

interview

Interview: Daniela GÎTMAN, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

How do you assess the course of the Conference on the Future of Europe so far and the effects of this citizen-led exercise aimed at strengthening representative democracy in the EU? Which priorities of Romanian citizens, in terms of the future of the European project, are more visible?

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a particularly useful exercise for Romanian citizens and the EU in general as it discusses areas of interest and of direct impact on citizens. The commitment is very important - the active participation of citizens, the fact that they have come up with ideas and proposals for the future. The results of the Conference are equally useful, precisely because they can demonstrate to the European citizens, once again, that their ideas matter and are taken into account in defining the future directions for the development of the common European project.

As regards the expectations of Romanian citizens from this Conference, I would like to reiterate some interesting proposals stemming from the debates that have taken place so far at national level. They aim at: a decreasing perception that we are dealing with a two-speed Union; developing the Union's own resilience, internally and externally; reinforcing the healthcare system at the European level and ensuring a fair access to healthcare services in the EU; ensuring its own prosperity and stability on the Eastern border of the European Union; participating in an informed manner within the decision-making process. In addition, there are expectations in connection with the twin transition - digital and green, in particular for a fair transition, with low costs for citizens and support for the most vulnerable. Some citizens signalled the need to identify the national interests within the European Union, while for others it was important to convey that Romania can bring added value on topics such as the digital transformation, resilience or the defence of European democracy.



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The Conference on the Future of Europe: Views from Romanian citizens and European reflections

2021 was the year when the Conference on the Future of Europe was launched, a framework for dialogue in which the European citizens could engage in debates regarding major European topics. Thus, through these actions and also by using the dedicated [digital platform](#) created by the European Commission, the citizens have been able to express their views, ideas and policy proposals at the European level.

The European Institute of Romania (EIR) organized a series of events dedicated to the Conference on the Future of Europe. This project was also supported by Europe Direct Bucharest (ED Bucharest), an information centre hosted by the EIR between 2021 and 2025. The objective of the actions carried out during 2021 and early 2022 was to promote citizens' involvement in a series of interactive workshops, information sessions and events dedicated to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The debates proposed by EIR and Europe Direct Bucharest covered a number of topics with major impact for the European community, such as: digitalisation, climate change, circular economy, education, transport, the future of Europe and European democracy.

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[continued from page 1] The conflict in Ukraine has shown us that only if we continue to act in unity and have a long-term vision, we will be able to cope with the wave of ever more complex challenges.

That is precisely why one of the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe should be a stronger and more resilient Union in relation to regional and global challenges. When talking about a stronger role for the EU in the world, we need to take into account all the developments in the current crisis, the geopolitical repositioning, the need to strengthen alliances with partners with which the EU shares the same vision and values. At the same time, the European Union must be an increasingly strategic economic actor, especially in key areas. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shown us that we cannot depend on third countries when it comes to key sectors - in such an interconnected and interdependent world, the European Union must strengthen its comparative advantages in economic, agricultural, industrial, medical, and technological terms.

Climate change, together with the European democracy and a stronger economy, is one of the priority topics addressed by citizens within the Conference on the Future of Europe. This concern is also visible in the strategic priorities for 2019-2024, where we find the objective of building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social European Union. What could be the impact of consultations on the European policies in these areas of major interest?

The fight against climate change was one of the topics of particular interest within the Conference. We expected this reaction, since the figures of the latest Eurobarometer survey highlighted public support for climate action.

The ideas and recommendations put forward at the Conference on the Future of Europe show that the citizens count on an actual follow-up outcome which respects their vision and that they do not only expect deliberations without further effects. We are pleased that the views and contributions advanced during the debates are leaving their mark on the European Union's priorities for future generations.

Moreover, the climate agenda and the green transition have become fundamental pillars starting from which all the European policies are being built. We have a new level of ambition for 2030, as well as the objective of achieving climate neutrality in 2050, while further efforts are being made to persuade others to follow the example of the European Union.

