

May 07 - 14, 2026

Weekly Report - NRRP and EC Priorities

Report prepared by A.M. Anghel, E. Aignătoaei, E. Stamate, A. Ceașescu



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

INVESTMENT 4, T15 - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN BIHOR. The Ministry of Environment announced the completion of modernisation works at the Sălard accumulation and the start of the controlled refilling process at Leșu Dam, after 12 years. The investments are financed under **Investment I4, Target 15**, which covers water infrastructure works linked to flood risk management and hydrotechnical safety. The Sălard project, valued at over RON 22 million, includes safety works, digitalisation, monitoring systems and a wetland area. At Leșu Dam, where the investment exceeds RON 206 million, works have reached around 65%, with gradual refilling now underway to test the dam's structural behaviour and upgraded equipment.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1.d, T54 - AFM 2026 BUDGET. The Ministry of Environment published the draft 2026 budget for the Environmental Fund and the Environmental Fund Administration (AFM), including separate allocations for waste management investments that remain financed through the NRRP and for projects previously transferred out of the NRRP and continued through the Environmental Fund. The measure relates mainly to **Component C3, Investment I1.d, Target 54** on recycling infrastructure and waste management. The draft allocates RON 335 million for recycling installations still financed under the NRRP, while additional allocations are included for projects suspended or transferred from NRRP financing, including voluntary contribution collection centres, digitalised ecological islands and integrated separate collection centres. The budget also includes funding for manure and compostable agricultural waste infrastructure previously transferred from the NRRP framework.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3, T84 - EXPROPRIATIONS APPROVED FOR BACĂU-PAȘCANI MOTORWAY. The Government adopted last week a decision which approves the launch of expropriation procedures for private properties required for utility relocation works on the Bacău-Pașcani motorway section, part of the A7 corridor financed under **NRRP Component C4, Investment I3, Target 84** on TEN-T road infrastructure. The affected properties are located in Bacău and Neamț counties, while compensation funds amounting to RON 903,000 will be covered through the state budget under the NRRP loan component managed by the Ministry of Transport.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

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**, was tacitly adopted by the Chamber of Deputies after the

debate deadline expired and was subsequently registered with the Senate, which is the decision-making chamber. 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.

REFORM 1, M114 - COAL MINE CLOSURE FUNDING PROPOSED FOR 2026. The Government adopted last week the 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. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 15, T184 – DNSC CALL FOR STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY. The National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC) announced the launch of the open call for participation of public and private entities within the project "**Creating new cybersecurity skills for society and economy**", related to **the NRRP, Component C7, Investment I15, Target 184. The objective of the call** is to support eligible participants (e.g., from public administration, economic operators, digital service providers and NGOs) in the process of assessing, consolidating and increasing the level of maturity in the field of cybersecurity. To this end, an **integrated toolkit** is made available, consisting of **the SecureRO digital platform**, useful for self-assessment, identifying vulnerabilities and aligning with the requirements of the NIS2 Directive, as well as a component of methodologies and guides that provide good practices and information on current threats. The call runs from **May 13, 2026 to June 15, 2026**. Participation is based on the methodology published by DNSC, and applications must be submitted exclusively online through the platform dedicated to NRRP projects.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 6, M214 – SALARY-PENSION ACCUMULATION. The Chamber of Deputies registered for the final debate 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 legislative proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labor by June 6.

REFORM 6, M214 – NIGHT WORK. The Chamber of Deputies registered for the final debate 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 legislative proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labor by June 6.

