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From the Editor



Ambassador's Journal is a publication that reflects the commitment of the Union of Bilateral Chambers of Commerce from Romania to support dialogue and international cooperation at the highest level.

This initiative continues the endeavor launched in 2017, at the initiative of the President of UCCBR, Professor dr. Nasty Vlădoiu, when the „Commercial Diplomacy Journal” was introduced, the first online and printed publication in Romania dedicated exclusively to contributions from Ambassadors accredited to Bucharest.

With the launch of Ambassador's Journal in 2026, we aim to carry this mission forward by offering Their Excellencies a modern framework for expression, reflection, and dialogue on current topics in the field of international relations.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the authors who contributed to this inaugural edition, whose valuable insights and perspectives have made this publication possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alina Gabor". The signature is elegant and cursive, with the first letters of "Alina" and "Gabor" being significantly larger and more stylized.

Editor-in-Chief

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UKRAINE AND ROMANIA: A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH A STRONG REGIONAL FOOTHOLD



H.E. Ihor PROKOPCHUK

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Romania

On 12 March 2026 President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy paid an official visit to Bucharest which resulted in more than a successful round of high-level talks. The signing by Presidents Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Nicușor Dan of the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between Ukraine and Romania, accompanied by a Framework Arrangement on Cooperation in the Energy Sector and a Joint Statement of Intent on the Co-Production of Defense Materiel in Romania, marks a bilateral relationship whose significance now extends beyond the two countries.

The bilateral documents signed in Bucharest in March 2026 reflect a process of strategic evolution that has been unfolding since 2022. What has evolved is not only the intensity of bilateral engagement, but its very nature: from pragmatic multidimensional interaction in the face of Russia’s full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine towards increasingly structured, predictable, and strategic partnership.

A key feature of this transformation is further institutionalization of bilateral dialogue. The strategic partnership builds upon mechanisms already established, like the first joint meeting of the Governments of Ukraine and Romania, and

introduces a more systematic architecture of coordination. The expansion of formats, such as the “2+2” consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, reflects a shared recognition that political dialogue and security cooperation are closely linked. A High level Strategic Commission chaired by the Heads of State is placed at the top of the new architecture of cooperation aiming at filling the political cooperation with practical substance and action.

Strategic alignment requires continuity, policy coherence, and implementation capacity. In this regard, Ukraine and Romania are advancing toward a sound model of cooperation, where engagement is embedded in a stable and forward-looking framework.

Highly important is the practical dimension of the agreements reached on 12 March. The energy arrangement outlines concrete steps to strengthen cross-border interconnections, including electricity transmission projects and the use of Ukraine’s gas storage capacities. In the current environment, where energy infrastructure remains a target of deliberate attacks, be it kinetic or cyber, such initiatives carry not only economic relevance but also contribute to regional resilience. Energy interconnectivity remains central to this process. The development of electricity

interconnector “Porubne – Siret”, as well as the “Suceava–Chernivtsi” line, will become a significant investment in long-term resilience. By strengthening cross-border transmission capacity, such projects contribute to stability of national energy systems and reduce exposure to disruptions. For Ukraine these considerations are particularly urgent and pressing. The past winter was the hardest for Ukraine - Russia executed daily missile and drone strike campaign against Ukraine's energy system, targeting not only electricity generation but also distribution networks and heating infrastructure. For weeks hundreds of thousands of civilians had to survive without electricity, water supply and heating in temperatures below -20C. Since October 2025, the Russian Federation has destroyed or damaged over 10 GW of Ukraine's power generation capacity, hit substations and high-voltage grids across over 20 regions. Faced with such massive attacks, air defence remains a top priority for Ukraine.

The joint statement of the Presidents of Ukraine and Romania on defence production signals significant evolution in defining key areas for cooperation and enhancing mutual confidence. The emphasis on co-production, particularly in the field of unmanned aerial systems, reflects a shift toward deeper industrial partnership. This approach fosters Ukraine's capabilities while simultaneously contributing to the development of Romania's defence sector and a more integrated European defence industrial base.

Logistics and transport connectivity constitute an essential pillar of the partnership. Continued improvements in border infrastructure, customs procedures, and transport corridors are critical for ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of trade flows and increased economic cooperation.

The strengthening of Ukraine-Romania strategic partnership sends a clear and relevant signal to private investors. The Ukrainian–Romanian economic space is emerging as an environment where political alignment reduces risk and creates new opportunities for cross-border cooperation.

