

**E.S. PETR DOKLÁDAL**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Romania

## The priorities of the Czech Presidency: economy, electric energy, Europe and the world – were chosen very correctly

**The main priorities of the Czech Presidency were summed up as “the 3 Es”: Economy, Energy and External Relations. How would you rate their accomplishment now that the Czech term is near its finish?**

The evolution of the events in Europe and around the world in the past few months showed that the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union takes place in a highly complicate period and must settle a whole range of challenges on the fly. In this respect, I am however persuaded that the priorities of the Czech Presidency – economy, electric energy, Europe and the world – were chosen very correctly.



During the Czech Presidency the European Union was able to answer one of the deepest global economic crisis in the history of the world through a “NO” said in one voice to protectionism, and through the call to the “Europe without barriers.” The European Council in March adopted several packages of measures directed towards the help and solidarity with the most affected countries and the revival of the economy. The Summit which is prepared over employment and the implementation of the European Recovery Plan, which has exceeded 4 % of the GDP of the member states, show the economic capacity and the advantages of being a member of the Union in this difficult period.

In the domain of energy, the Czech Presidency proved to be both a crisis manager in the period of the January gas crisis and a leader of the efforts for higher energy security and liberalization of the energy market. The European Union has initiated with its partners in the world the discussion on measures aimed to overcome the consequences of climate changes.

The purpose of the EU – US Summit, which took place in Prague – namely to give a new impetus to the transatlantic relations – has been reached. The Eastern Partnership Summit on 7 May has marked the beginning of qualitatively new relations with our neighbours from East and completes the existing formats of the Southward European Neighbourhood Policy. In spite of all the objective difficulties, the Czech Presidency managed to continue the political dialogue with important partners of the Union from the Middle East, with

the countries from the Western Balkans, and with other important partners in the world. One of the highly important challenges of the last month of the Presidency will be the question of the institutional reform within the European Union after the elections to the European Parliament and in connection with ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.

**How does the Czech Republic, in both of its qualities of EU member and a privileged partner of the US, foresee the security arrangements in the greater Euro-Atlantic region?**

Broader Euro-Atlantic area has today an extraordinary responsibility and therefore it is important to enhance considerably communication and cooperation of the EU and the USA in fundamental global issues. Currently it is extremely necessary to improve in particular the cooperation between the EU and NATO, to speak with a single voice about collaboration and confidence building mechanism with the Russian Federation and to bring closer attitudes of the EU and the USA towards the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change.

We will face many challenges while fighting against terrorism, enhancing energy security, searching for a peaceful solution for Middle East conflicts or tackling security problems and fostering democratization processes in Iraq, Afghanistan or Pakistan.

In brief, it is about more intensive dialog in this Euro-Atlantic area and enhanced dialog with all the partners in the world.

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### 18 – 19 June European Council possible agenda

- Nomination for President of the European Commission
- Climate Changes
- Economic crisis
- Recovery Plan
- Foreign Policy
- Project on Visa liberalisation

**What do you believe are the EU strongest points for overcoming the economic crisis?**

I would say that there are definitely more “strong points”, but let me focus on two of them only.

First of all, there is a “solidarity in the club”. It means that the member states of the EU which are facing serious macroeconomic problems are not alone in their troubles. The Council has already approved a financial assistance to Hungary, Latvia and Romania. There is also the European Economic Recovery Plan – common approach of the EU Members States towards the crisis, which is currently being implemented.

The second very important “point” is in my opinion the strength of the EU in a today’s world. The EU as a global player contributes significantly to the efforts to overcome the crisis. A good example is the well balanced proposals during the last G20 meeting or a contribution to the resources of the IMF.