REFORM 6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF SALARY RECORDS. The Chamber of Deputies registered for the final debate the legislative proposal which aims to amend Law no. 360/2023 on the public pension system which fulfilled **Milestone 214 – Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR** and to resolve situations in which essential documents, such as payrolls, no longer exist or are no longer found in the archives, by recognizing the remuneration/salary records, drawn up nominally for each employee, as valid supporting documents. These acquire the same probative value, to the extent that they contain all the elements necessary to establish the monthly income achieved. Next, the legislative proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labor by June 6.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

DIGITALISATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEM. A cross-party legislative proposal initiated by PSD, PNL, USR and minority MPs introduces a unified digital framework for Romania's research, development and innovation (RDI) system, contributing to the implementation of **several NRRP Component C9 milestones and targets** linked to RDI governance reform and private sector participation. The proposal contributes to Milestone 271 and Milestone 272 under Reform 2, related to the implementation of PSF Country recommendations and the establishment of a permanent RDI monitoring system, as well as **Milestone 276 and Target 277 under Reform 4**, focused on creating a favourable framework for public and private investment in innovation and ensuring company participation in at least 27% of publicly funded RDI projects. The initiative introduces a single electronic platform for all publicly funded RDI calls and competitions, mandatory interoperable digital systems for project evaluation and monitoring, and a national digital observatory for RDI performance analysis. It also establishes a dedicated innovation unit aimed at attracting private investment and developing public-private partnerships, while expanding fiscal and financial instruments supporting innovation activities.

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

HEALTH INVESTMENTS UNDER REVIEW. As a general perspective, the interim Minister of Health, Cseke Attila, presented this week the status of the implementation of the coordinated NRRP investments and the main measures he intends to promote in the coming period, with the emphasis on the absorption of European funds, the monitoring of major investments and the streamlining of the payment system. According to him, the total budget of the investments financed through the **C12 – Health** and **C7 – Digital Transformation** components is **RON 7.23 billion**, and the eligible payments made to date amount to **RON 4.75 billion**, which represents an **absorption rate of approximately 66%**.

Several major investments in hospitals are on schedule and can be completed by the deadline:

- **modernization of the "Agrippa Ionescu" Emergency Clinical Hospital** – physical status 75%;
- **expansion of the Bistrița-Năsăud County Emergency Clinical Hospital** – physical status 92%;
- **the new neurosurgery clinic in the Cluj County Emergency Clinical Hospital** – physical status 96%;
- **polytrauma operational medicine pavilion in Craiova** – physical status 98.5%;
- **polytrauma operational medicine pavilion in Sibiu** – physical condition 83%.

The projects at the "Marius Nasta" Institute of Pneumophthisiology in Bucharest and the "Târgu Mureș" Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases are also on schedule. On the other hand, the project for the new hospital in Constanța cannot be completed by the NRRP deadline, which is why the Ministry of Health is looking for solutions to continue financing from other European funds.

Cseke Attila announced that, before the final renegotiation with the European Commission, the Ministry of Health will propose adapting some indicators to avoid penalties:

- **reducing the target for hospital digitalization from 200 to a minimum of 100 hospitals financed through the NRRP (grant) and financing another 50 through loans;**

- **transfer of other projects to the loan component;**
- **increasing the number of funded integrated community centers from 54 to 79;**
- **elimination of some equipment components blocked by appeals in public procurement procedures.**

Also, the project on the acquisition of 12 neonatal intensive care ambulances will be removed from the NRRP and financed from other sources. The project on the digitalization of 60 public health institutions does not pose implementation risks. The Minister also announced the introduction of a transparency system regarding payments made through the NRRP, which will be published weekly, and called for the acceleration of payments for existing invoices. Regarding the reform of the healthcare system, Cseke Attila announced that he will propose and support the introduction of a pilot performance-based salary mechanism for doctors. The system would allow for additional income of between 30% and 100% of the basic salary for doctors who achieve outstanding results or perform additional work.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T377 – NEW HDQ FOR THE HEART INSTITUTE TÂRGU MUREȘ. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan visited **the Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplantation Târgu Mureș - Heart Institute** - where a new hospital building will be built to treat patients with serious cardiovascular diseases, adults and children. The Prime Minister discussed with the Institute's management the progress of the project and assured that there will be no problems in terms of paying for the works. The investment worth over RON 770 million, of which **almost RON 500 million come from NRRP funding (C12, I2 - Target 377)**, has **a physical completion stage of approximately 80%** and **will be completed at the end of August 2026**. The new hospital building will have 214 beds for continuous hospitalization of patients and 5 beds for day hospitalization, new operating rooms, as well as for investigations and treatment.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS CLASH WITH NRRP GOALS. The Senators adopted the PSD-backed **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 **Target 443 of the NRRP (Reform 9, Component 14)**, which requires the listing of at least three public enterprises to improve governance and efficiency. Now the bill has reached the Chamber of Deputies, where the committees shall issue a report by May 27.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – NEW NURSERIES. Romania’s Minister of Development, Cseke Attila, has inaugurated **two new early childhood education facilities** built under the national “Saint Ana” nursery construction programme, including the first such unit in Dolj County,