This trend has already found reflection in a number of tangible investment cases. Ukrainian industrial group Metinvest has expanded its presence in Romania through the acquisition of production plant in Iași. DTEK has invested in renewable energy projects, including the development of solar power capacities in Romania. In the pharmaceutical sector, Biopharma's planned entry into the Romanian market illustrates the diversity of Ukrainian business activity. Projects are developed for a joint gas and oil extraction in Ukraine.

These examples affirm the premise that a genuine strategic partnership functions as a catalyst for economic interaction and industrial integration. This will serve well the goal of seizing the opportunities relating to reconstruction of Ukraine. “Rebuilding

Ukraine” platform launched in Bucharest in early 2023 and administered by Romania-Ukraine Bilateral Chamber of Commerce has already spurred significant interest of Romanian companies in Ukraine's reconstruction projects. The available data places the estimates of the damage from Russian aggression at over \$600 billion. The estimated damage to infrastructure alone is over \$170 billion. The figures continue to grow due to Russia's ongoing daily attacks on residential areas, critical and civilian infrastructure, industry, logistics corridors. Rebuilding Ukraine is an investment in the security and prosperity of our region and Europe as a whole. Ukraine is committed to a comprehensive recovery process. We aim to restore essential infrastructure, public services, and conditions for normal life in all affected regions. Proximity, transport connections, cultural and economic ties, as well as Romania's growing role as a regional logistics hub, grant Romanian businesses a strategic advantage to be smartly exploited.

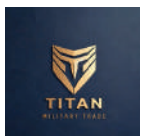
Realising the full potential of Ukraine-Romania strategic partnership requires that Russia's armed aggression ends and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace is restored in Ukraine. Without a credible deterrence to Russia, which is a principal long-term security threat to Europe, any large-scale projects, including energy projects in the Black Sea region, face risks. It therefore remains imperative that international solidarity with Ukraine and multifaceted support for the country are preserved whereas the pressure must be further piled up on the aggressor state until it stops the aggression and returns to the tenets of international law.



SECURE REBUILD RO-UA 2026

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Commerce for the Reconstruction of
Ukraine



ROMANIA-UKRAINE EXPO-FORUM

Defense Industry & Strategic Trade

LOCATION:
Brasov, Romania

DATE:
Sep. 16 to Sep. 18

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THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND ROMANIA IS ENORMOUS



H.E. Chen FENG

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Romania

The traditional friendship between China and Romania has a long history, and Romania was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1949, the two countries have always respected each other and treated each other as equals. Bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and have consistently moved forward steadily. In 2004, the two countries established the Comprehensive Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation. Romania is China's fourth largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2025, bilateral trade in goods reached US\$13.83 billion, a year-on-year increase of 2.8%, setting a new historical record. Currently, approximately 14,000 Chinese companies are registered in Romania, with investments exceeding US\$2 billion. Exchanges between China and Romania in culture, tourism, and education are becoming increasingly close. The two countries have established cultural centers in their respective capitals, and China has also established five Confucius Institutes and more than ten Confucius Classrooms in Romania. Last year, China decided to extend its unilateral visa-free policy for Romanian citizens until the end of 2026, resulting in a significant increase in the number of Romanian citizens using this policy to travel in China.

The economies of China and Romania are highly complementary, with a solid foundation for bilateral economic and trade cooperation and enormous potential for further collaboration. In terms of trade, Romania is a major grain producer and exporter in Europe, known as the "bread basket of Europe." There is broad scope for cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries, and China is willing to work with Romania to actively promote the export of Romanian agricultural products to China.

Romania has a strong market demand for consumer goods such as electric vehicles, new energy equipments, home appliances, mobile phones, which are key products driving bilateral trade growth. Regarding investment cooperation, the number of Chinese companies visiting Romania to explore investment opportunities is steadily increasing. They hope to leverage Romania's advantages as an EU member state in terms of talent and policies to strengthen investment in renewable energy, information and communication, and automotive and electronics manufacturing industries, using Romania as a base to actively integrate into the EU's industrial and supply chains.

Recently, the annual "Two Sessions"—the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress and the Fourth Session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—were successfully held in Beijing, outlining a grand blueprint for the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan. China will continue to steadily move towards high-quality development, expand high-level opening-up, firmly uphold the multilateral trading system, and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with countries around the world, including Romania. My colleagues at the Chinese Embassy and I are willing to work with all sectors of Romanian society to further strengthen exchanges in various fields, seize the broad opportunities brought about by platforms and mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Central and Eastern European Countries Cooperation, promote the sustained, healthy and stable development of China-Romania relations, and bring more practical results to benefit the two countries and their people.



