

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

REFORM 1, M24 - ROMSILVA SUBUNITIES METHODOLOGY UNDER FORESTRY GOVERNANCE REFORM. The Ministry of Environment published the order approving the methodology for establishing, organising and operating subunits within Romsilva structures without legal personality. The measure continues the administrative implementation of the Romsilva reorganisation approved by Government Decision No. 123/2026, which was linked to **NRRP Component C2, Reform 1, Milestone 24** on forest governance and the fight against illegal logging. The methodology sets criteria for grading forestry districts and sizing staff structures based on administered area, turnover, gross profit, operational complexity and activity results.

REFORM 2, M31 - BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY. Romania's National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for 2026-2030, linked to **NRRP Component C2, Reform 2, Milestone 31**, was published in the Official Gazette on August 31. The final parliamentary form

significantly tempers the legal effects of the strategy. It reduces the protected-area targets to 25% of national territory and 5% under strict protection, clarifies that the strategy and action plan cannot directly impose obligations, bans or restrictions, and provides that measures affecting property, land use or economic activities will require separate legislation, impact assessments and, where applicable, compensation.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3, M34 - NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY AREAS. The Ministry of Environment published in the Official Gazette the order approving the National Catalogue of Priority Biodiversity Areas, linked to **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3.2, Milestone 34**. The catalogue operationalises the framework introduced by GEO No. 25/2026 and designates areas relevant for biodiversity conservation, including protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, virgin and quasi-virgin forests, Romsilva-accepted forest areas and a marine area. The draft designates 472 priority biodiversity areas, covering approximately 2.54% of Romania's terrestrial territory, and includes the Vama Veche-2 Mai marine area, covering around 0.16% of the Black Sea marine biogeographical region. The cartographic data and technical substantiation forms must be published by the environmental authority within 15 days of entry into force.

INVESTMENT I4, M39 - WILD STURGEON MONITORING NETWORK COMPLETED. The National Institute for Research and Development in Environmental Protection completed the implementation of the wild sturgeon monitoring system along the Lower Danube under **NRRP Component C2, Investment I4, Milestone 39**. The project established an integrated monitoring network covering around 1,500 km of the Lower Danube, including a monitoring and genomic verification centre, real-time environmental monitoring, ultrasonic tracking of tagged sturgeons and a dedicated AI-based data processing platform. The system is intended to support biodiversity protection, anti-poaching measures and future evidence-based decisions on the management and conservation of wild sturgeon populations.

INVESTMENT I5, M42 - FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS COMPLETED. Romsilva completed and formally accepted all 19 investment projects financed under **NRRP Component C2, Investment I5, Milestone 42**, which requires the completion of modernised flood protection works in forest river basins. The works restored 42.5 km of torrent channels, rehabilitated 26 sediment-retention structures, built 203 new structures and included afforestation and other slope-stabilisation measures. The project had a total value of RON 130.37 million, including RON 109.56 million in NRRP funding.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

REFORMS 1 & 2 - EIB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS COMPLETED. The Ministry of Transport announced the completion of two NRRP-funded technical assistance projects provided by the European Investment Bank to support Reforms 1 and 2 under Component C4, Sustainable Transport. Implemented between October 2023 and August 2026, the projects supported the Ministry and transport-sector beneficiaries with project management, technical verification, public procurement, training and the identification of implementation bottlenecks. Each project received approximately RON 1.89 million in NRRP funding.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, M76/T77 - CFR CĂLĂTORI COMPLETES PNRR ROLLING STOCK MODERNISATION. CFR Călători announced the completion of the rolling stock modernisation contracts financed under **NRRP Component C4, Investment I2, linked to Milestone 76 and contributing to Target 77**. The programme covered 139 passenger coaches and 75 locomotives, including 55 electric locomotives and 20 shunting locomotives converted into battery-electric units, with the works carried out in Romania. The modernised rolling stock is already being used in CFR Călători services, including InterCity trains. Works on a further 20 coaches will continue separately under the Transport

Programme 2021-2027.