located in Calafat, and another in Baia, Suceava County. The programme, financed through the NRRP, Component 15, targets the construction, equipping, and operationalisation of 110 nurseries nationwide, contributing to **Target 457 of Investment 1**. With the latest openings, **a total of 68 nurseries have been completed across the country**, creating over 4,190 new places for children.

INVESTMENT 11, T492-493 - ORADEA SCHOOL UPGRADE. The Municipality of Oradea is implementing a **large-scale education infrastructure modernization project worth 75.2 million lei** (around €14.7 million, VAT included). Funded through Romania's NRRP, Component C15, it contributes to the achievement of **Targets 492 and 493 (Investment 11)**. The investment targets 43 educational institutions, including schools, high schools, kindergartens, and the Children's Palace, and aims to equip them with modern furniture, digital tools, and updated teaching materials. In total, 1,275 classrooms and groups will receive new furniture, while 1,322 classrooms will be fitted with digital equipment such as interactive whiteboards, laptops, all-in-one systems, audio setups, video conferencing cameras, printers, and scanners to support modern teaching methods. According to the local administration, several procurement contracts have already been signed, with implementation underway as part of broader efforts to significantly improve learning conditions in the city's education system.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – NEW NURSERIES. Romania's Minister of Development, Cseke Attila, has inaugurated **two new early childhood education facilities** built under the national "Saint Ana" nursery construction programme, including the first such unit in Dolj County, located in Calafat, and another in Baia, Suceava County. The programme, financed through the NRRP, Component 15, targets the construction, equipping, and operationalisation of 110 nurseries nationwide, contributing to **Target 457 of Investment 1**. With the latest openings, **a total of 68 nurseries have been completed across the country**, creating over 4,190 new places for children.

INVESTMENT 11, T492-493 - ORADEA SCHOOL UPGRADE. The Municipality of Oradea is implementing a **large-scale education infrastructure modernization project worth 75.2 million lei** (around €14.7 million, VAT included). Funded through Romania's NRRP, Component C15, it contributes to the achievement of **Targets 492 and 493 (Investment 11)**. The investment targets 43 educational institutions, including schools, high schools, kindergartens, and the Children's Palace, and aims to equip them with modern furniture, digital tools, and updated teaching materials. In total, 1,275 classrooms and groups will receive new furniture, while 1,322 classrooms will be fitted with digital equipment such as interactive whiteboards, laptops, all-in-one systems, audio setups, video conferencing cameras, printers, and scanners to support modern teaching methods. According to the local administration, several procurement contracts have already been signed, with implementation underway as part of broader efforts to significantly improve learning conditions in the city's education system.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1, M509 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWABLE ACCELERATION ZONES. The emergency ordinance amending Law No. 268/2001, intended to allow the use of state-owned land administered by the Agency for State Domains (ADS) as RES acceleration areas, was included on the list of acts analysed in the extraordinary Government meeting of 8 May. However, according to the Government, the ordinance will not be published in the Official Gazette and will not enter into force at this stage. The procedural blockage is linked to the negative opinion issued by the Legislative Council after the Government had been dismissed through a no-confidence vote. Since the caretaker Government no longer has the power to adopt emergency ordinances, the act cannot proceed in its current form and would need to be reintroduced by a Government with full powers. Substantively, the ordinance would have contributed to **NRRP Component C16, Reform 1, Milestone 509**, by creating a framework for designating ADS-administered state land as renewable acceleration areas. The draft included a digital one-stop-shop mechanism for permitting, tacit approval where authorities fail to respond within legal deadlines, simplified environmental assessment rules, a maximum 6-month permitting deadline, a national register of eligible land and public concession auction rules.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

MEASURES TO ACCELERATE NRRP IMPLEMENTATION. The Government adopted and published an Emergency Ordinance that includes measures designed to accelerate the implementation of projects financed through the NRRP, such as replacement of civil servants from the public administration in this regard and the possibility of forming inter-ministerial committees to coordinate the projects. The draft bill for its approval reached the Senate for a first debate.