**As the ambassador of a fellow new member state in the EU, but with more experience than Romania in EU Affairs, how would you advice the Romanian authorities to engage in the European setting, considering the upcoming changes due to electoral process and also the possible adoption of the Lisbon Treaty?**

The period of the two years since Romania is a member of the European Union has undoubtedly proved that it has been beneficial for both the Union and Romania. Romania is an EU member with equal rights, whose voice is heard. Your country has become an important member at the eastern border of the Union, which has launched a range of useful initiatives – for instance the initiatives in the domain of energy security, regional security in the Black Sea basin, the eastern policy of the European Union, etc. The economic development of Romania in 2007 – 2008 has a direct connection with Romania's membership to the European Union, and the help

and solidarity of the Union this year have shown all the Romanian citizens the unquestionable advantages of being the member state for the people whose countries need help. As new members of the European Union, the Romanians can also exercise their new rights in the domain of travelling, and although there are transition periods with certain countries, they can exercise their rights in the domain of free circulation of labour too. Romania is at the same time supported by the European Union to face other challenges with which it is confronted now – especially in the continuation of the reform in the domain of justice and the absorption of the European funds. It is good that the political leaders of Romania understand the need to fulfil especially the domestic tasks, which are the fundamental prerequisite for Romania to play even more important role in the European Union.

Interview by **Alina Arhire** and **Mădălina Barbu**

## Analysis/Opinion

### The Eastern Partnership - a New EU Initiative

The EU enlargement towards the Central and Eastern part of Europe has brought to the attention the need of remodelling its external policy as regards the new neighbourhood. Besides opportunities, the new Eastern EU border has brought along new challenges determined by the need to have and to permanently maintain a stable and secure climate in the area, by the demands for ensuring an efficient management of the borders at the same time avoiding building new division lines in Europe. **The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, officially launched in May 2004, emerged as an expression of this need, as a result of the process of repositioning the EU borders towards the East and of the need to adapt the work mechanisms with the states which are now close neighbours of the European Union.

A concept which appeared in May 2008, as an initiative of Poland and Sweden, the **Eastern Partnership** was created with the aim of *strengthening the relations between the European Union and its Eastern neighbours*, passing beyond the incidence of the current European neighbourhood policy. The partnership sought to deepen the bilateral cooperation with the Eastern partners, to ensure an increased economic integration as well as to create a permanent formula for a multilateral cooperation. Strategically planned, the Eastern Partnership initiative mainly aimed at strengthening the cooperation of the European Union with **Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia** and **Belarus**. Thus, this initiative sought to point out the Eastern dimension of the European neighbourhood policy, at start being even regarded only as an equivalent for East of the project initiated by the president Nicolas Sarkozy regarding the *Union for the Mediterranean*.

(from the Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus) have different levels of economic and social development, democratisation and modernisation, a unitary approach of the relations between the European Union and these states was almost impossible.



Eastern Partnership Summit Photo (c): eu2009.cz

Source: <http://www.eu2009>

#### The Eastern Dimension of the ENP

The main objective of the Eastern Partnership is to accelerate the process of political association, of economic integration between the European Union and the partner countries from the Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus, EU aiming to continually encourage and support the process of economic and social reform of the targeted states, so that the gradual harmonization with the EU standards might be achieved.

Moreover, the participants to the European Council held in Brussels between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008 once again set forth the need to promote the Eastern dimension of the ENP, to strengthen the regional cooperation between the Eastern neighbours of the EU as well as between the EU and this region on differentiated grounds. The Eastern Partnership was therefore considered to be a good opportunity to reform the European neighbourhood policy in favour of the Eastern neighbours, also aiming at reducing the gap towards other regional projects such as the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy.

#### Official launch

The official launch of the Partnership took place on **7<sup>th</sup> May 2009** during the *Prague Eastern Partnership Summit*. The Joint Declaration adopted on this occasion enshrines the proposals of the European Commission from December 2008, reaffirmed during the European Council held in March 2009, setting out "an ambitious partnership" based on common interests and commitments. Complementary to the bilateral contractual relations under ENP, the Eastern Partnership aims to respect the principles of *differentiation* and *conditionality*. As the partner countries

### Main elements

The main elements\* set forth by the Eastern Partnership regard the following:

