

Europe Rising up to the Challenge

Shaping the Future of the EU in the Context of the Romanian 2019 Presidency



Bucharest
16 November 2017

- For the past decade, the European Union has experienced an unprecedentedly turbulent context

Challenges faced by the EU in the recent past

- Economic crisis
- Sovereign debt crisis
- Fear of Grexit

Current challenges

- Rising terrorist threat
- Migration flows
- Populist movements
- Brexit

- These crises have tested our values, our solidarity, our cohesion and our unity.
- Only one **right** answer: more integration, more unity and more solidarity.
- Europe should seize the opportunity in all these crises. It is time to **refound** the European Union.

The Importance of Values



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- All solutions to Europe's challenges should to be **common, sustainable** and **effective**.
- A European common response should stay **faithful to the fundamental values** that provide the foundation of the common European project.
- Values ensure **unity, cohesion** and **provide inspiration** to neighbors and third countries

The Romanian Presidency of the EU Council will be exercised in the spirit of European values

Romania, a Profoundly Pro-European Member State



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- A decade after accession, Romania continues to be deeply committed to the European project.
- Romania has firmly supported all initiatives designed to advance the EU unity, cohesion and solidarity.
- After Brexit, Romania will matter more in the EU decision-making context, as the 6th largest Member State.

We will use this opportunity to bring our contribution on how to consolidate and enhance the European Union.

A Challenging Semester



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- During the Presidency, Romania will be handling the **very complex files** on the EU Agenda:
 - Brexit
 - Post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework
 - Institutional Changes of the European Commission and the European Parliament
 - Unpredictable international environment.
- **Two key priorities** of the Romanian mandate:
 - Ensuring **the continuity of the EU agenda**
 - **Fostering good cooperation** between the member states and the EU institutions

Several processes are running in parallel in view of ensuring an efficient, timely and integrated preparation:

1. Preparing the logistics

- > 250 informal meetings in Romania to be organised
- > 1,500 experts to be selected and trained ·
- > 20,000 delegates to be hosted
- > 1,000 journalists will report from the field.

2. Setting the priorities

Political agenda as a forward-looking endeavour that puts the citizen at the heart of the process.

- Preparations should bring together the entire spectrum of political and institutional decision-makers, the civil society, mass media, academia and the society at large.
- **The *Forum of public consultations, communication and debate*** is a common discussion platform to ensure that every citizen has the possibility to get involved in the preparations.

- **The contest for selecting the logo for the Presidency**, jointly organised with the Ministry of National Education, was dedicated to high-school and university students
 - More than 200 projects submitted
 - More than 10,000 votes cast
- Winning proposal belongs to Ioan Nicolae Dobrinescu, a 15 years old student at the „I.L.Caragiale” National College in Bucharest and will represent the visual identity of our Presidency throughout the 6 months’ mandate.

An Ambitious Agenda



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- **The Future of the EU** – key topic on the agenda of the Romanian Presidency, which will take place during a crucial time for the future of the European Union.
- The EU will follow **an ambitious working agenda**, as reflection process shifts gears from debates to decisions
 - 19- 20 October European Council: agreement on Leaders' Agenda
 - The European Commission working plan for 2018
- Areas of **key focus**
 - Consolidation of the EMU
 - Reform of the Schengen area
 - Development of Social Pillar of the Union
 - Steps to improve the functioning and increase the efficiency of the EU

- Special European Summit in Sibiu on May 9th 2019
 - the EU leaders will take stock of proposals and will set out the framework for the 2019 – 2024 Strategic Agenda
- European Parliament elections in May 2019
 - with results determining the configuration of the European Commission

- Avoid fragmentation and division and focus on aspects that promote unity
- Promote real convergence, economic growth and opportunities for all
 - Ensure that the EU has efficient tools available to achieve this, such as the Cohesion and Common Agricultural Policy
- Promote the shaping of a post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework with enough resources for policies that generate growth and convergence
 - Difficult topic, considering the pressure to reconsider priorities
 - Romania will make all efforts to ensure a balanced and timely agreement

- No other option but to **advance the integration process and consolidate the EU**
- Citizens need to be part of the decision-making process
- Romania intends to have a positive, constructive role in shaping the future of the EU
- Our objective is to strengthen the European project by effectively tackling the challenges of the current agenda.
- We support a stronger, more united, inclusive and competitive Europe of 27, based on its fundamental values and principles.