MONITORING NRRP PROGRESS VIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES. MIPE published an Instruction that establishes the procedural framework for the eight **Regional Development Agencies (ADR)** to conduct technical monitoring and on-site visits for investments funded by the **NRRP**. These activities are designed to confirm the reality of physical progress declared by beneficiaries, identify implementation risks or non-conformities, and provide a uniform reporting structure to support MIPE's decisions regarding project status.

The monitoring process involves both **planned and ad-hoc visits**, with selection criteria prioritizing major investments exceeding **EUR 250 million** or those essential for upcoming payment requests. Before conducting an inspection, ADR teams must analyze documentation provided by MIPE and notify beneficiaries at least five working days in advance. During visits, the agencies verify the physical existence of works and equipment, documenting their findings through photos and a **Verification Report** that must be drafted within five working days. If the ADR identifies potential **irregularities or fraud**, these must be recorded for further investigation by the National Coordinator's control structure. Finally, beneficiaries are obligated to provide ADR staff with full access to project locations and documentation to ensure complete **traceability and auditability**.

NRRP LIQUIDITY LOANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES. The draft bill approving GEO No. 36/2026 was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 26.06.2026, while the Ministry of Finance also published the methodological norms for applying the short-term loan mechanism. The framework allows local authorities implementing NRRP-funded projects to access interest-free loans from the Ministry of Finance to cover eligible costs and VAT, addressing temporary cash-flow gaps ahead of the August 2026 implementation deadline. The loans are granted within a total ceiling of RON 10 billion, with repayment due by 15 November 2026. Access is conditioned on projects reaching at least 60% technical progress, while the mechanism is exempted from standard local indebtedness limits and uses a fully digital application procedure.

METHODOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUAL NRRP FINANCIAL CORRECTIONS. The Ministry of Investments and European Projects published in the Official Gazette an order approving the methodology for applying individual financial reductions and corrections under the NRRP, implementing provisions introduced through GO No. 3/2026. The act targets private beneficiaries that do not fall under public procurement rules, but use NRRP funds for works, services or supply contracts. The methodology sets the procedure for identifying irregularities, applying corrections, recovering amounts and checking compliance with double financing and DNSH requirements.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

TAX INCENTIVES FOR NATURAL GAS-BASED CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. The legislative proposal which aims to stimulate higher-value processing of natural gas in Romania through fiscal incentives for investments in the gas-based chemical and petrochemical industry was adopted by the Senate and registered with the Chamber of Deputies, which is the decision-making chamber. The proposal was also sent to the responsible committees for a report by 03.06.2026. Initiated by MPs from PNL, USR and PSD, the proposal amends the Fiscal Code to encourage the use of domestic gas production, including future output from projects such as Neptun Deep, for domestic industrial processing.

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 adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. 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 law will be signed by the President of Romania.

TEMPORARY VAT CUT FOR FUELS. The legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians that 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, received a rejection report from the responsible committees of the Senate. 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 are low. Next, the proposal will be debated and voted in the plenary.

ACCELERATED FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS PROJECTS. The legislative proposal complementing GEO No. 61/2025, which implemented Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 on critical raw materials at institutional level was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 03.06.2026. The initiative was previously rejected by the Senate and sought to introduce procedural and property-related measures for strategic mining projects recognised by the European Commission, including simplified authorisation procedures, binding deadlines, land access mechanisms and a special litigation regime.