Romania fully supports the EU's efforts concerning climate change and is committed to contributing to the 55% overall reduction of EU emissions by 2030. We are aware that it is an ambitious and complex process with multiple implications for the entire Romanian economy and the lives of citizens in general. It is important to carry out this process in a balanced manner, taking into account the specificities of the Member States, and to avoid increasing the gaps, as well as the costs for citizens' lives. That is why we remain actively involved in the decision-making process at the European Union level and we appreciate the constructive role that dialogue with citizens plays in formulating European policies.

Lately, we are witnessing a convergence of the strategic objectives of the United States of America and the European Union in areas such as the climate change or the digital transition. In which other areas could we see a deepening of common approaches and how can the transatlantic relationship be strengthened in the context of today's global challenges?

The EU's relations with the US are a key dimension in building a more resilient Europe, working together with its partners to find solutions to increasingly complex global challenges.

The transatlantic relationship is and has been legitimately perceived over time as based on common values and principles that we share on both sides of the Atlantic. Building on these shared values and principles, EU-US relations have great potential for political, economic, trade and human development and consolidation.

For Romania, it is vital to strengthen the EU-US partnership and EU-NATO cooperation, in complementarity, given the multitude of challenges, many generated by the current pandemic, others stemming from the volatile geopolitical context – with a special focus on the Eastern Neighbourhood, the Black Sea, the Western Balkans.

Transatlantic joint action is also essential to promote fundamental rights and freedoms in the EU's neighbourhood as well as globally, and to support efforts aimed at the resilience of societies to third-party propaganda and disinformation.

Romania is and remains one of the most powerful allies and partners of the US at the European and transatlantic levels. The year 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption by Romania and the US of the Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century. This year we will mark 25 years since the Romania-US Strategic Partnership was launched.

Considering the current security context, as well as the applications for membership of the European Union submitted by Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, which do you think will be the main issues to be pursued with regard to the future of the EU's enlargement policy?

Romania fully supports the integration of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia into the European Union, a position based on the firm belief that the place of the three associated states is within the united European family. The signing of applications for membership by the three states is a symbolic political gesture at a dramatic moment in the history of Europe.

Romania has consistently called for the recognition of the European perspective of the three states linked to the European Union through Association Agreements, in line with their freely expressed choices and with their progress in the reform processes.

Romania is aware that the accession of Associated States to the European Union is not achievable in the very short term. However, it is necessary to ensure that all three Associated States are able to make progress on the European path within a predictable timeframe. The implementation of the Association Agreements will continue to support this objective.

In this regard, we welcome the launch and support the smooth running of institutional procedures under Article 49 TEU and will engage constructively at the Council level to advance the next steps.

Further, it will be necessary, at the European level, to endorse a tangible, merit-based European perspective, through mechanisms supporting the necessary progress towards the status of a Member State of the European Union.

The pro-European options of the three Associated States should not be seen as elements to quickly complete certain accelerated procedures, but as an impetus for a rigorous, fair and credible continuation of the enlargement process, based on effective and robust reforms, building on clear pro-European policy options.

The enlargement policy is a success story of the European Union. We will continue to support further enlargement and processes already under way, which have a strategic value for the Union and the countries concerned. This is because enlargement generates transformational, democratisation and deep modernisation processes in these societies. The very experience of Romania, which this year celebrates 15 years since its accession to the European Union, is illustrative in this respect. We will continue to support the capitalisation of Romania's expertise in the process of European integration, in the dialogue with our partners in the region.

As 2022 is the European Year of Youth, what do you think is the role of young people in building the future of the European Union?

From the outset, Romania welcomed the decision to establish 2022 as the European Year of Youth and the general objective of this initiative, which is to stimulate the efforts of the Union, Member States, as well as regional and local authorities to honour, support and involve young people in a post-pandemic perspective.