- o **strengthening and intensifying the bilateral relations between the European Union and the partner countries by:**
  - concluding new association agreements and establishing deep and comprehensive free trade areas with each of the partner countries, and, as a long term goal, even developing a Neighbourhood Economic Community (which in time would provide the partner countries with full access to the single market);
  - increasing mobility of citizens through gradual steps towards visa liberalisation, increasing partners' stability and safety, increasing border security;
  - strengthening the energy security through cooperation in the area of long term energy supply and transit;
  - improving the administrative capacity of the partner countries etc.
- o **the multilateral framework of the Partnership which will support at the same time the differentiated bilateral relations of the partner countries with the EU, will be organised at the following levels:**
  - meetings of the Heads of State or Government of the countries involved- every two years;
  - meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs- every year;
  - development of four thematic platforms: Democracy, good governance and stability, Economic integration and convergence with EU sectoral policies, Energy security; Contacts between people - meetings at the level of senior officials engaged in the reform work in the relevant areas- at least twice a year;
- o **the need of co-financing the projects, having as a basis the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, in addition to the Neighbourhood Investment Facility, transborder cooperation instruments, other financial resources from EBRD, EIB.**

\*Council of the European Union, *Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit*, Prague, 7 May 2009, Brussels, 8435/09 (Presse 78)

### Complementarity

Although the European officials have permanently stressed their *complementary nature*, currently there is a risk that the regional *cooperation initiatives*, the regional and sub-regional projects might

overlap and therefore their substance might water down. Initiatives such as the *Union for the Mediterranean* or the *Eastern Partnership* which operate in parallel with the *Black Sea Synergy*, as well as a multitude of regional cooperation bodies (Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation etc.) seem to hinder to a certain extent a unitary and coherent development of the EU neighbourhood policy. If the Black Sea Synergy wishes to be more of a *regional* cooperation initiative, the Eastern Partnership promises to focus on the *multilateral* approach and especially on the *bilateral* approach of the neighbourhood relations.

The sensitive issues regarding the identity of the area, the regional power asymmetries, the vulnerabilities induced by the political and economic fragility of some of the states from this part of Europe, the conflicts more or less frozen from this area and the need for a pragmatic approach in their case, together with the need to pay more attention to the issue of resources, transport routes and energy security are important problems which must be solved in the following period in order to ensure the functionality of the policies and initiatives, even multiple, in the area.

In this context, an issue which requires special attention is the fact that the *Eastern Partnership*, although likely to be compared to the pre-accession stage of the former candidate countries from the Central and Eastern Europe (based on its instruments and objectives concerning the harmonization with the EU standards) *does not aim to offer* the Eastern European partner countries the *prospect of accession*. This also generates the fear that, without the incentive of a future accession to the European Union, the elements of conditionality from the ENP and EaP approach will not have the expected result in the evolution of the democratisation and economic and social modernisation of the Eastern European partner countries.

What EU is offering through its various initiatives in the area, and now through the Eastern Partnership must be based on solid ground and must go beyond political statements or general strategies. The success of this new initiative will depend on the actual measures which the European Union will efficiently implement in this new framework and on the reaction and commitment of the partner countries.

**Oana Mocanu**

European Studies and Analysis Unit

## In Focus

### EIR Agenda: June – July 2009

**EIR Course:** Justice and Home Affairs

**EIR – CEES – ENA:** Preparation seminar for employment in European institutions

**EIR Conference:** EU Enlargements. Assessment and perspectives

**EIR Debate:** Flexicurity and Social Dialogue in Romania

**EIR Conference:** Series Romania – France: Together in Europe

**EIR Course:** Legal system of the European Union

**EIR Course:** Implementation of EU environmental policy by the local administration

**1 – 2 June**

**9 – 11 June**

**19 June**

**29 June**

**1 July**

**2 – 3 July**

**6 – 10 July**

### Training in Environmental Protection

EIR organised between 25 – 29 May the pilot – project of the latest specialised training program – **Implementation of the European Union environment policies by the local administration**. The program has been developed on the basis of a training need analysis undertaken by EIR between November 2008 and February 2009.

The continuous environmental deterioration and especially the climate changes, the conventional energy resources exhaustion and the need for less harmful alternative renewable resources are priority issues on the agenda of all political decision makers at European and international level. In this context, a dense network of rules and regulations, standards and good practices appeared around the environmental issue, a network which is under continuous development. Romania, as a Member of the European Union must adopt all European rules and regulations concerning the environment.