Business & Economy

MANDATORY RON PAYMENTS FOR DOMESTIC SERVICE CONTRACTS. The plenary of the Chamber of Deputies notified the Committee for Industry and Services to issue an additional report for the draft bill which introduces the obligation that all contracts for the supply of goods, services and utilities between residents of Romania be expressed and paid exclusively in RON. The bill also allows for the indexation of periodic payments in foreign currency to cover currency and inflation risk, within limits related to the NBR exchange rate on the day of payment. Next, the draft bill is expected to receive soon the report from the committee.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

No relevant updates.

Health Union

HEATED TOBACCO RULES ADOPTED. After two years, the deputies have adopted the law approving Government Ordinance 23/2023, which transposes EU Delegated Directive 2022/2100 and introduces a regulatory framework for heated tobacco products. The law defines HTPs and bans those with characterising flavours, as well as any flavours in components such as filters, papers, packaging, capsules or technical features that alter taste, smell or combustion intensity. It also prohibits the presence of tobacco or nicotine in filters, papers or capsules. New packaging rules require each unit pack and outer packaging to display health warnings, including the message that tobacco smoke contains over 70 cancer-causing substances, alongside combined health warnings. In the upcoming days, the law will be published in the Official Gazette.

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR CLUJ REGIONAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL. The contract for the construction of the Cluj Regional Emergency Hospital was signed after the completion of procurement and litigation procedures. The project was initially included in the NRRP health investment pipeline, but was later removed from NRRP financing and continued through a mixed financing structure. The hospital will have 849 beds, with a construction contract valued at RON 1.79 billion excluding VAT and a total investment exceeding RON 3.3 billion. The execution period is 40 months, with the future hospital planned as a major medical infrastructure project for the North-West region.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

STATE INTERVENTION IN STRATEGIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY. The Government adopted last week GEO 38/2026, which expands the expropriation framework and introduces mechanisms allowing the state to acquire shares or take over functional assets of companies declared of strategic interest in the defence industry. The ordinance aims to accelerate investments in critical defence capacities in the context of increased security risks and NATO/EU obligations. During the Government meeting, before the no-confidence vote, the text was expanded to include additional provisions, including energy-related amendments on electricity and gas compensation schemes and fiscal warehouses. The ordinance was published in the Official Gazette and is now in force, but has also been challenged before the Constitutional Court by the Romanian Ombudsman, creating a separate constitutional and parliamentary procedure around its approval.

ROMANIA AND UKRAINE ADVANCE ANTI-DRONE COOPERATION. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated during the Bucharest 9 Summit that the Romania-Ukraine agreement on drone and anti-drone cooperation is expected to be finalised “soon”, with discussions focusing on transferring Ukrainian battlefield expertise and defence know-how. President Nicușor Dan confirmed that Romania aims to benefit from Ukraine’s operational experience in drones and counter-drone technologies, as part of the new Romania-Ukraine Strategic Partnership launched earlier this year. The discussions are linked to broader cooperation on defence innovation, energy security and cross-border projects, including plans for the localisation of Ukrainian drone production in Romania through a cooperation framework supported under the EU SAFE mechanism.

B9 SUMMIT ADVANCES “NATO 3.0” CONCEPT. The Bucharest 9 Summit hosted in Bucharest marked the consolidation of a broader North-East security format bringing together eastern flank and Nordic NATO members, with discussions focused on increased European responsibility within the Alliance, support for Ukraine and strengthening the transatlantic relationship. The meeting concluded with political support for the “NATO 3.0” concept, centred on a stronger European role in conventional defence while maintaining the United States’ broader strategic role within the Alliance. The final declaration was supported by all participating states, with Hungary expressing a constructive abstention. Discussions also highlighted closer strategic coordination between the Baltic, Nordic and Black Sea regions, amid continued concerns regarding Russia’s security posture.

Borders and migration

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS. The Senate notified the Committee for Labour regarding draft bill approving 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 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 draft bill is expected to receive a report by May 12.