Unfortunately, young people were among the categories that made great sacrifices during the pandemic. The lack of social interaction, the online-only education - in some cases combined with reduced access to the digital infrastructure, especially for young people with fewer opportunities -, uncertainty about future plans, and reduced opportunities for participation in civic spaces are among the multiple challenges of this unprecedented crisis that have impacted young people.

In this context, we deem the establishment of the European Year of Youth 2022 as a good opportunity for the active involvement of young people, and we appreciate the highlight on the inclusion, in particular, of those with fewer opportunities. We appreciate that the European Year of Youth 2022 will help speed up the creation of physical and virtual spaces so that they are genuine platforms for expressing and, equally, for promoting the European values.

We believe that both the participation and involvement of young people in decision-making at all levels, and a Europe closer to citizens and especially closer to young people are extremely important. We all want real chances for young people: opportunities, facilities for employment or access to placement services for quality jobs. European cooperation in the youth sector is essential for their development and is, in fact, an investment in the future of the European Union. Structured dialogue with young people must become a mechanism with a real impact at both local and European levels.

One of the objectives pursued by Romania, including during the debates at the European level, is to support young people in order to get the best start in life, a higher degree of predictability and confidence in their future. And the best start is access to high-quality education that endows them with skills adapted to socio-economic realities and highly necessary to enter the labour market.

It is very important to help and encourage young people to take an active and creative part in all debates concerning Europe because, in fact, they are helping to build their own future, a European future. I believe that young people need to share the values of solidarity and of respect for human dignity and human rights; they need actions to promote a fair society based on pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance and solidarity.

Interview by **Ana-Maria Anghelescu**
Editor-in-chief EIR Newsletter

Biography:

Daniela Gîțman was appointed Secretary of State for European Affairs on 28 January 2022. Prior to that, she held the position of Secretary of State for Inter-Institutional Affairs (2020 - 2022) and Secretary of State for Global Affairs (2016 - 2017). She is a career diplomat since 1993 and holds the diplomatic rank of Ambassador in the Romanian Diplomatic Service.

Throughout her professional activity, she held various responsibilities at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and within several foreign diplomatic missions of Romania. From January 2009 to August 2015 she served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Czech Republic. Between 2004 and 2008 she was posted at the Embassy of Romania to the United States of America where she acted as Deputy Head of Mission and, subsequently, Chargé d'affaires ad-interim (September 2006 - December 2007). Her first diplomatic mission abroad was at the Embassy of Romania to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, between 1998 and 2002.

Within the MFA Headquarters, Daniela Gîțman focused on initiating and coordinating a series of flagship policies and projects, such as: development cooperation and humanitarian aid between 2020 and 2022, in correlation with the

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implementation of the Annual Plans for 2020, 2021 and 2022; education, science, culture, research and development policies, from a foreign affairs perspective; submission of national and multinational UNESCO files; Romania's national pavilion at the 2020 Expo Dubai; reshaping Romania's foreign policy actions in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean; consolidating Romania's relationship with the UN and its specialized agencies, both in her capacity as Secretary of State, as well as Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs responsible of promoting Romania's candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Between 2002 and 2004 she held the position of Director for Western and Central Europe within the MFA Headquarters, where she managed the bilateral relations of Romania with 34 European states. Previously, she worked within the Directorate for Western Europe within the MFA Headquarters and was responsible for Romania's bilateral relations with the Benelux countries. She has completed all the stages of a diplomatic career, starting with the position of junior expert within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, Faculty of Machine Building Technology, in 1992, and the Postgraduate Programme for International Relations at the Romanian Institute of International Studies in Bucharest, in 1995.

On 5 April 2007, she was awarded the Order of Diplomatic Merit in the rank of Knight, granted by the President of Romania. On 2 July 2015, she also received the "Karel Kramář" Medal of Merit, awarded by the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, and, on 23 September 2013, she was awarded the UNESCO trophy for promoting Romanian cultural values without borders, by the Federation for UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations in the Republic of Moldova.