INVESTMENT I3, T84 - 47 KM OF A7 MOTORWAY OPENED TO TRAFFIC. A further 47 km of the A7 Moldova Motorway, between Adjud and Bacău, were opened to traffic on 31 August under **NRRP Component C4, Investment I3, contributing to Target 84** on the completion of new TEN-T road infrastructure. The opening brings the operational section of the Ploiești-Pașcani corridor to around 242 km out of 319 km. The remaining 77 km between Bacău and Pașcani are still under construction and are expected to be completed after the NRRP deadline using state-budget funding. Separately, the Pașcani-Suceava-Siret sections and the A8 Pașcani-Iași-Ungheni corridor are included among projects expected to receive SAFE funding for dual-use civilian and military infrastructure.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT I1, T106 - ENERGY RENOVATION OF CLUJ-NAPOCA RAILWAY HOSPITAL COMPLETED. The energy renovation of three buildings of the Cluj-Napoca Railway Clinical Hospital has been completed under **NRRP Component C5, Investment I1, contributing to Target 106** on the energy renovation of public buildings. The project covered 5,761 sqm and received around RON 14.18 million in NRRP funding, with works aimed at reducing primary energy consumption and CO2 emissions by at least 60%.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M116 - OFFSHORE WIND SECONDARY FRAMEWORK ADOPTED. Romania advanced the final implementation of **NRRP Component C6, Reform 1, Milestone 116**, with the adoption of a package of secondary legislation implementing Law No. 121/2024 on offshore wind energy. The new rules establish the framework for concession procedures, royalties, taxes and financial guarantees, development approvals, operational safety, acceptance of works and decommissioning. The Government had previously approved three offshore wind perimeters with an estimated combined capacity of around 3.1 GW. However, several elements required for the first concession procedure remain pending or require clarification, including the final exploration permit methodology, detailed evaluation criteria and scoring, the concession timetable and documentation.

REFORM 1, T119A - LIGNITE CAPACITY CLOSURES TO BE DELAYED. The Government adopted a memorandum to temporarily maintain several lignite-fired units at Craiova and Turceni beyond the 31 August 2026 deadline under **NRRP Component C6, Reform 1, Target 119a**, which requires the withdrawal of 710 MW of lignite and hard-coal capacity. The Craiova 1 and 2 units are expected to remain operational until Q2 2027, while Turceni 5 could continue until Q1 2028. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan said the delay could result in Romania losing up to EUR 100 million in NRRP funding, but argued that the extension is necessary to address security-of-supply and social risks. Separately, risks also remain around **Milestone 114**, following parliamentary amendments to the decarbonisation legislation that have raised potential reversibility concerns in relation to the European Commission.

REFORM 4, M126 - RENEWABLE HYDROGEN QUOTAS LAW ADOPTED. The law amending Romania's renewable hydrogen framework, supporting **NRRP Component 6, Reform 4, Milestone 126**, was published in the Official Gazette on August 28. The final text limits mandatory quotas to renewable hydrogen, postpones the obligations for road fuel suppliers and industrial consumers, and introduces common certification, traceability, reporting and enforcement rules. Road fuel suppliers must meet gradually increasing obligations from 2027, reaching a minimum 1% share of renewable fuels of non-biological origin from 2030, while industrial consumers must ensure that renewable hydrogen accounts for at least 42% of eligible hydrogen use from 2030 and 60% from 2035. Separately, ANRE Order No. 56/2026 approved the Hydrogen Code, addressing the regulatory requirements under Milestone 126 by establishing the general framework for hydrogen production, storage, transport, distribution, supply and use and clarifying the applicable authorisation, licensing and technical approval regimes. A separate joint order of the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Energy also approved technical rules for risk assessment in urban planning and construction permitting procedures for hydrogen refuelling, production and storage infrastructure, further supporting the removal of administrative barriers under Milestone 126. The law also enables competitive support schemes for renewable hydrogen production, including two-way contracts for difference, and includes separate provisions supporting **Milestone 116** on two-way CfDs for certain new electricity generation capacities and **Milestone 128** on the extension of prosumer rules to consumers acting collectively.

REFORM 6, M128 - HEATING AND COOLING SUPPORT FRAMEWORK ADOPTED. A joint ministerial order published on 31 August

adopted the methodological framework implementing Law No. 168/2026 on the decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector, linked to **NRRP Component C6, Reform 6, Milestone 128**. The framework establishes the eligibility criteria and funding mechanism for programmes supporting the replacement of heating systems using forest biomass or solid fossil fuels that are over 10 years old or have an efficiency below 65%. It covers households, social buildings and district heating systems, with support conditional on technical feasibility and economic justification. Funding may cover up to 100% of eligible costs for the most vulnerable households, while autonomous fossil-fuel boilers remain excluded from support.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

NHIH DIGITAL OVERHAUL AND HEALTHCARE MODERNIZATION. In a joint press conference held by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Investments and European Projects, and the President of the National Health Insurance House (NHIH), the government presented the **acceleration plan for overhauling Romania's national health insurance IT systems (PIAS/SIUI) and advancing strategic healthcare commitments financed under the NRRP**. Framed across **Component 7 (Digital Transformation) and Component 12 (Health)**, the initiative focuses on replacing the outdated and unstable health insurance digital architecture with a scalable, cloud-interoperable platform capable of handling real-time medical claim validations, digital prescriptions, and health card processing. MIPE and CNAS leadership outlined streamlined inter-institutional coordination to ensure that critical digital health milestones are finalized ahead of the NRRP completion deadline, emphasizing that the system upgrade will eliminate operational bottlenecks for healthcare providers and patients while ensuring full transparency and auditing in public health expenditure.