BRIDGEforEU IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The Ministry of Development has published a draft Government Decision establishing Romania's institutional framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/925 on BRIDGEforEU, the EU instrument aimed at addressing administrative and legal obstacles in cross-border regions. The draft designates the Ministry of Development, through the Directorate-General for European Territorial Cooperation, as the national authority responsible for handling cross-border obstacles reported by public or private entities. Romanian authorities will have to respond within 30 calendar days, while the Ministry will coordinate with neighbouring Member States and report identified obstacles and adopted measures to the European Commission.

Security & crisis management

HYDROPOWER PROJECTS GRANTED NATIONAL SECURITY STATUS. The Chamber of Deputies, acting as the first chamber, has tacitly passed a **legislative proposal** establishing a **special legal framework for hydropower projects declared as matters of national security**, introducing a series of derogatory and accelerated procedures for their implementation. Under the new rules, hydropower developments can be designated as national security objectives by decision of the Supreme Council of National Defence, granting them strategic, national interest and public utility status. The bill also introduces exemptions from environmental impact assessment procedures, including in protected natural areas, and establishes a separate procurement regime exempt from standard public procurement legislation. Now the bill has reached the Senate for a final debate.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

FIRST HOME VAT CUT. A new **legislative proposal** registered in the Senate introduces a **reduced VAT rate of 11% for the purchase of a first home by individuals under the age of 35**, subject to strict eligibility conditions related to the buyer, property value, and housing characteristics. The measure, designed in response to rising housing prices, construction costs, and limited access to mortgage credit for young buyers, targets newly built residential properties intended exclusively for habitation, including the associated land. Additionally, buyers would be restricted from selling the property for five years after purchase, with the restriction recorded in the land registry. The initiative is expected to influence mortgage lending conditions and improve affordability for first-time young homebuyers.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

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 Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 03.06.2026. 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.

NEW SUMAL FORESTRY TRACEABILITY RULES. The Ministry of Environment published last week a draft Government Decision updating the methodological rules on the origin, traceability, transport and commercialisation of timber materials, while also revising the operational framework for the SUMAL 2.0 system. The measure is aligned with the new Forest Code, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the digitalisation investments supported through the NRRP. The draft introduces stricter monitoring obligations for timber operators and transporters, including mandatory use of SUMAL applications, GPS tracking, electronic transport notices and photo verification of timber loads. It also expands the circumstances under which timber may be considered of illegal origin, including intentional GPS interruptions or inconsistencies between declared and actual transport routes. In parallel, the project prepares the transition toward a new Integrated Forestry Information System developed together with STS, which would incorporate satellite monitoring, LiDAR sensors, video systems and interoperability with other public digital platforms, including RO e-Transport.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2026-2030. The Ministry of Environment published the draft Government Decision approving Romania's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2026-2030, aligned with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The document establishes the main public policy directions for biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration and the integration of biodiversity objectives into sectoral policies. The strategy is accompanied by an action plan and a monitoring framework detailing implementation responsibilities, indicators and reporting mechanisms. It includes measures related to the expansion of protected areas, restoration of ecosystems, integration of biodiversity requirements into energy, transport, agriculture and spatial planning policies, as well as the development of national biodiversity monitoring systems. The document also signals future regulatory and permitting implications for sectors exposed to environmental risks, particularly infrastructure and energy projects, as biodiversity considerations are expected to become increasingly integrated into authorisation and funding frameworks.

INCREASED BUDGET FOR AGRICULTURAL DIESEL EXCISE REDUCTION SCHEME. The Ministry of Agriculture published a draft Government Decision increasing the 2026 budget of the state aid scheme for reduced excise duty on diesel used in agriculture from RON 620 million to RON 714.3 million. The measure aims to fully cover reimbursement requests submitted through APIA for the first quarter of 2026, amid higher diesel prices and rising agricultural operating costs. Under the scheme, farmers in the vegetal, livestock and land improvement sectors continue to receive reimbursement of the difference between the standard excise duty and the reduced agricultural rate, equivalent to approximately RON 2.697/litre. The additional allocation of RON 94.3 million is intended to finance reimbursement requests estimated at around RON 155.3 million for January-March 2026, covering an estimated 9,866 beneficiaries.