She has given numerous interviews and lectures on European and international issues, at the invitation of Romanian and international media, universities and think tanks from different countries of the world.

She speaks fluent English and Italian. She was born on 13 September 1968 in Bucharest. She is married and has a son.

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The Conference on the Future of Europe: Views from Romanian citizens and European reflections

[continued from page 1] Given the public health crisis, the events were held in online format, through the Zoom platform, however this offered the citizens from different parts of Romania the opportunity to participate. The audiences that showed interest for the actions initiated by EIR and Europe Direct Bucharest were: pupils and students, teachers, young professionals, seniors, representatives of central and local institutions, business people, representatives of non-governmental organisations, citizens interested in European affairs and the future of the European Union. Moreover, decision-makers specialised in European affairs were also invited to the events, providing an overview of the current context and trends that will influence Europe's future.

In turn, Europe Direct Bucharest maintained a proactive and constant dialogue with young people mostly by organising events that proposed innovative discussion formats such as: interactive dialogue, workshop, script simulation, training session, information campaign, summer school, theatre forum, world café and open space.

The participants were very active and involved, expressing their views regarding a united and cohesive future, emphasising the need to grasp the opportunity of a more resilient European Union, both internally and externally.

The views expressed by the citizens within these events were compiled and analysed within the [Report - The Conference on the Future of Europe. Views from Romanian citizens](#), published by EIR in March. Besides the above-mentioned themes, the citizens proposed recommendations on the following topics: sustainable mobility, economic recovery, agriculture and rural development, social justice and employment, health, European democracy and citizen participation, misinformation, polarization and populism, transatlantic relations, resilience and the future of the European Union, Romania's contribution to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Through the actions of the European Institute of Romania and ED Bucharest, the participants received up-to-date information, with impact for every European citizen and had the opportunity to actively contribute to the formulation of concrete recommendations for the political lines of the European Union.

We discussed the conclusions of the Report, especially the ones regarding security and defence, with Tania Lațici, specialist in this domain within the European External Action Service.

The Romanian citizens recommend: "The European Union needs to strengthen the security pillar". I wholeheartedly agree. The Conference on the Future of Europe is an exercise which, among other things, aims at taking stock of the citizens' views regarding the priorities that the EU should have. Reading the report, security and defence appear as a major priority for the Romanian citizens - good news! Certainly, this priority was enhanced following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



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For Romanians, the transatlantic relation and the resilience of the European Union seem to be the key elements, confirming Romania’s belonging and important role within the Euro-Atlantic community. The vision regarding the EU - USA and the EU - NATO cooperation convey geopolitical maturity. In the current ultra-complex security environment, these relations are essential. NATO needs the unique instruments of the EU as much as the EU needs those of NATO in order to respond decisively to the security challenges and threats we are currently facing.

On 21 March, all the EU Foreign and Defence Ministers adopted the “Strategic Compass” - the first concrete EU security and defence strategy of the European Union. Reading the recommendations of the Romanian citizens, in parallel with the proposals included in the Compass, I am reassured to see a significant positive overlap. The Compass belongs to the EU Member States, thus to all the EU citizens. It is essential that this strategy responds to the citizens’ needs and vision for Europe. And it certainly does.

With an ambitious vision for the transatlantic relations (the EU - USA and the EU - NATO) as a baseline and putting forward concrete proposals and concrete deadlines for enhancing the EU’s resilience on all its dimensions, the Compass should be seen as a direct answer to the Romanian citizens’ requests presented within the Conference on the Future of Europe. The EU has an important role in our security and defence, with unique instruments and competencies which have proven their value, including an unwavering support for Ukraine and punishment for Russia for its unprovoked war. Romania, in turn, has an extremely important role within the Union and within the process of developing the European security and defence. Therefore, it is good news that its citizens grant the EU a decisive mandate to play this role with determination and passion.