Investments

INVESTMENT 5, M167 – FORESTS MONITORING PROJECT COMPLETED. The project on monitoring forests in Romania, through satellite images, video cameras and scanning equipment, financed by **NRRP - Component 7, Investment 5** and related to **Milestone 167, has been completed**, announced the Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests, Diana Buzoianu. The total value is **RON 272.605 million**, and the IT system is interconnected with SUMAL. According to official statements, the technology does not replace field control, but makes it much more efficient, being an important step towards reducing illegal logging and for forest management based on real data. Thus, approximately 70,000 km² of forest vegetation will be monitored via satellite.

INVESTMENT 8, M174 – EARLY WARNING SYSTEM EXPANSION. A government decision that increases the budget and extends the implementation deadline to August 31, 2026, for the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Early Warning System (SAT), directly advancing **Milestone 174 under Component 7 (Investment 8) of the NRRP** was published in the Official Gazette and entered into force. Financed through the NRRP alongside ministerial funds, partially reallocated from the complementary digital identity project (D4eID), the measure upgrades IT and AI capabilities, including data analytics, semantic processing, and secure communications. These enhancements bolster the security infrastructure supporting electronic identity cards and digital public services ahead of the final NRRP completion cutoff without adding new expenditure categories.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 1, M197 - ANAF PERFORMANCE-BASED FINANCIAL REWARDS. The Government adopted the Decision no. 685/2026 implementing Law no. 164/2026 and contributing to the achievement of **Milestone 197 of Reform 1, Component 8 of the NRRP**, by introducing **annual financial rewards for ANAF staff**. These are **granted based on the performance of the structure, the individual contribution and the achievement of the collection program**, with ceilings ranging from one to three basic salaries. The indicators must be measurable and not stimulate unjustified controls or abusive behavior towards taxpayers. The **mechanism applies to the activity carried out starting with 2027**, and the rewards are paid in the following year, within the limits of the ANAF budget. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette and will enter into force on January 1, 2027.

REFORM 6, M214 - RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PENSION INDEXATION. The Senate registered a new legislative proposal which aims to eliminate the **2026 freeze on public pensions**, introduced through **Law No. 141/2025**, and reinstates the annual indexation mechanism

under **Law No. 360/2023**. The reference point value would increase from **RON 81** to approximately **RON 86.92–87.73**. Law No. 360/2023 contributed to the achievement of **Milestone 214, under Reform 6 – Public Pension System Reform, Component 8 of the NRRP**. The additional budgetary expenditure is estimated at **RON 11.3–12.9 billion in 2026**.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, M246 – MANDATORY PCUEL INDUSTRIAL LICENSING. The government decision mandating the exclusive use of the Single Electronic Point of Contact (PCUEL) for obtaining and managing the single industrial license, directly implementing **Milestone 246 (Investment 1, Component 9)** of the NRRP while reinforcing **Milestone 243 was published in the Official Gazette and entered into force on August 31**. Under the updated framework, industrial operators must manage each facility and NACE activity code through dedicated electronic dossiers requiring qualified electronic signatures, subject to a 10-day authority validation window and a strict 15-day deadline for applicants to provide clarifications before an application is considered withdrawn.

C10. The local fund

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T295 – 40 NEW ELECTRIC BUSES IN CLUJ. Cluj-Napoca City Hall and the Public Transport Company have introduced **40 new electric buses on routes, purchased with EUR 34 million through the NRRP - Component 10, Investment 1, Target 295** and the Regional Operational Program, a measure through which the municipality's non-polluting public transport fleet reached a share of 70%. The new vehicles are equipped with air conditioning, information systems, access facilities for people with disabilities and video monitoring, and will circulate both in the city and on routes to Florești and the rest of the metropolitan area; in parallel, the local administration continues the acquisition of nine more electric units and is preparing hybrid bus-trolleybus transport, along with future hydrogen-based projects.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1 – CULTURAL HERITAGE RESTORATIONS. Restoration projects funded under **Component 11 – Investment 1 of the NRRP** have brought several major historical landmarks back into Romania's cultural and tourist circuits. In Bistrița, the newly restored Coopers' Tower (Turnul Dogarilor) officially reopened to the public in conjunction with the launch of the "Bistrița UNESCO Creative City"

initiative, revitalizing the historic fortification as a modern cultural venue. Simultaneously, authorities finalized the reception of restoration and conservation works for Colțești Fortress and the Thorotzkay-Rudnyanszky Mansion in Alba County, securing both architectural monuments against degradation and reintegrating them into regional tourist routes.

