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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

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3, T85 – NRRP FUNDS TO INCREASE ROAD SAFETY. The National Road Infrastructure Management Company (CNAIR) is implementing a **project to increase road safety on national roads**. Over **2,200 autonomous lighting poles, equipped with directional LED lamps and photovoltaic panels, will be installed at pedestrian crossings and specific markings will be created**. The financing is carried out through **NRRP - Component 4, Investment 3, Target 85**, regarding the reduction of road safety black spots/hotspots. At the national level, it is planned to install 2,211 autonomous lighting poles, equipped with directional LED lamps and photovoltaic panels, as well as the creation of 8,118 square meters of "dragon teeth" road markings and 7,500 square meters of prefabricated markings for

pedestrian crossings. Within the administration area of DRDP Craiova, 351 pedestrian crossings were equipped, each equipped with autonomous lighting poles, powered by solar energy.

Moreover, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI), acting as the coordinator for **NRRP Component 4**, has officially signed a funding contract with the CNAIR, in partnership with the Bihor County Council and Oradea Municipality, for the construction of an **underground road and pedestrian passage at the intersection of DN 79 and the Oradea Ring Road**. Located on Calea Aradului near the Oradea International Airport, this strategic infrastructure project separates automotive and pedestrian flows, thereby successfully eliminating a critical road safety hotspot and contributing directly to the fulfillment of **Investment 3, Target 85**, (aimed at reducing the 129 identified black spots across Romania's road network). Out of the project's total value of RON 36,894,127.66 (including VAT), RON 30,493,617.90 is funded directly through the NRRP, with work scheduled for completion by August 2026 to improve regional traffic flow, reduce emissions, and secure safer airport access.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

NEW TEMPORARY RECEPTION MECHANISM UNLOCKS PUBLIC AND NRRP INVESTMENTS. The law that introduces a **temporary, derogative mechanism for the reception of public construction works, allowing essential completed structures to be formally accepted even if auxiliary works remain unfinished or delays occur with definitive utility connections** was published in the Official Gazette. Specifically applicable to public investments funded through the NRRP, European funds, and state or local budgets, the regulation enables reception commissions to approve completed essential works and suspend auxiliary components, provided these pending items do not compromise safety, fire security, health, or fundamental quality standards and do not exceed 5% of the project's total value. Although the law does not designate a specific milestone, **its scope directly encompasses projects like the energy and integrated**

building renovations under NRRP Component C5, mandating that any outstanding auxiliary works be completed within 120 days of the reception protocol. Furthermore, the act specifies that lack of definitive electrical connection will not block the reception if safe alternative power solutions exist, outlines detailed step-by-step financial settlements, and allows phased reception for national railway infrastructure, while imposing strict fines and payment suspensions for unlawful work classification or failure to meet the 120-day completion deadline.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 4 – HYDROGEN FUELING SAFETY FRAMEWORK UPDATED UNDER NRRP. The law which approves GEO no. 11/2023, updating the legislative framework for hydrogen supply to various consumer categories, such as vehicles and trains, to transpose the National Hydrogen Strategy assumed under **NRRP Component 6, Reform 4** was published in the Official Gazette. By expanding the scope of Law no. 64/2008 regarding the safe operation of pressure installations, lifting equipment, and fuel-consuming appliances, **the act introduces specific technical regulations for hydrogen fueling installations and establishes necessary safety and protection distances during equipment setup.** It also updates rules for high-pressure hydrogen transport and filling operations, which utilize transportable vessels operating at pressures of 350 bar, 700 bar, or higher made of composite materials, while establishing a comprehensive regulatory framework for both hydrogen and compressed natural gas for vehicles (CNGV). To enforce these changes, Government Decision no. 1340/2001 regarding the organization of the State Inspection for Control of Boilers, Pressure Vessels, and Hoisting (ISCIR) must be updated within 30 days of the law's entry into force, followed by the revision of relevant technical prescriptions by ministerial order within six months.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4, M164 – DIGITALIZATION OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY. The Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice (PÎCCJ) announced **the completion of the fifth project financed by the NRRP, aimed at modernizing the IT infrastructure and strengthening cybersecurity at the level of the Public Ministry.** The project, with a total value of over RON 39 million, was fully financed from non-reimbursable European funds and implemented between January 2023 and July 2026. The investment, carried out under **Component 7 – Digital Transformation (Investment 4, Milestone 164)**, aimed at equipping the PÎCCJ, DIICOT, DNA and territorial prosecutors' offices with IT equipment, such as laptops, desktops, scanners and software licenses, as well as implementing an integrated data storage and security system. At the same time, the project included the modernization of the IT infrastructure to facilitate remote work, digitize documents and improve electronic communications. The institution shows that the project contributes to increasing the resilience of the judicial system, strengthening cybersecurity capacities and streamlining the work of prosecutors and auxiliary staff, with benefits for citizens through faster digital services and more efficient document management.