Climate change

AIR QUALITY FORECASTING SYSTEM. The legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians to amend the legal framework on ambient air quality and national emissions reduction, by introducing a National Air Quality Forecasting and Warning System was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 26.05.2026. The initiative would create the basis for short-term forecasts over 24, 48 and 72 hours, daily public bulletins, and pollution alerts to be issued when exceedance risks are identified, with local authorities required to inform the population and apply temporary response measures. The initiative is politically atypical for AUR and reads more as a punctual visibility move on a sensitive public issue than as part of a broader environmental policy line. Substantively, it regulates warning and response tools, not the underlying pollution sources, and leaves the financing framework unresolved.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

ROMANIA SETS UP DIGITAL ID COMMISSION. Romania's interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan has approved the **creation** of the **RO EUDIW Commission** to coordinate the institutional, legal and technical framework required **for the implementation of the European Digital Identity Wallet**. The initiative will require interoperability adjustments from public institutions, IT companies, digital service providers and banks using electronic identification or digital onboarding systems. It will oversee the integration of platforms such as electronic ID, ROeID, ghișeul.ro, anaf.ro and cnpp.ro into a single architecture for the European digital wallet, while also preparing legislative proposals aligned with EU Regulation 2024/1183.

Rule of law

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORM. Romania's Parliament has adopted a **law** aimed at **improving the efficiency of criminal proceedings and strengthening the protection of victims, particularly minors**. The law introduces significant changes to the Criminal Procedure Code, including the transfer of cases involving sexual abuse of minors to tribunals instead of lower courts, in order to ensure greater judicial specialization. It expands victims' rights by facilitating access to information, translation services, and online complaint mechanisms, while also allowing procedural communications such as summonses and notifications to be sent via email or other rapid digital channels. In the upcoming period, the law shall be signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette.

CCR ATTENDANCE RULES TO BE TIGHTENED. Instead, the Chamber of Deputies, acting as the first notified chamber, has tacitly passed a **legislative proposal** that introduces **stricter rules on the activity, attendance, and accountability of Constitutional Court judges**. Under the new provisions, attendance at plenary sessions becomes mandatory, while any absence must be justified in writing and may only be accepted for medical reasons, force majeure, or unforeseen circumstances. The Court's president is empowered to assess the validity of absences and impose a 10% reduction in gross monthly allowances for unjustified non-attendance. Judges are also required to formally recuse themselves in cases of conflict of interest, and the law introduces clear conditions for terminating mandates, including incompatibility, three consecutive unjustified absences, or inability to perform duties for more than 90 days. Now the bill reached the Senate for a final debate.

Civil society

MULTI-YEAR NGO FUNDING LAW. The Chamber of Deputies have adopted a new **law** introducing a **framework for multi-annual funding of non-profit projects**, establishing clearer rules for framework agreements, project selection, budget allocation, and annual reporting obligations. Framework agreements may be concluded for up to four years and will set the total value of funding, project objectives, and monitoring conditions, while project selection will be carried out once through a public procedure. Financing is approved for the full duration of each project, with funds disbursed annually in line with contractual provisions. The law will soon be signed and published in the Official Gazette.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA STRENGTHEN INTERNAL AFFAIRS COOPERATION. Romania and the Republic of Moldova discussed closer cooperation on border security, cross-border crime, emergency management and institutional resilience during a meeting between the two interior ministers on 12 May. The talks focused on improving traffic flows at the common border, including coordinated border control, and on Romania's support for Moldova's EU accession process under Chapter 24 on Justice, Freedom and Security. Romania will continue providing expertise, training and operational support, including through police cooperation mechanisms, joint patrols, task forces and ongoing projects in migration and asylum.

UKRAINE ACCEPTS DUAL CITIZENSHIP WITH ROMANIA. The Romanian Government welcomed Ukraine's decision to include Romania among the states whose citizens may acquire Ukrainian citizenship through a simplified procedure while retaining dual citizenship. The measure was adopted through a Resolution and was described by the Romanian Government as a step supporting bilateral relations and closer ties between citizens of the two countries, in the broader context of Romania's support for Ukraine and its European path.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.