C12. Health

Reforms

91% ABSORPTION RATE AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. The Ministry of Health has reached a 91% absorption rate of European funds from the NRRP, according to an official statement. The result reflects the acceleration of investments in hospital infrastructure, the modernization of outpatient clinics, the provision of equipment and the digitalization of the Romanian medical system. Cseke Attila, the interim minister, emphasized the effort of the Ministry of Health team and the recent dynamics, making a firm appeal to all project beneficiaries, hospitals, local authorities and institutional partners, to maintain the increased pace of work in these days, for the rapid processing of payments and the successful completion of investment projects.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T377 – INAUGURATION OF A NEW MEDICAL CENTER IN CLUJ. The new Center for Vascular-Cerebral Pathology and Neurosurgery within the Cluj County Emergency Clinical Hospital, one of the most important investments in the medical field made from **NRRP** funds, was inaugurated in the presence of Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan and the interim Minister of Health, Cseke Attila, contributing to achieving **Target 377, related to Investment 2 (Component 12)**. The investment aims to develop high-performance medical infrastructure dedicated to patients with neurosurgical, neurovascular and neurological conditions. The center has an area dedicated to imaging investigations and is equipped with equipment for neurosurgical and neurovascular investigations and treatment, with six operating rooms for neurosurgical procedures, 105 beds, of which 26 are intensive care.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

REFORM 2, T383 – HOUSING AND TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR DEINSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS. The President of Romania signed the law which introduces **housing and transition benefits directly** into Law No. 7/2023 **for adults with disabilities leaving institutions or at risk of institutionalisation**. The housing benefit **covers rent, utilities and other eligible expenses**, up to one gross minimum wage per month. The transition benefit **covers community relocation costs**, up to two gross minimum wages, and may be requested before or within 12 months after leaving residential care. DGASPC must assess applications, issue approval decisions and reimburse documented expenses within the statutory deadlines, while payments may be suspended or terminated if eligibility conditions are no longer met. The measure contributes to achieving **NRRP Target 383 under Reform 2, Component 13**. The **law was also published in the Official Gazette** and entered into force.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 7, M431 - NEW INTEGRITY DRAFT BILL REGISTERED AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF LAW NO. 180/2026. A new USR legislative proposal has been registered in the Chamber of Deputies shortly after Law No. 180/2026 entered into force to implement **NRRP Component C14, Reform 7, Milestone 431**, which concerns the updated legal framework for integrity in public office. The draft bill largely reproduces the framework introduced by Law No. 180/2026, including the new asset and interest declaration regime and PREVENT-related rules, but **removes the provision applying the new consequences to integrity incidents committed before the law entered into force**. This provision has been publicly referred to as the **“Fritz amendment”**, after Timișoara Mayor and USR leader Dominic Fritz, as it was seen as specifically targeting his situation and **would require the termination of his mayoral mandate 30 days after Law No. 180/2026 entered into force**. More broadly, the provision could affect other officeholders with definitive incompatibility or conflict-of-

interest findings predating the new law. It is therefore relevant from an NRRP perspective because it would amend legislation adopted specifically for Milestone 431 shortly after its entry into force. The proposal is currently at the initial stage in the Chamber of Deputies, which is the first chamber.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE-OWNED COMPANY MERGERS COMPLETED. CFR SA completed its mergers by absorption with Telecomunicații CFR SA and Tipografica Filaret SA, while in the energy sector Electrocentrale Grup was merged into SAPE, as part of **NRRP Component C14, Reform 9, Target 443** on the restructuring of state-owned companies in the transport and energy sectors. Following the railway mergers, CFR SA takes over the activities, assets, rights and obligations of the two absorbed companies, with the restructuring aimed at simplifying administrative and decision-making processes and reducing overlapping support functions. Deputy Prime Minister Oana Gheorghiu said the completion of these operations allowed the Government to close Target 443 on the final day of NRRP implementation.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – ANNULMENT OF THE NEW HIGH-SCHOOL ADMISSION EXAM. The two legislative proposals initiated to postpone the application of the new high-school admission system, under which high schools may organize **an additional entrance exam, separate from and held after the National Evaluation, for up to 50% of their available places** received reports this week. For the first, initiated by PSD MPs like Natalia-Elena Intotero, the Committee issued an additional admission report in a form that **cancels the exam**, as the first Chamber decided during the plenary session. Most probably, it will be adopted as such, in line with a new act registered by USR which repeals the entire mechanism. The second, from PNL, which delays the exam, received a rejection report and has very low changes to pass, since cancelling it is preferable to postponing it.