INVESTMENT 18, T188 – NEW NRRP ACHIEVEMENT. The interim Minister of Economy, Irineu Darău, announced **the achievement of a new target in the NRRP, which aims to introduce work process automation solutions (RPA) in public institutions, to reduce bureaucracy and streamline services offered to citizens - Target 188 (Investment 18 - Component 7)** According to the minister, the project aims to automate repetitive tasks so that civil servants can focus on value-added activities, and citizens benefit from shorter response times, fewer errors, and more efficient public services. The investment, worth over EUR 17 million, envisages the implementation of 240 automated processes in public institutions. So far, 124 such processes have been delivered, and **the project will continue until the assumed target is reached.** The ministry also announced that a Center of Excellence will be established within the Romanian Digitalization Authority (ADR), which will train specialists and support the development of long-term automation solutions. Officials say the project, launched last year, represents an important step in modernizing public administration and reducing bureaucracy.

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 2 – EIB CONTRACT AMENDED FOR NRRP COMPONENT 9 FUNDING. MIPE published a new draft decision that approves Addendum No. 1 to the **financing contract with the European Investment Bank (EIB) under NRRP Component 9 (Support for the Private Sector, Research, Development, and Innovation, Sub-investment 2.4), reducing the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE) contribution to the NRRP Fund of Funds from €300 million to €100 million.** Under this revised framework, the direct lending instrument is entirely eliminated, shifting all business financing exclusively through intermediated products under existing operational conditions. Consequently, the EIB will return €50 million of paid but unallocated funds to MIPE within 10 business days of

receiving a written request, while the €98 million already committed or distributed to final beneficiaries through financial intermediaries remains fully protected. Finally, all reporting obligations for the terminated direct lending product will cease on the transfer date, following a final report by the EIB covering the period from January 1, 2026, to the transfer date.

C10. The local fund

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

REFORM 1, T328 & T329 – TOURISM REGULATION AND DMO REFORMS UNDER NRRP. The president required the reexamination of the law approving GEO no. 150/2024, which updates the organization of tourism services to successfully fulfill **Targets 328 and 329 under Reform 1, Component 11 of the NRRP**. The act urgently **facilitates the establishment and operationalization of Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), particularly at the regional level, by lowering the required budget thresholds**. Additionally, it permits local administrative units to directly lease nearby parking spaces to hotels, public performance venues, and sports facilities, while creating the legal groundwork for certifying tour guides both in Romania and abroad. The act also introduces updated methodological

norms for tourist access and registration within accommodation facilities, mandates the use of standardized pre-contractual and contractual information forms to strengthen consumer trust, and establishes a dedicated de minimis aid scheme to support operators in developing incoming tourism.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REACHES 81% NRRP ABSORPTION RATE. The Ministry of Health has achieved an **81% absorption rate for NRRP-funded investments aimed at modernizing the healthcare system**, marking this progress with a new **series of payments totaling over RON 162.5 million**. These latest funds target critical projects across Romania, including the digital modernization of the "Mina Minovici" National Institute of Legal Medicine, ICU expansions for newborns at the "Louis Țurcanu" Children's Hospital in Timișoara and the Oradea Municipal Hospital, alongside digital health upgrades for the Miercurea Ciuc County Emergency Hospital. Additionally, the financial allocations support hospital infrastructure at the Cluj County Emergency Hospital, the "Sf. Apostol Andrei" County Emergency Hospital in Constanța, nosocomial infection prevention at the "Socola" Psychiatric Institute in Iași, and the integration of community centers in Românași, Popricani, and Gârbou.

ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR HEALTH SECTOR NRRP PROJECTS. Between July 6 and 10, 2026, the Ministry of Health

continued the implementation of projects financed through the NRRP, by **signing 35 additional documents related to financing contracts in the health sector**. The contractual amendments mainly aim at extending the implementation deadlines, updating the VAT component and ensuring the necessary contributions to complete the assumed investments. The most addenda were signed under **Component 7 – Digital Transformation, Investment I3.3 – Investments in IT systems and digital infrastructure of public health units**, where 25 contracts were updated for the digitalization of hospitals across the country. At the same time, under **Component 12 – Health**, addenda were signed for major investments in medical infrastructure: the development of integrated outpatient clinics, the construction and modernization of public hospital infrastructure, the reduction of the risk of nosocomial infections, as well as the development of integrated community centers.

NRRP HOSPITALS STATUS UPDATE. The acting Minister of Development, Cseke Attila, stated that **seven of the eight hospitals financed through the NRRP have reached an execution stage of between 91% and 100%**. The exception is **the project of the Constanta County Emergency Hospital - Mother and Child, which is at 69% execution**. The investment will continue through the Health Operational Program (POS) after **August 31, 2026**, but the minister requested that by then a large volume of works be settled from the NRRP funds. He held a video conference with representatives of hospitals under construction, construction companies and local authorities to analyze the status of investments and the necessary measures to meet the agreed deadlines, where he requested that, where the works allow, reception begin before the deadline of August 31, 2026, so that the projects are closed on time and the hospitals enter the operationalization stage as soon as possible. Cseke Attila emphasized that **the Ministry of Health has fulfilled all its obligations: invoices are paid on time, the necessary funds are provided in the budget of the Ministry of Health, and the Government decisions regarding the updating of technical and economic indicators have been implemented**.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 4, M420 - UNIFIED PAY LAW DEADLINE. President Nicușor Dan stated that the **unified public sector pay law** can still be adopted and promulgated by the 31 August 2026 deadline set under Romania's NRRP commitments (**Milestone 420, Component 14, Reform 4**). He acknowledged that coalition parties hold differing views on the draft but stressed that negotiations are ongoing and that the Presidential Administration is prepared to facilitate discussions if necessary. Separately, interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan emphasized that adopting the law is essential for Romania to secure the remaining NRRP funds, warning that any delay could jeopardize financing for infrastructure, healthcare, education and public administration projects. He added that, although not perfect, the reform is a necessary step towards a fairer and more predictable public sector pay system and the fulfilment of Romania's commitments to the European Commission.

REFORM 7, M431 - PUBLIC INTEGRITY LEGISLATION. The Ministry of Justice emphasized that the **draft bill strengthening Romania's public integrity framework** was prepared to fulfil **Milestone 431 (Component 14, Reform 7)** of the NRRP, which requires the update and consolidation of the legislative framework governing the National Integrity Agency (ANI). The ministry noted that the reform also supports Romania's OECD accession process by aligning national legislation with international public integrity standards, while reflecting the Constitutional Court's recent ruling on asset and interest declarations. The bill still remains open to amendments from parliamentary parties, with proposals already submitted by PNL, USR, and UDMR currently under review. The ministry also clarified that, although the caretaker government has limited powers to initiate legislation, it can continue the technical drafting process, and that the new rules will apply only prospectively, without affecting cases already under ANI's jurisdiction.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE ENERGY COMPANIES MERGER. The merger between the State Energy Holdings Administration Company (SAPE) and Electrocentrale Grup has entered its final stage, with the merger agreement expected to be signed next week and the reorganization completed by 31 August 2026. This merger is in line with Romania's NRRP commitments under **Component 14, Reform 9 (Target 443)**. According to interim Deputy Prime Minister Oana Gheorghiu, the merger forms part of the state-owned enterprise reform aimed at consolidating and streamlining public companies in the energy sector. Technical and legal aspects of the transaction, as well as