The programme organised by EIR is intended for the personnel of the **local public administration** who has responsibilities in implementing the environmental legislation. The programme is also indicated for the experts from specialised institutions of the **central administration**, such as the Ministry of the Environment, the environmental protection agencies or, the guard which have responsibilities in implementing the environmental legislation, especially in monitoring the compliance with the legislation. Furthermore, the **non-governmental organisations** active in the environmental field and the **professional organisations**, collaborating with the local administration, find among the course themes many subjects of interest for their specific environment linked activity.

**The purpose of the course** is for the participants to acquire the necessary skills for comprehending the Community and national rules and regulations which make up the environmental protection legislative framework, as well as the main intervention instruments. At the end of the training program the participants will be able to understand the concept of sustainable development, to know the main management methods of the waste waters and wastes, and they will also develop the ability to design communication strategies for raising public awareness on the environmental issues.

The team of lecturers is made up of academics of the Polytechnic University in Bucharest with vast experience in research and in international projects in the field of environmental protection. Authors of numerous specialised studies, the trainers of the program are: Prof PhD. Eng. **Rodica Stănescu**, Prof PhD. Eng. **Cristina Costache**, Conf. PhD. Eng. **Cristina Sorana Ionescu**.

The following sessions of the program will take place in **July (6 – 10)** and **September (21 – 25)**. For registrations and further details please visit [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro).

### RJEA, vol. 9, no. 2

*E-government, e-inclusion, evaluation, global governing, EUtopia, immigration vs. integration* are key words to be found in the RJEA June 2009 issue.

The increasing of use of information and communication technologies in public administration raises serious questions about the role of the parliaments and about the nature of the political legitimacy when using e-government. According to **Juliet Lodge**, Professor of European Studies at the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence, University of Leeds, and the European Parliament should be more critical and even ask for total transparency when using ITC means used for public purposes.

Information society remains the Lisbon Strategy core, despite the dot.com crisis, state **Radu Gheorghiu** and **Manuela Unguru**, researchers at the Institute of World Economics, Romanian Academy. The concepts of e-inclusion evolution, the challenges of a technology driven future, as well as the information society at community level are presented in the paper.

The article written by **Delia Costân**, Public Manager within the General Direction for Social Affairs and Child Protection Timiș, points out that there are several objectives in the evaluation process of co-financed community projects, which produce negative effects for all involved actors.

The implications of the current global economic crisis for the decision-making mechanisms among the major players are presented by **Florin Bonciu**, university professor, researcher and member of the EIR Scientific Council. The author asks himself rhetorically after the April G20 Summit: a step forward towards better global governance or global government?

EU's involvement in human rights from a promoter's perspective, as well as the credibility of the human rights regime in the EU is extensively debated by **Ingi Iusmen**, PhD at Strathclyde University, Glasgow.

**Anca Voicu**, currently studying for a Master's degree at Montesquieu University, Bordeaux, brings into discussion the immigration and integration policies through a British case study. The author concludes that the 21st century England is undoubtedly a true multicultural society, even though questions remain whether the British society is a multi-ethnic one.

**Ivanka Petkova** recommends to the interested readers the tome *The Implication of the EU Membership Trends and Immigrant Integration Policies for the Bulgarian Labor Market*.

For information on how to purchase the publication in print format access [www.ier.ro/rjea](http://www.ier.ro/rjea), section Contact or write to [sales-rjea@ier.ro](mailto:sales-rjea@ier.ro).

**Mădălina Barbu**, RJEA

## Event

### Theory, practice and teaching of the specialized translation

Multilingualism, the European and international policy, was the topic discussed at the colloquium held at the University of Craiova between 28 – 29 May 2009, from the perspective of training the translators of specialised texts. The training stages, the difficulties of translation, the recent words borrowed from other languages, the paremiology, the standardisation of terminology, the official Community jargon or other essential matters related to the comprehension of the source language text were the topics covered in the presentations given by the academics from universities of Craiova, Timișoara and Bucharest, as well as by the

guests from universities from France, Finland and Spain.

The event was organised by the Department of French Language of the University of Craiova in collaboration with the Latin Union, under the auspices of the Romanian Academy and under the patronage of the European Commissioner for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban, who addressed the participants in French, in a recorded speech. The fact that most presentations were given in French was, on the one hand, an expression of the organizers' specialisation and, on the other hand, an illustration of the cultivation of multilingualism in Romania, a country with

Francophone and Francophile tradition. The French Embassy, represented by its cultural attaché, supported the organisation of the colloquium.