SCHOOL PSYCHOPEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT. Initiated by PNL, PSD, and UDMR lawmakers, a new legislative proposal was registered at the Senate to **lower the mandatory student-to-staff ratios for school counselors, speech therapists, and newly designated school psychologists to a maximum of 300 students or 200 preschoolers.** The initiative defines distinct responsibilities for educational psychologists in behavioral assessment, emotional intervention, and parent counseling, directly easing severe structural burdens on school support services caused by specialist shortages and the growing integration of students with special educational needs into mainstream education. The act is now to be sent to the resort Committees for a report.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DECENTRALIZATION. Moreover, the Senate received an act that **transfers the authority to organize recruitment contests for school principals and deputy principals from county school inspectorates directly to school administration boards,** proposed by USR a couple of days ago. Under the new framework, boards would elect an independent president by secret ballot, run mandatory selection procedures within 30 days of a vacancy, enter into management contracts with successful candidates, and appoint internal tenured teachers to interim positions. By also granting local public authorities the power to evaluate administrative-financial performance while reserving dismissal decisions strictly for the administration boards, the measure eliminates centralized inspectorate control, enhances institutional autonomy, and establishes a clear operational separation between school deliberative governance and executive leadership.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INTEGRATION. A new initiative of People's Union Party (UPR), led by Anamaria Gavrilă, was also registered at the Senate this week, to establish **new obligations for the early identification and integration of students with special educational needs (SEN).** Slated to take effect on September 1, 2027, the act lowers staffing ratios to one school counselor or speech therapist per 250 pupils, requires schools to conduct internal learning assessments so support can begin without waiting for official disability certificates, introduces dedicated support teachers and permanent companions for intensive cases, and mandates continuous teacher training alongside minimum equipment standards for resource rooms. However, given that it originates from a minor political group without majority backing, the proposal holds very slim chances of securing parliamentary adoption.

TEACHING WORKLOAD EXEMPTIONS. The law which amends the **teaching workload exemption framework for pre-university leadership, guidance, and inspection personnel** was published in the Official Gazette, having entered into force on August 31. The legislation caps direct classroom teaching and evaluation duties at a maximum of 40% of a standard workload for partially relieved managerial staff (and 30% for county school inspectorate leadership), while strictly banning secondary cumulative contracts or hourly pay, except when explicitly authorized for schools in isolated areas.

All these acts amend **Law no. 198/2023 on Pre-University Education**, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1 – Component 15).**

Investments

INVESTMENT 17, T503 – UNATC MODERNIZATION. The "I.L. Caragiale" National University of Theatre and Film (UNATC) in Bucharest has completed its university infrastructure project under **Component 15 (Investment 17) of the NRRP, directly contributing to Target 503**. The initiative delivers a sustainable student campus featuring dedicated accommodation, dining facilities, and a central reading and recreation hub designed to support graduating and vulnerable students in their artistic research and degree projects. Additionally, the investment revitalized the "Insula UNATC" campus area into a green urban space, doubling recreational capacity to host student film screenings, exhibitions, and public cultural events.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1, M508 - EXPANDED ANADSPA VEHICLE FLEET. The draft bill setting the vehicle fleet of the National Agency for the Administration of State Domains, Fisheries and Aquaculture at 115 vehicles, comprising 78 vehicles for specific activities, nine special-purpose vehicles and 28 utility vehicles was registered with the Chamber of Deputies and sent to the responsible committees to issue a report by 22.09.2026. The proposal is linked to **NRRP Component 16, Reform 1, Milestone 508**, which requires four off-road utility vehicles for teams surveying hard-to-access land intended for renewable energy acceleration areas. However, these four vehicles were already included in ANADSPA's fleet through Government Decision no. 545/2026. This draft bill therefore goes beyond the immediate NRRP requirement and mainly adjusts the agency's broader transport capacity following its reorganisation and expanded responsibilities.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

NRRP OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL CLOSURE FRAMEWORK. The law that establishes the final **operational and financial wrap-up for the NRRP** ahead of its August 31, 2026 implementation deadline was signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette, having entered into force. Beneficiaries must wrap up funded activities by this cutoff or secure alternative funding to complete pending projects by December 31, 2026, in order to avoid financial clawbacks. To prevent project failure and financial penalties, the rules allow unviable contracts to be closed without penalty, transfer unfinished investments to national funding programs, and mandate that all completed assets be maintained and monitored for at least five years.

In this regard, Interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan stated that, **of the over 15,000 projects contracted nationally through the NRRP, at the beginning of August, over 4,500 investments were still to be received, of which over 2,000 were received during this month.** Only works completed by the end of August will benefit from non-refundable funds from the NRRP (payment requests to be submitted in September), while unfinished projects will have to be continued from the budgets of local authorities. Also, an inventory of unfinished investments will take place by the end of October, and if local authorities fail to complete the works by the end of the current year, they will be obliged to refund even the amounts collected for the works executed by the end of August.

PUBLIC BUILDING RENOVATIONS. The Ministry of Development announced that it has **exceeded its NRRP targets for energy-efficient building renovations** across both **Component 5 (Renovation Wave) and Component 10 (Local Fund)**. While Component 5 targeted comprehensive moderate and deep thermal renovations for major public assets and multi-family residential buildings, Component 10 delivered targeted upgrades across local administrative-territorial units (UATs), including schools, community medical centers, municipal offices, and local cultural infrastructure. Together, the interventions surpassed national energy reduction benchmarks by cutting primary energy consumption and emissions by over 30%, lowering municipal operating costs and securing key milestone validations under both components ahead of the final program cutoff.