its impact on employees, are currently being reviewed. The government argues that the merger will reduce administrative costs, improve corporate governance, eliminate overlapping activities and address the long-standing financial difficulties of Electrocentrale Grup by creating a more efficient and sustainable operating structure.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 - UNIVERSITY FUNDING AND DOCTORAL RULES. Approved by the MPs, the **law** approving GEO No. 28/2026 was published in the Official Gazette. We remind you that the ordinance amends Romania's Education Laws (Nos. 198/2023 and 199/2023), which previously implemented **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** of the NRRP. It introduces measures to address staffing shortages and ensure continuity in the 2026 - 2027 school year. The changes brought by the MPs cover competitive recruitment for teaching positions, expanded funding for certain educational institutions, bilingual classes, the status of defence students, and the establishment of the Romanian Corps for Education Abroad. They also allow universities to reallocate unspent funds, enable recognition of doctoral supervisor qualifications obtained in non-EU countries, permit remuneration for research activities from research contract budgets, and extend the higher supervision limits for doctoral supervisors until 2030.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NURSERY INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION. The Minister of Development inaugurated three new nurseries built under the "Saint Ana" national programme, in Petroșani, Zlatna and Oradea. The new facilities provide modern, energy-efficient early education infrastructure, adding 120 childcare places, while a second nursery under construction in Oradea will create a further 110

places. The programme, financed through the **NRRP (Component 15, Investment 1, Target 457)**, has so far delivered 83 nurseries nationwide, creating more than 5,000 new places, with a target of constructing, equipping and operationalising 110 nurseries.

INVESTMENT 4, T468 - EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION. The Municipality of Zalău completed a NRRP-funded project (**Component 15, Investment 4, Target 468**) worth approximately RON 27 million (€5 million) to modernize educational infrastructure across 25 schools and kindergartens and three sections of the School Sports Club. The investment equipped digital classrooms, IT and science laboratories, counselling offices, sports halls and vocational workshops with new furniture, teaching materials and digital equipment, improving learning conditions and supporting the digitalization of education.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

OFFSHORE WIND PERMITTING DIGITALISATION. The Ministry of Economy has launched for public consultation a **draft action plan** introducing a digital one-stop shop for offshore wind projects, aimed at streamlining permitting procedures, in line with the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the **REPowerEU chapter of Romania's PNRR (Component 16)**. The plan would replace fragmented administrative processes with a fully digital workflow covering concession, permitting, grid connection, operation and decommissioning, while allowing investors to submit documentation only once and track applications online. It targets a 50% reduction in required documentation, a halving of average permitting times from around 24 to 12 months, electronic processing of at least 90% of applications, and greater interoperability between public authorities, without lowering environmental, safety or navigation standards. Full implementation is envisaged within 24–36 months following the plan's approval.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

ROMANIA'S ENERGY SECTOR NRRP PAYMENTS UPDATE. As of July 10, 2026, the Ministry of Energy has accelerated its **support for the energy transition by authorizing over €138 million in NRRP payments for the year 2026**, including **€8.44 million paid out for six transfer requests** between July 6 and July 10 alone. This progress brings cumulative program payments to approximately €351 million, while €67.04 million in contracts have been terminated. Currently, 75 transfer requests totaling €126.28 million are being processed, comprising 33 files from 2025 (€76.75 million) and 42 files from 2026 (€49.53 million), leaving a remaining available balance of €269.83 million for new payment requests, which may still be adjusted depending on project terminations and MIPE's ongoing renegotiations with the European Commission.

PSD THREATENS TO BLOCK NRRP LAWS OVER POLITICAL CONFLICT. The Social Democratic Party (PSD) has announced it **will no longer unconditionally support the actions of interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan's Government, threatening to block key pending NRRP laws**, including the critical public salary bill, sent to Parliament for urgent adoption. Expressing strong opposition, PSD leader Sorin Grindeanu warned **Bolojan against treating the Parliament as an entity that takes orders to pass late-stage executive responsibilities, emphasizing that PSD is currently in the opposition and will not let the NRRP be used as a media shield for the "obscure interests of right-wing leaders"**. In particular, Grindeanu stated that the social democrats refuse to pass a salary law that has bypassed transparent public debates and mock consultations with trade unions and employers' associations, while also strongly opposing any attempts by USR to introduce texts in the public integrity milestone that could resolve the legal issues of compromised USR figures. Consequently, PSD is demanding that the Government accept its specific policy conditions, warning that they will reject any legislative proposals sent by the Executive at the last minute if their terms are not met.