Laura-Ștefania Anton
Communication Unit

Biography:

Tania Lațici has been working as a Policy Officer on Security and Defence Policy within the European External Action Service since 2021. In this role, she is responsible of the strategic aspects of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU. In parallel, Tania is affiliated with EGMONT - The Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels, the Centre for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Washington D.C., and the New Strategy Center in Bucharest. In 2020 she had the honour of being appointed by the NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, to contribute to NATO2030 strategic reflection. In addition to NATO, Tania was awarded leadership distinctions from CEPA, GLOBSEC, Warsaw Security Forum, UN, OSCE, GMF, Schmidt Futures and others.

Previously, Tania held the security and defence portfolio within the European Parliamentary Research Service, and she worked, among others, for the European External Action Service and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.



projects

The Eurofound project, Correspondents Network: Romania - research for evidence-based policy making

From 2018 to 2022, the European Institute of Romania and its partner Euractiv Network were part of the network established by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), a tripartite agency of the European Union, while implementing the Eurofound project, *Correspondents Network: Romania*. The initiative aimed to collect, analyse and report on Romania’s specific developments (regulations, policies and practices) with regards to working conditions, industrial relations, the labour market (including restructuring) and other sectors of social policy.

Eurofound focused on contributing to the expertise needed by the policymakers in achieving upward convergence of living and working conditions within the EU. To achieve this objective, the activities within the Eurofound project were developed on six strategic areas of intervention for which it provided scientifically sound and unbiased, timely and policy-relevant knowledge.



projects

The six strategic areas of intervention set for the period 2018-2022 were:

- Working conditions and sustainable work;
- Industrial relations;
- Labour market change;
- Quality of life and public services;
- The digital age: Opportunities and challenges for work and employment;
- Monitoring convergence in the European Union.

The research was also pursued based on various *ad hoc* requests for which Eurofound reserves some capacity throughout the year, in order to meet emerging stakeholder needs.

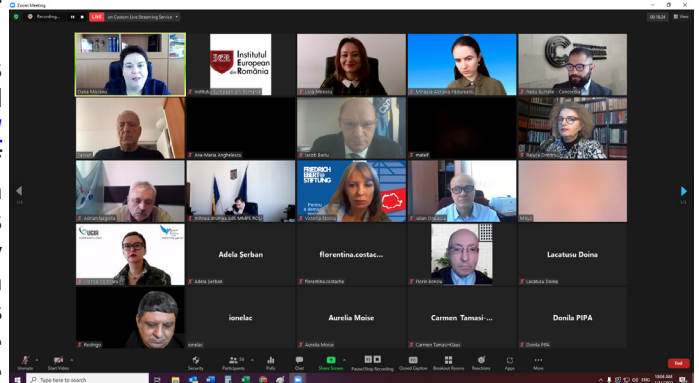
The COVID-19 pandemic had far-reaching implications for the economy and the way people live and work. **In response to the unfolding crisis, Eurofound adapted its work programme to rapidly respond to quickly emerging information needs. Thus, the Agency was one of the first bodies to provide new knowledge on the initial impact of the pandemic and subsequent policy measures.**

In light of effects of the public health crisis, Eurofound has adjusted its research to:

- monitor the evolving situation and collect data regarding the impact of this unprecedented crisis on the lives of Europeans through an online survey, as well as the measures undertaken by policy actors to combat the effects of the pandemic on employment, working conditions and living conditions;
- provide analysis on relevant topics, such as employment effects, effects on specific sectors, effectiveness of intervention measures (for example, short-time work schemes).