ENERGY INVESTMENTS COMPLETED AHEAD OF NRRP DEADLINE. The Ministry of Energy announced progress on two major NRRP energy investments ahead of the 31 August deadline. Two high-efficiency cogeneration and district heating projects in Constanța and Arad received technical approval for energisation and entered the testing stage, with the Ministry stating that the related NRRP target had been achieved. Separately, two OMV Petrom projects totalling 55 MW of electrolysis capacity for renewable hydrogen production were completed. The Ministry also reported that it had paid more than EUR 233 million to NRRP beneficiaries in 2026, bringing cumulative payments since the start of the programme to over EUR 445 million.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

EV CHARGING SPACES BILL MOVES TO FINAL CHAMBER. The legislative proposal amending GEO No. 195/2002 to sanction vehicles occupying EV charging spaces without actually charging was tacitly adopted by the Senate after the constitutional debate deadline expired. The bill had previously received a rejection report from the responsible Senate committees, but the report did not reach the plenary before the deadline. The proposal will now move to the Chamber of Deputies, as the decision-making chamber, where its prospects for adoption appear limited.

GEO THERMAL ENERGY FRAMEWORK. The cross-party legislative proposal amending the Mines Law to create a dedicated legal framework for geothermal energy projects has been sent to the responsible parliamentary committees for report. The bill introduces separate rules for conventional geothermal projects and closed-loop systems, streamlines permitting and licensing procedures, and includes specific provisions for local authorities developing public district-heating projects. The committees are expected to issue their report by 15 September 2026, after which the proposal can proceed to plenary debate.

EU TRANSPOSITION ON OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT NOISE RULES. The Government adopted the decision amending the national framework on noise emissions from equipment used outdoors. The decision transposes changes to Directive 2000/14/EC introduced by Directives (EU) 2024/2749 and 2024/2839, covering emergency conformity assessment procedures and the removal of certain reporting obligations. The decision introduces special procedures only for equipment designated at EU level as crisis-relevant goods during an activated internal market emergency regime. In such cases, notified bodies would prioritise conformity assessment, while certain equipment could be placed on the market under EU-extended national authorisations, without CE marking, but with crisis-relevant labelling in Romanian. The draft also removes the obligation to send copies of EC declarations of conformity to authorities and the European Commission, and aligns national rules with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1208 on noise measurement methods. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette.

ELECTRICITY MARKET SAFETY MEASURES EXTENDED. Government Decision No. 684/2026 was adopted and published in the Official Gazette, extending until 30 September 2026 the electricity system safety measures introduced by Government Decision No. 603/2026. Transelectrica may continue to apply the measures in a crisis threatening the secure operation of the power system, ranging from increasing available reserves and restricting exports to, as a last resort, staged electricity consumption reductions with at least 24 hours' notice to market participants. The extension comes amid persistently low Danube flows, uncertainties regarding the availability of the Cernavodă nuclear units, limited system adequacy and risks during the 18:00-22:00 peak period.

DIESEL EXCISE AID FOR TRANSPORTERS ADJUSTED TO CRISIS MECHANISM. The Ministry of Finance published a draft Government Decision amending the existing state aid scheme for road transport operators to align it with the temporary diesel excise reductions introduced by Law No. 162/2026. During the declared oil and petroleum products crisis, the partial excise reimbursement for standard diesel would decrease from the ordinary RON 0.85/litre to RON 0.71/litre when the national excise cut is 15%, RON 0.57/litre at a 20% cut and RON 0.43/litre at a 25% cut. Under the 25% excise reduction currently applicable from 1 September, eligible transport operators would therefore receive RON 0.43/litre through the state aid scheme. The adjustment is intended to prevent the combined effect of the general excise reduction and the transport aid from bringing taxation below the EU minimum required by Directive 2003/96/EC. The proposal comes after the Ministry of Finance activated the maximum 25% excise reduction for standard diesel for 1–15 September 2026, meaning that, if the draft is adopted, the reimbursement available to eligible transport operators during this period would be RON 0.43/litre.

Business & Economy

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/2994. The Chamber of Deputies registered for the final debate the draft bill that includes a series of proposals **to simplify the formalities/procedures for the authorization/registration with the FSA of certain types of AIFs**, proposals intended to constitute the regulatory framework applicable to the distribution of units of UCIs (e.g. UCITS and AIFs) through the global account, and the transposition into national legislation (at the level of GEO no. 32/2012) of the provisions of art. 1 of Directive (EU) 2024/2994, regards the **treatment of concentration risk arising from exposures to central counterparties and counterparty risk for transactions in centrally cleared derivative financial instruments**. Next, the draft bill is expected to receive a joint report from the Committee for Economic Policy and the Committee for Budget by September 14.