The new information brought by Prof. Yves Gambier, member of the group of experts attached to the European Commission, which prepared the framework of the European Master's in Translation, was presented in a lecture vividly commented upon and referred to the need of adapting the training of translators to the market requirements. This dimension, as well as understanding the translation as a rewriting of the source language text, as an adaptation, were topics of high interest for the participants.

In my presentation I approached the complex issue of teaching in the area of specialised translation, from the perspective of my experience as a teacher for the Master courses, as well as of my experience as a trainer for the internships organised by the Translation Coordination Unit of the European Institute of Romania. I showed how these internships – unique in our country - allow the acquisition of working techniques and the compliance with the professional standards in this field.

**Mariana Bara PhD**

Translation Coordination Unit

## EIR – EIPA partnership in training

EIR's external partnerships in the field of professional training are being continued through the collaboration with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), having its central headquarters in Maastricht.

EIR has already worked together in the field of adult training with international partners such as: **Centre des études européennes de Strasbourg (CEES) – Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA)**, the **French Embassy in Romania** and the **French Institute in Bucharest**, which have supported EIR in organising the preparatory seminars for the EU competitive examinations, a project which is part of the Training Plan for the civil servants from the EU Member States, proposed and financed by the International Francophone Organisation (OIF).

**The Soros Foundation from the Republic of Moldova**, another foreign partner and the **Centre for Institutional Studies and Public Policies** from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies made the necessary arrangements for the participation of several Moldavian nationals in the European affairs training programmes organised by EIR.

**The collaboration with EIPA** has been looked forward to and prepared since our specialists attended the training programs organised in its various centres. The professionalism and expertise of the EIPA lecturers, the examples of good practices at continental level, all these are ingredients of the recipe of EIPA success in Europe.

The collaboration agreement between the two institutions was signed in the summer of 2008 and the first specialised training programme, held in English - **The Infringement Procedure under Article 226 TEC – Legal Analysis and Screening of Cases of the European Court of Justice**, took place between 14-15 May 2009.

The course was the result of a permanent dialog between partners, of a maximum flexibility and availability shown in the organisation of this common project. As regards the training, EIPA invited practitioners in the field of ECJ case-law and in the infringement procedure. Thus, the trainers team consisted of: **Carla BOTELHO**, senior trainer at the European Centre for Judges and Lawyers, EIPA's, Antenna in Luxembourg, **Marc CLÉMENT**, EC Directorate-General for the Environment – Infringement Unit, **Jean-Baptiste LAIGNELOT**, Legal Service of the European Commission.

The two days of training were focused on the following themes: the stages of the infringement procedure, the litigation phase (the presentation of the position of the Member States and of the Commission before ECJ), possible defence strategies, sanctions in case of failure to comply with the Court's decision and case studies.

The participants to the programme were, in general, representatives of the central administration – ministries and governmental agencies, such

as the Department for European Affairs of the Government, the Ministry of Communication and of Information Society, the Ministry of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises, Trade and Business Environment, the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control, the Insurance Supervisory Commission, the Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority, the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority. The local administration was represented by the Bucharest City Hall and by the Dâmbovița County Council. A gap could be noticed between the prior knowledge in this field of some of the participants and the lack of experience in the infringement issues of others. However, the feedback received from the participants through the evaluation questionnaire showed a high degree of satisfaction, some of the modules being unanimously rated as excellent.



The collaboration between EIR and EIPA will continue with two seminars on equally interesting themes: **European negotiations**, which will take place between **12 and 13 October** and the **Improvement of legislative harmonization and horizontal coordination**, which will be held between **10 and 11 December**.

For further details and registrations, visit [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro) or write to [formare@ier.ro](mailto:formare@ier.ro).