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the topics related to teleworking and the right to disconnect were among the priorities of public policies addressing working conditions, leading to a surge in interest towards Eurofound's publications on this matter. The e-survey [Living, working and COVID-19](#), conducted in 2020 by Eurofound, showed that **over three-quarters of EU employees want to continue working from home at least occasionally, even when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted**. Considering the growing number of persons teleworking across the EU, in line with social distancing measures, the European Parliament initiated the debate on the right to disconnect. **The [Parliament's resolution on the right to disconnect](#) used the knowledge developed within Eurofound's research, including the definition of the right and the means through which to consider sensitive issues such as compensation for overtime, minimum standards for protection, social protection and positive aspects of the right to disconnect.**

In addition, during 2020 the discussion on minimum wages in the European Union intensified. In June, Eurofound published the report [Minimum wages in 2020: Annual review](#), which was adapted to reflect the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. In the context of the European Commission's initiative on fair minimum wages for workers in the EU, Eurofound's knowledge was reflected in 15 key policy documents from the Commission (and in particular in the **proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages in the EU**), as well as in the documents put forward by the Parliament and EU social partners. Aspects related to the minimum wage and the dynamics of labour market were discussed during the debate organised by the European Institute of Romania, in partnership with Euractiv Network, in January 2022.



In spring 2021, a [survey pursued by Eurofound](#) showed that **the mental well-being reached its lowest level across all age groups since the onset of the pandemic, and young people were particularly affected**. Moreover, trust in institutions plummeted, and across Europe the citizens felt the disproportionate social and economic impact of the pandemic, with a decreasing number viewing crisis support measures as fair and efficient. Considering Eurofound's role to provide evidence-based analysis that can support crisis policymaking, the above-mentioned survey highlighted that **the COVID-19 pandemic could be a catalyst for fundamental change that will define the future of Europe**. The post-pandemic recovery paradigm should not be based on a return to the previous state, as it happened after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, but instead on a reset of the life expectations and a reshape of the understanding of potential results of cooperation.

The long-term effects of the public health crisis on life and the aspects related to labour market will be explored in upcoming research within Eurofound. The focus will be on elements such as: how the lockdowns have changed the labour market, how digitisation has influenced the workplace, how COVID-19 has impacted business continuity and how crises affect equality and cohesion in Europe.

Livia Mirescu
Project Manager on behalf of EIR
Training and Projects Unit

Editorial releases: EIR publications in the first quarter of 2022

In the first quarter of 2022, the European Institute of Romania published a series of papers regarding the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (Translation Coordination Unit), as well as a series of research papers on relevant topics (European Studies Unit). We present to you some information about these publications, available on the [EIR website](#).

Translation Coordination Unit

[Bulletin](#) of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, i.e. judgments and decisions delivered against Romania, in 2021 (February 2022)

The Bulletin has 2 parts: (1) a statistical overview on the applications pending before the Court up until 31 December 2021, the judgments delivered against Romania between 1994 and 2021, as well as details of the 95 judgments delivered in 2021; and (2) a report of 32 judgments and inadmissibility decisions, the most important that were delivered during that period. We can select, for example, a few judgments that will have a particular impact on the development of the domestic case-law.

- The cases *Marin v. Romania* and *Mihail Mihăilescu v. Romania*, delivered on 12 January 2021, concerned the new procedural stage introduced in the Romanian criminal law in 2014 during the preliminary stage of criminal proceedings – the preliminary chamber proceedings – and whether this stage weakens the position of the defendant or the accused in subsequent civil proceedings, thus rendering unfair the proceedings in question.
- The case *X and Y v. Romania* concerned the refusal of national authorities to recognise the male identity of transgender persons in the absence of gender reassignment surgery. The applicants, both transgender persons, had applied for changing the gender markers in the civil-status register. The administrative and judicial authorities rejected the applications on the grounds that, in order to justify such an application, it was necessary for the applicant to undergo gender reassignment surgery.
- In *Buzoianu v. Romania*, the applicant had been removed by decision of the joint chambers of the Parliament from the position of member and President of the Council of the Insurance Supervisory Commission and he could not challenge that decision because the ordinary courts rejected his action against that decision, as the latter could be reviewed exclusively by way of a constitutional challenge before the Constitutional Court, and, in addition, the said court rejected his constitutional challenge as inadmissible because domestic law did not provide for a right of individual application before the Constitutional Court.

[Bulletin](#) of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights - Judgements and decisions against Romania delivered between January and March 2022

The paper mentions all of the 25 judgments and 53 decisions delivered by the Court during the said period and analyses the most important of them. Several of the important cases are noted below.

- In *Jivan v. Romania*, the applicant complained that by denying him the benefit of a personal assistant, a right of which he should have benefitted by virtue of law, the authorities had breached his right to respect for his private life, in so far as they had deprived him of his autonomy and of access to the outside world, thus forcing him into isolation.
- *Uzea v. Romania*, a decision on inadmissibility, concerns the alleged medical negligence (including dysfunctions at the hospital level) a mother and her child had been subjected to during birth, as a consequence of which the baby was born with severe physical and mental deficiencies.
- The case *Rusu v. Romania* concerned the violation of the right to freedom of expression by the domestic courts, whose judgments lacked relevant and sufficient reasons.



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For a better understanding, the Bulletin includes - for each case - references to the conclusion of the Court, the infringed article or articles, to the full text in French or English published on the Court's website, as well as to the Romanian version translated by the European Institute of Romania (where available).

Costin Fălcuță
Translation Coordination Unit



The **Strategy and Policy Studies (SPOS)** were elaborated in 2021 and recently released on the EIR's website. The research topics were focused upon: 1. The future of the European Union: risks and scenarios for 2030. A cohesive Union facing global challenges (*coordinator Octavian-Dragomir Jora*); 2. The strategic resilience of the European Union, technology and digital fields included: future scenarios and Romania's contribution (*coordinator Ioan-Cosmin Mihai*); 3. The European Green Deal: opportunities and challenges for Romania's sustainable development (*coordinator Mihaela Ștefănescu*); 4. The post-pandemic economic recovery. Opportunities for Romania on medium and long term (*coordinator Dumitru Miron*); 5. The consolidation of the EU-US relationship in the new geopolitical context, including the challenge of emerging technologies. Opportunities for Romania (*coordinator Radu-Cristian Mușetescu*).

The studies, written in Romanian language, are available online [here](#).



In the *working paper "Cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union in the fields of Peacekeeping and Crisis Management in unpredictable times"*, Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu, EIR expert, presents the evolution of the relationship between the UN and the EU in the field of peacekeeping operations and crisis management by highlighting the novelties brought by this relationship (such as the importance of the role of women in building stable societies, maintaining peace and security) in recent years. The document also presents in a separate section the contribution Romania has made to these activities as a member state of both organisations.

The full text, available in English, can be accessed [here](#).



The collective opinion titled *"The crisis in Ukraine: European solidarity in action"*, with contributions from the European Studies Unit's experts, addresses the topic of European solidarity in the context of the crisis in Ukraine and reflect the role of the European Union and some of the Member States directly involved in receiving refugees (with a focus on Romania).

The material was elaborated in early March and published on March 3, 2022, being available in Romanian [here](#).



In the context of the adoption of the Strategic Compass of the European Union, the EIR published the collective *Working Paper* titled *"The Strategic Compass of the European Union. An answer to global challenges"*. The authors, experts of the European Studies Unit, provide an overview of the negotiations, the main objectives and national positions, as well as of the means through which the document reflects the transatlantic relation.

The material, published on 23 March 2022, is available in Romanian [here](#).



The collective policy brief *"The challenges of Romanian agriculture in the context of European evolutions"* makes use and disseminates the opinions and specialised information shared within the debate "The challenges of Romanian agriculture in the context of the EU strategy *From farm to fork*", organised in early-March by EIR. The contributions included in the collective paper address the following topics: the competitiveness of Romanian agrifood sector considering the new Common Agricultural Policy, the feasibility of certain goals of the European Green Deal for the Romanian agriculture, the new technologies and the transition in agriculture, the change of generations in the agricultural sector.

The policy brief is available in Romanian language [here](#).

Ionuț-Mircea Marcu
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