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 FUNDING ALLOCATED TO IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS. Government Decision No. 680/2026 was adopted and published in the Official Gazette, allocating the EUR 16.68 billion granted to Romania under the EU Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument among the institutions responsible for implementing the national investment plan. The Ministry of Defence receives the largest allocation, EUR 9.70 billion, followed by the Ministry of Transport with EUR 4.20 billion and the Ministry of Internal Affairs with EUR 2.10 billion, with additional funding allocated to the intelligence and security services and the National Administration of Penitentiaries. The funds may only finance eligible projects included in Romania's SAFE investment plan, which comprises 35 projects, approximately 75% related to defence, public order and civil protection and 25% to national road infrastructure, with implementation running until 31 December 2030.

Borders and migration

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

RUSSIAN CYBERSECURITY SOFTWARE BAN PROPOSED TO BE EXTENDED TO 2035. A new legislative proposal would extend until 31 December 2035 the existing ban preventing Romanian public authorities and institutions from purchasing, installing or using antivirus software and other cybersecurity products and services originating directly or indirectly from Russia or from entities controlled by it. The restriction, introduced by Law No. 354/2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is currently due to expire at the end of 2026. The proposal does not change the scope or implementation mechanisms of the existing regime, but would maintain the restrictions for public-sector procurement and use for another nine years.

BUG BOUNTY PROGRAMMES FOR PUBLIC IT SYSTEMS PROPOSED. A new legislative proposal would allow the National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC) to organise Bug Bounty programmes for IT systems owned, managed or used by public authorities and institutions.

Individuals and companies could voluntarily test systems covered by a programme and receive financial rewards for vulnerabilities that are reported and validated, with the maximum reward and total programme budget established in advance. Testing would require prior authorisation and would be limited to the systems, period and methods specified by DNSC, while rewards could be financed from the Directorate's approved budget.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

UKRAINIAN GRAIN TRANSIT. The legislative proposal introducing a dedicated regime for the transit of Ukrainian grain and derived products through Romania has been sent to the responsible parliamentary committees for report. The draft bill would require the main transit route to use rail and/or inland or maritime transport, while limiting road transport to short connecting segments, and would introduce sealing, GPS monitoring and electronic traceability requirements for operators. The committees are expected to issue their report by 15 September 2026, after which the proposal can proceed to plenary debate.

BEAR INTERVENTIONS. Following the Constitutional Court's rejection of his constitutional challenge, the President requested the re-examination of the law amending GEO No. 81/2021 on immediate interventions against brown bear attacks, raising concerns about its compatibility with the Habitats Directive and the use of fixed quotas. The Senate subsequently maintained the original text and sent the law to the Chamber of Deputies for the final decision. The draft bill was sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies for a joint report, which is expected by 15.09.2026. The existing provisions, including the 2026 prevention quota of 859 bears and intervention quota of 110 bears, remain unchanged at this stage.

EXCISE-FREE DIESEL FOR AGRICULTURE. The legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians, which would allow eligible farmers to purchase marked agricultural diesel exempt from excise duty, replacing the current partial reimbursement mechanism with support granted directly at the point of purchase, was sent to the responsible Senate committees, which are expected to issue their report by 15.09.2026.

TEMPORARY SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS. The legislative proposal, submitted by PSD parliamentarians, would allow agricultural producers affected by the 2025-2026 economic crisis to suspend certain payment obligations and enforcement proceedings until 1 August 2027, including obligations related to loans, leasing contracts and agricultural input supplies. The draft bill was sent to the responsible Senate committees, which are expected to issue their report by 15 September 2026.

DE MINIMIS AID FOR BEEKEEPERS PROPOSED. A new legislative proposal would establish a de minimis aid scheme of EUR 15 per bee colony for beekeepers, financed from the state budget and applicable until 31 December 2026. Eligible beneficiaries would include individual beekeepers, sole traders and legal entities whose bee colonies are registered in the national apiculture database and authorised for veterinary purposes. Support would be capped at EUR 50,000 per beneficiary over three years, while applicants would also need to

demonstrate the commercial delivery of at least 6 kg of honey per bee colony per year.

Climate change

No relevant updates

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

DIGITAL CITIZEN COMMUNICATION. The draft **bill** establishing a **single electronic communication space for citizens and a national notification platform for interactions with public authorities** was sent to the Committee for Public Administration and the Committee for Communications to issue a report. The proposal would require public institutions to send and register official communications digitally through interoperable government systems, while ensuring encrypted document exchange and compliance with the EU eIDAS framework. Next, the draft bill is expected to receive a report by September 15.

PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS FOR MINORS. The **legislative proposal** which aims to **prohibit children under 15 from accessing online social media services** and require platforms operating in Romania to implement **effective age-verification systems** was sent to the Committee for Communications and the Committee for Legal Affairs to issue a report. For users aged 15–18, platforms would be required to apply enhanced child-safety measures, including private-by-default accounts, screen-time controls, restrictions on harmful content, anti-addictive design features, and a ban on targeted advertising based on profiling. Next, the proposal is expected to receive a report by September 14.

RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL PARTY SUBSIDY CONTRACTS. The Senate registered a new legislative proposal aiming to prohibit political parties from using **state subsidies** for contracts benefiting party leaders, candidates, financial representatives or their relatives up to the **fourth degree**, including through affiliated companies, intermediaries or subcontractors. Relevant individuals must disclose conflicts of interest and abstain from the contracting process. Contracts concluded in breach of these rules would be **absolutely null**, with all payments recovered. Violations would also carry fines ranging from **RON 15,000 to RON 50,000**. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be debated in the Senate's committees.

Rule of law

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORM. After the Constitutional Court decision, the **law** amending the Criminal Procedure Code, was registered with the Senate for re-examination and send to the Committee for Constitutionality and the Committee for Legal Affairs to issue a report. 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. Next, the law is expected to receive a report by September 9.

REFORM OF SENIOR PROSECUTOR APPOINTMENTS. The Committee for Legal Matters of the Chamber of Deputies issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal aiming to limit political involvement in appointments and dismissals to the **Prosecutor General and the chief prosecutors of DNA and DIICOT**. Their mandates would be extended from **three to five years**, without renewal. The current appointment procedure involving the **President, Minister of Justice and CSM** would remain applicable. The proposal also clarifies that prosecutors' measures and decisions, including within DNA and DIICOT, may be overturned only by the **hierarchically superior prosecutor**. Next, the proposal is expected to be rejected by the plenary of the Chamber of Deputies.

LIMITS ON THE DELEGATION AND SECONDMENT OF MAGISTRATES. The Committee for Legal Matters of the Chamber of Deputies issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal aiming to limit the delegation of judges and prosecutors to CSM positions to **six months, without extension**, while secondments to designated judicial institutions would be restricted to vacant positions for **up to three years**. Judges serving on criminal trial panels could not be seconded. Requests must be submitted at least **30 days in advance**, while senior CSM administrative positions would be filled through competitive procedures. Existing arrangements that breach the new rules would end within **180 days** of the law's entry into force. Next, the proposal is expected to be rejected by the plenary of the Chamber of Deputies.

EXTERNAL AUDIT OF RANDOM CASE ALLOCATION. The Committee for Legal Matters of the Chamber of Deputies issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal aiming to strengthen external audits of the random allocation of court cases. Audits would cover not only the IT system, but also **procedural and operational aspects**, including human interventions and their legality. Reviews must examine **system logs, changes to judicial panels, case reallocations and manual operations**. Any indications of legal violations must be reported immediately to the competent authorities, while the **full audit report must be published**, subject to personal data protection rules.

NEW RULES FOR INVESTIGATING OFFENCES COMMITTED BY MAGISTRATES. The Chamber of Deputies rejected the legislative proposal aiming to reallocate investigations involving judges and prosecutors according to the **nature of the offence**, removing the general competence of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court. **DNA** would investigate corruption offences, **DIICOT** organised crime and terrorism, and ordinary prosecution offices all other offences. Dedicated posts would be abolished, while pending cases would be transferred within **60 days**. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be soon registered with the Senate for the final debate.

DECREASE OF THE POWER OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. The Chamber of Deputies rejected the legislative proposal aiming to provide for

the elimination of the possibility for high-ranking prosecutors to directly invalidate, above intermediate levels, the measures and solutions adopted by prosecutors, in situations where they consider them to be illegal or unfounded, in order to avoid the abusive centralized concentration of decision-making power at the level of this function. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be soon registered with the Senate for the final debate.

REFORM OF JUDICIAL INSPECTION LEADERSHIP. The Chamber of Deputies rejected the legislative proposal aiming to introduce a **three-stage procedure** for appointing the Judicial Inspection's chief and deputy chief inspectors, ending with approval by a **two-thirds majority of the SCM Plenum**. Both officials would serve **non-renewable four-year terms**. The proposal also restricts interference in individual disciplinary cases, prohibits the targeted selection of cases and clarifies the review of complaint-dismissal decisions. It further requires the publication of a **detailed annual activity report** to strengthen institutional transparency. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be soon registered with the Senate for the final debate.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA DEEPENS REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE. President Nicușor Dan's visit to Chișinău reinforced Romania's support for the European integration of both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and elevated the Odesa Triangle as a framework for cooperation on regional security, energy interconnections, infrastructure and EU accession. During talks with Maia Sandu, the Romanian President addressed energy security, cross-border interconnections, disinformation, hybrid threats, Russian pressure and repeated airspace violations, while pledging continued diplomatic support and technical expertise for Moldova's EU-related reforms.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.