**Carla BOTELHO:** *we tracked the way for the future activities*

**Has this training session focusing on the infringement procedure been any different from the ones organised at EIPA centres or in other countries?**

The topics covered by the training were similar to the ones the EIPA has already delivered on previous occasions. We implement customized seminars and of course we respect the wishes and needs of the other party, but, in general terms, the topics covered, concerning **the infringement procedure under article 226 EC**, are more or less the same as we try to cover all the topics with a very practical approach. Furthermore the method was very similar to the one we used on previous occasions: a mixture of presentations, workshops and case studies in order to get more involvement from the participants.

### How did you find the involvement of the participants in the seminar?

Although in the beginning the participants seemed a bit "shy", during the seminar most of them started to open themselves and by the end I am very satisfied to say that there was a very high level of participation. This is what usually happens in smaller groups as was the case where people do not know each other and need some time to warm up. As always, there are people that are more participative than others, not only because

they are more involved in the area, but also due to their personality.

### What is your overall impression of the EIR – EIPA collaboration and how does this first course indicate the prospects for the future?

The EIR – EIPA collaboration was excellent and I am very glad to have been involved in the first activity. I am sure that we tracked the way for the future activities.

## EIR strategy and policy studies- SPOS 2008 and SPOS 2009



The European Institute of Romania (EIR) launched on 9 May 2009 a new series of strategy and policy studies, SPOS 2008. The launch was organised in a festive setting, on Europe's Day, at the Central University Library of Bucharest. The event was attended by Mr **Leonard Orban**, European Commissioner for Multilingualism, Mr **Andrei Popescu**, Sub-secretary of state, Department for European Affairs, Mr **Nicolae Idu**, Head of EC

Representation in Romania and Mr **Florin Pogonaru**, Chairman of the Administrative board of EIR and was moderated by Ms **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of EIR.

In their speeches, the guests highlighted the need to substantiate the national policies through analyses and studies. This comes as a result of a responsible, truly European decision-taking process which is imperative in the current global financial context. In this respect, the diverse topic of the studies carried out in the SPOS 2008 project (Romania's energy security, European perspectives on asylum and migration, the milk cota and its impact on the Romanian farmers, the CJEC preliminary rulings and their impact upon the national legal system) cover new up-to date requirements of high importance for Romania's evolution in the European area.

In 2009, EIR's project of strategy and policy studies continues with a new series of studies, whose topic was guided by the dialogue with the beneficiary institutions from the central administration, a dialogue which was supported by the Department for European Affairs of the Government of Romania.

A *chance for the future* may be considered the key phrase of the SPOS 2009 project, considering the prospective dimension of the studies included in the project as well as their topic, focused on the perspectives of the national economy and social policies. Thus, one study will analyse the impact on the Romanian economy of strategic community legislative

measures (Study no 5 - *Impact of the implementation of the Energy deal - climate changes on the Romanian economy*), another one will try to sketch the effects of a fiscal - budgetary framework at the level of public finances in medium term (Study no 1 - *Public finances: introduction of a fiscal-budgetary framework on the medium term*) and another one will try to outline some elements regarding the future of the European Communities' own resources (Study no 2 - *The future of the European Communities' own resources, from the perspective of implications on Romania's contribution to the EU budget*).

Moreover, the connection between the economic dimension, the



pro-active policies on the labour market and the social dimension (Study no 3 - *Flexicurity and social dialogue in Romania – perspectives on the implementation of flexicurity principles in Romanian undertakings*) together with the need to adapt the youth to the changing requirements of the labour market (Study no 4 - *Improving professional competencies among youth: a chance for the future*) will be analysed.

The studies of the SPOS 2008 project are available on the EIR website, at [http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/studii\\_de\\_strategie\\_si\\_politici](http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/studii_de_strategie_si_politici).

**Editor-in-Chief:** M d lina Paula Barbu

**Editors:** Alina Arhire, Mariana Bara, Iulia Serafimescu

**Graphics:** Monica Dumitrescu

**English version:** Loredana Iord noiu, Mihaela Papa, Diana Popa

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**European Institute of Romania**

7-9, Regina Elisabeta Bvd., RO - 030016, Bucharest, Romania

Phone: (+4021) 314 26 96/ 133 Fax: (+4021) 314 26 66

Contact: [newsletter@ier.ro](mailto:newsletter@ier.ro)

Web: [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro)