, which requires institutions to ensure adequate skills for staff working with such systems. Authorities state that this project pilots how the central administration can align with new European requirements and marks a step towards the digitalization and modernization of public institutions.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. The Chamber of Deputies registered this week 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 Committee for Defence is expected to issue a report by May 15.

Security & crisis management

MINISTRY TIGHTENS DRUG CONTROL, ADDS NEW SUBSTANCES. This week, the Interior Ministry has issued a **draft bill expanding Romania's controlled substances list and tightening rules on handling, storage, and destruction of drugs**, in line with **EU Delegated Directive 2025/2062** and UN decisions on newly emerging synthetic substances. The changes introduce 16 new substances on the list of high-risk or risk drugs, and introduces stricter rules on the use of seized drugs for research or training purposes. It also mandates 10-year retention of counter-samples, and formalizes destruction procedures through authorized operators and expanded commissions.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

PARLIAMENT RESTORES PAID SICK LEAVE FOR VULNERABLE PATIENTS. The Chamber of Deputies (decisional forum) has adopted amendments to GEO 91/2025, **restoring full payment from the first day of medical leave for several vulnerable categories of insured patients**, reversing a previous rule under which the first day of sick leave was unpaid. The measure targets patients with chronic conditions included in national health programmes, oncology patients and those with rare diseases, individuals receiving day hospitalisation, and cases of medical-surgical emergencies, ensuring full financial coverage from the onset of incapacity for work. Lawmakers presented the change as a correction of inequities that discouraged access to treatment, following an earlier attempt by the Ministry of Health to address the issue through emergency ordinance, now replaced by the parliamentary law vote. The Law shall soon be signed by the President of Romania and published in the Official Gazette.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

BEAR INTERVENTIONS. The draft bill on the approval of the emergency ordinance on immediate interventions in brown bear incidents within localities was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance revises the intervention framework, redefines operational methods, and clarifies the responsibilities of local authorities. It introduces the definition of the “habituated bear,” simplifies intervention procedures, and updates feeding rules. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

BEAR MANAGEMENT QUOTAS FOR 2026. The draft bill amending GEO No. 81/2021, initiated mainly by UDMR parliamentarians, was also adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The draft bill introduces a structured national framework for managing the brown bear population, moving from ad hoc interventions to predefined annual quotas. For 2026, the act sets a national prevention quota of 859 bears and an intervention quota of 110 bears, with distribution across counties and hunting grounds. Next, the law will be signed by the President of Romania.

TEMPORARY STATE AID SCHEME FOR BEEKEEPERS. The legislative proposal which introduces a state aid scheme for 2026- 2028 to support beekeepers received an admission report from the responsible committees of the Senate. 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. Next, the legislative will be debated and voted in the plenary.

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY DATA NETWORK. The draft bill on the approval of the emergency ordinance establishing the Agricultural Sustainability Data Network was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 28.04.2026. 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.

2026 BUDGET PROPOSED FOR GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE AID SCHEME. The Ministry of Agriculture has published a draft Government

Decision to supplement GD No. 325/2025 by introducing the budget allocation for 2026 under the de minimis aid scheme supporting vegetable production in protected spaces. The draft allocates RON 275 million for 2026, financed from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and channelled through the county agricultural directorates. The measure allows the scheme to continue in 2026 without changing the existing eligibility rules or payment mechanism.

DANUBE DELTA MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Ministry of Environment has republished an updated draft Government Decision on the approval of the Management Plan of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, replacing GD No. 763/2015 and moving the file closer to adoption. The plan sets the management framework for the Delta, including conservation measures, zoning rules and conditions for economic activities across protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. According to the substantiation note, the revised version mainly simplifies the presentation of information from an initial document exceeding 7,000 pages and includes technical updates.

Climate change

SOCIAL CLIMATE PLAN. The draft bill approving Emergency Ordinance No. 119/2024 on the preparation of Romania's National Social Climate Plan (PNSC) was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance, in force since 2024, provides the legal framework for accessing EU Social Climate Fund (SCF) resources under Regulation (EU) 2023/955. The draft bill will now proceed to the plenary for debate and vote. This step aims to complete the legislative procedure and ensure consistency between the parliamentary process and the ongoing preparation of the PNSC, which remains under public consultation and outlines Romania's investment and social support measures for 2026 - 2032.

REDISTRIBUTION OF EU ETS REVENUES. The law approving GEO No. 55/2025 on the management of revenues from the auctioning of EU ETS allowances, previously adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, has been returned by the President to Parliament for re-examination. The ordinance updates the national framework to align with the EU rules applicable from 2025, including the unified auctioning framework for stationary installations and aviation. The re-examination request argues that the Chamber of Deputies introduced substantive amendments that were not reviewed by the Senate, raising bicameralism concerns and reopening the legislative process.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

PSD WITHDRAWAL TRIGGERS GOVERNMENT CRISIS. On April 20, 2026, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) withdrew its political support for Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan (PNL), escalating tensions within Romania's governing coalition and accusing the prime minister of economic and social harm caused by his policies. PSD demanded his resignation and warned that, if he refuses, all PSD ministers will step down, potentially leaving the government in a minority configuration alongside PNL, USR and UDMR. Prime Minister Bolojan has rejected calls to resign and indicated he will dismiss PSD ministers, along with state secretaries and prefects, if they do not leave office voluntarily, deepening the institutional standoff. But political sources claim that all PSD ministers will resign today, April 23, after the Government sitting.

The crisis could force a parliamentary reconfiguration and a new vote of confidence, while PSD is also considering a constitutional challenge regarding the status of a minority government. In parallel, AUR has signaled support for a possible no-confidence motion, which could tip the balance in Parliament if backed by PSD, while President Nicușor Dan has called for de-escalation and consultations with pro-European parties amid growing political uncertainty.

SENATE TO REJECT TWO MINOR SOCIAL MEDIA BAN BILLS. Senate committees have issued negative reports on two legislative proposals aimed at **restricting minors' access to social media**, both seeking to introduce **a 16-year minimum age for account creation** and stricter obligations for digital platforms operating in Romania. The (1) **first initiative**, signed by independent deputy Ștefan-Alexandru Băișanu, proposed an outright ban on access for users under 16 and imposed broad duties on platforms to verify age, prevent targeted advertising and harmful content exposure, and cooperate with national child protection and data authorities, while controversially including sanctions for parents. The (2) **second proposal**, initiated by independent deputy Raisa Enachi, similarly sets a 16-year threshold but focuses more narrowly on proportional age verification mechanisms, data minimisation, and platform transparency. In the next period, we expect the Senate to formally reject these proposals and send them to the deputies for a final debate.

USR PUSHES UNIFIED STATE DIGITAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM. USR senators have registered in the Senate a **legislative proposal** introducing a **unified national digital governance framework for public institutions**. The initiative requires all existing and new government applications to integrate with national registries such as RUIP, ODN and RFROD, while eliminating locally managed access systems in favor of **centrally defined digital roles tied to official functions**. Public institutions would be required to update registry data within 10 working days, with IT providers obliged to reflect changes automatically in system permissions.

Rule of law

EU DATA ORDERS TIGHTEN ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE. The government has adopted and sent to Parliament a **bill** implementing **EU Regulation (EU) 2023/154**, establishing a **legal framework in Romania for European orders on the production and preservation of electronic evidence in criminal investigations and post-conviction enforcement**. The measures define how prosecutors and courts can issue and execute such orders, regulate direct cross-border communication between judicial authorities, and set fast response deadlines of up to 10 days or 96 hours in urgent cases. Individuals affected will have the right to challenge data requests through an expedited court procedure, while enforcement mechanisms include sanctions for non-compliant service providers, with fines ranging from 100,000 lei to up to 2% of global turnover.

Civil society

PARLIAMENT ADVANCES ANTI-SLAPP LAW FOR PUBLIC INTEREST CASES. The Chamber of Deputies has adopted and sent to the Senate a **government-backed bill** transposing **EU Directive 2024/1069** on **protection against manifestly unfounded or abusive legal proceedings (SLAPP cases) targeting individuals involved in public-interest activities**. The law defines “public mobilisation” and “matters of public interest”, while also clarifying what constitutes abusive litigation designed to silence or discourage such activity. It introduces fast-track procedures allowing courts, upon request, to dismiss clearly unfounded claims and require plaintiffs to post security, with strict deadlines for responses in urgent proceedings. The framework further assigns roles to the Ombudsman in providing support information, conducting awareness campaigns, training participation, and issuing annual reports, strengthening procedural safeguards for public-interest expression and participation in democratic processes.

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.