CONTRACT EXTENSION CLAUSES UPDATED FOR NRRP PROJECTS. The law that approves OG no. 26/2024 following a re-examination was published in the Official Gazette. It establishes a **legal mechanism that permits the extension of public procurement contracts, sectorial contracts, and framework agreements funded partially or fully through the NRRP** as a direct consequence of extending their underlying financing contracts. Under these updated rules, contract extensions are strictly conditioned upon meeting two cumulative criteria: the change in circumstances must have occurred after the bidding submission deadline, and such changes could not have been reasonably foreseen by the involved parties at the initiation of the procedure or during bid preparation. This regulation applies to both newly concluded contracts and ongoing ones undergoing modifications, but it explicitly excludes contracts that were awarded solely based on the "delivery, performance, or execution duration" evaluation criterion.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

BAN ON PUBLIC INCENTIVES FOR FOSSIL FUEL BOILERS. The Constitutional Court rejected , as unfounded, the objection of unconstitutionality formulated by the President of Romania and found that the law approving the ordinance transposing Article 17(15) of Directive (EU) 2024/1275 is constitutional in relation to the criticisms formulated. The ordinance approved by this law bans public financial incentives for new standalone fossil fuel boilers, with limited exceptions for maintenance, automation systems, and gas boilers connected to networks transporting renewable gases. Next, the law is expected to be soon signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette.

SGR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR UNRETURNED PACKAGING. The law approving GEO No. 96/2023 on waste management efficiency measures was signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette. The act amends the Environmental Fund framework by introducing contributions owed by economic operators for SGR packaging for which the minimum annual return targets are not met. The contribution is set at RON 0.5 for each unreturned non-reusable metal packaging unit and RON 1 for each unreturned glass or plastic packaging unit. The law also confirms the annual SGR return targets, namely 65% for 2024, 75% for glass and 80% for plastic and metal in 2025, and 85% for glass and 90% for plastic and metal from 2026. The resulting amounts will be used to finance waste management infrastructure, while the act also allows Environmental Fund financing for the “Green Week” programme and updates the procedure for listing non-compliant landfills to be closed.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

No relevant updates.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

SAFE DEFENCE PROCUREMENT. Romania missed the 30 May deadline to sign the €816.6 million framework agreement for the procurement of NATO-standard infantry weapons and ammunition under the EU's SAFE instrument. However, according to Profit.ro, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that an **industrial cooperation agreement** has been concluded, ensuring that **over 65% of the production will take place in Romania** through ROMARM subsidiaries, with four weapon systems to be manufactured entirely domestically. While the procurement procedure may need to be relaunched under the SAFE Regulation, the agreement secures a significant domestic industrial component. According to the Head of the Prime Minister's Chancellery, the project will be carried out by a consortium consisting of **SIG Sauer's Romanian subsidiary, ROMARM (including the Cugir Arms Factory) and the Sadu Mechanical Plant**, as previously approved by the Supreme Council of National Defence (CSAT).

Borders and migration

DIGITAL PROCEDURES FOR FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT. The Ministry of Internal Affairs published for public debate a draft government decision which requires employers and foreign worker placement agencies to use WorkinRomania.gov.ro for registration, authorisation, visa and residence procedures. Documents unavailable in public registers must be uploaded with a qualified electronic signature. Companies may delegate operational tasks but remain responsible for submitted data and must revoke expired mandates. Job offers will be automatically checked against ANOFM records and the shortage occupation list. The platform will exchange data with relevant public authorities, reducing paperwork. Companies must also implement data-protection procedures, train users annually and retain activity logs for five years. After the public consultation period, the Government is expected to adopt the decision.

Security & crisis management

E-ARC REORGANIZATION. The President of the **Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre (E-ARC)** has adopted a **new order** reorganizing the

institution and **expanding its role in strengthening Romania's resilience to economic, technological and infrastructure-related risks.**

The new structure establishes dedicated units covering economic resilience, critical entities, transport, energy, communications and emerging technologies, while enhancing cooperation with the private sector, academia and international partners. E-ARC will provide analysis, guidance, training and expertise on new issues such critical infrastructure protection, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, without imposing new obligations on companies.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

No relevant updates.

Climate change

RENEWABLE SELF-CONSUMPTION AID SCHEME. The Ministry of Energy has **amended the state aid scheme supporting investments in new renewable electricity generation capacities for self-consumption** by extending the deadline for projects financed through the Modernisation Fund to become operational until **31 December 2028**. The amendment is intended to facilitate the implementation of renewable energy projects while supporting the increase of renewable energy in Romania's energy mix and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. To remain eligible, beneficiaries must start investments only after submitting the funding application, commission the facilities after signing the financing contract, and complete implementation by the new deadline. Compliance with the timetable will be verified through the funding application and the project's feasibility study.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AID SCHEME. The Ministry of Energy has also **amended the state aid scheme supporting investments in new renewable electricity generation capacities** financed through the Modernisation Fund, extending the deadline for projects to become operational until **31 December 2028**. The revised rules require beneficiaries to align their implementation schedules, funding applications and feasibility studies with the new deadline. To remain eligible, investments may only begin after the funding application is submitted, must become operational after the financing contract is signed, and must be completed by the end of 2028, with compliance verified through the funding application and feasibility study.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

POLITICAL ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY. The Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP) has launched a **draft bill** establishing Romania's national framework for implementing **Regulation (EU) 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising**. The proposal designates AEP, the National Audiovisual Council (CNA) and the National Supervisory Authority for Personal Data Processing (ANSPDCP) as the competent supervisory authorities, creates an interinstitutional coordination committee, and introduces a register for non-EU providers' legal representatives. It also requires political advertising to include standardised transparency notices, allows AEP to develop a voluntary transparency database for publishers, and grants supervisory authorities enhanced inspection and enforcement powers. Breaches could be sanctioned with fines ranging from **RON 5,000 to 6% of annual worldwide turnover, budget or revenue**.

Rule of law

CHILD PROTECTION PENALTIES. A **new law** published in the Official Gazette **strengthens criminal penalties for parents or caregivers who seriously endanger a minor's physical, psychological, intellectual or moral development** through any form of treatment or conduct. The law increases the prison sentence to 5-10 years, while offences committed by perpetrators under the influence of drugs or psychoactive substances will carry enhanced penalties of 7-12 years' imprisonment.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORM. The Constitutional Court upheld the High Court of Cassation and Justice's challenge to parts of an **AUR-signed law** amending the Criminal Procedure Code, sending it back to Parliament for reconsideration. The proposal aims to **streamline criminal proceedings, strengthen victims' rights and better protect vulnerable persons, particularly minors and victims of human trafficking**, in line with **EU Directives 2011/36/EU and 2012/29/EU**. Key measures include transferring child sexual abuse cases to tribunals, expanding victims' procedural rights, allowing electronic service of court documents, simplifying preliminary chamber procedures, clarifying rules on digital searches, strengthening victim protection measures, and introducing mandatory legal assistance for victims after criminal investigations begin. The bill also provides for the immediate application of the new procedural rules to pending criminal cases once adopted in its final form.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA STRENGTHENS REGIONAL COOPERATION. President Nicușor Dan participated in the Ukraine–South-East Europe Summit in Kyiv, where Romania reaffirmed its support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and defence capacity, framing continued cooperation with Kyiv as essential to Black Sea and regional security. Romania also supported a just and lasting peace, sustained political, economic and security assistance for Ukraine, and closer cooperation in defence and strategic connectivity. At the same time, Bucharest linked Ukraine’s resilience to the stability and European integration of the Republic of Moldova, highlighting the need for regional coordination on infrastructure, energy security and hybrid threats. Therefore, Romania is positioning cooperation with Ukraine and Moldova as a central component of its regional security and European integration strategy.

ROMANIA-EGYPT MILITARY COOPERATION. The President signed the law ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding on military cooperation between the Government of Romania, represented by the Ministry of National Defense, and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Defense, signed in Cairo on November 2, 2025. The memorandum contains provisions regarding purpose, definitions, areas of cooperation, forms of cooperation, implementation, the joint military committee, financial aspects, visits, protection of exchanged classified military information, jurisdiction, dispute settlement and final provisions. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.