115 YEARS OF SWITZERLAND-ROMANIA FRIENDSHIP: A ROBUST AND EVOLVING PARTNERSHIP



H.E. Massimo BAGGI

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to Romania

In 2026, Switzerland and Romania mark 115 years of uninterrupted diplomatic relations, which have evolved into an enduring friendship throughout history, encompassing a wide range of contacts and interactions that have helped build a solid and remarkably vivid partnership today, shaped by pragmatism, openness, resilience and shared values.

Established in 1911, diplomatic relations between our two countries took root during a period of profound transformation in Europe. Despite the upheavals of the twentieth century—from world wars to ideological divisions—the bond between Switzerland and Romania was marked by a steadfast commitment to continuity and constructive engagement laid the foundation for the close cooperation we enjoy today.

Today, 115 years on, Swiss–Romanian relations are defined by a dynamic, forward-looking cooperation spanning a wide range of sectors. The political dialogue is as constant and consistent as possible and economic collaboration has steadily intensified. The two countries also enjoy excellent cooperation at the multilateral level, sharing common views on major issues on the European and international agenda. Over the decades, both nations have consistently found common ground in their commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity, as well as to democratic governance, respect for international law and human dignity.

For Switzerland—a close partner of the European Union with an independent stance—Romania is a valued interlocutor and a strategic partner, playing an important role

in regional cooperation, engagement with the EU and the promotion of stability in Southeast Europe. In light of the current security situation in the region, Switzerland commends Romania’s leadership, resilience and contribution to regional stability, including its steadfast support for Ukraine.

Economic cooperation remains a cornerstone of our relationship. Fostering long-term, resilient partnerships that benefit both countries is one of my central priorities. In this context, economic diplomacy lies at the heart of the Embassy’s work. As Ambassador, my role includes advocating for a stable, transparent, and predictable business environment, while promoting responsible investment practices aligned with Swiss values.

The Embassy’s joint efforts with the Chamber of Commerce Switzerland-Romania focus in particular on supporting innovation, advancing digitalization and promoting green and sustainable growth—areas in which Switzerland brings recognized expertise. Facilitating connections between Swiss small and medium-sized enterprises and Romanian partners, as well as encouraging public–private partnerships, are integral elements of this broader diplomatic engagement.

With total investments of EUR 3.54 billion, Switzerland ranks among Romania’s top ten foreign investors with a diversified portfolio of investments in high-value manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, financial services, engineering and sustainable technologies, as a reflection of the strong confidence in this country’s economic potential and its highly skilled workforce.

Renowned for their excellence, innovation and responsible business conduct, Swiss enterprises contribute meaningfully to Romania's development, innovation ecosystem and sustainability goals, creating skilled jobs, transferring expertise and investing in long-term projects with tangible societal impact.

While navigating the current complex macroeconomic environment marked by inflationary pressures and geopolitical uncertainty, the Swiss investors remain committed yet attentive, in line with the broader sentiment of all foreign investors here who expect stability, transparency, legal predictability and fair competition, as essential conditions for sustaining confidence and more future investment.

Such a value-driven business mindset—centered on quality and reliability, innovation and efficiency, regulatory clarity, long-term stability and prudent risk management—is also a characteristic of the Swiss SMEs, which we would like to see much more present on this market. Besides all comparative economic advantages mentioned above, which have attracted significant investments here of the big Swiss multinationals, any strategy aimed at encouraging the Swiss SMEs' expansion into Romania, must combine economic incentives with confidence-building measures, partnership development and effective risk mitigation.

Our bilateral trade has also grown steadily, reaching approximately CHF 3.8 billion, making Romania our leading trading partner in Southeast Europe.

Beyond trade and investment, cooperation between Switzerland and Romania is firmly anchored in education, research and innovation. Academic exchanges, joint research initiatives and institutional partnerships between universities and research centers foster excellence, mobility and knowledge transfer. These collaborations which bring added value to both countries, are essential not only for economic competitiveness, but also for addressing shared challenges such as digital transformation, climate change and public health.

In parallel, the Swiss–Romanian Cooperation Programme—part of Switzerland's contribution to EU cohesion—stands as a tangible expression of solidarity in action. With total funding of CHF 221.5 million, Romania is the second-largest beneficiary of the Second Swiss Contribution which implements projects across eleven thematic areas aligned with national development priorities and citizens' needs.

These Swiss-funded initiatives already deliver concrete results in areas such as vocational education and training, support for SMEs and innovation, research, healthcare, energy efficiency, civil society, and the social inclusion of vulnerable groups—further strengthening this dynamic bilateral partnership beyond the economic sphere.

A retrospective view of Swiss–Romanian cooperation also highlights the vital importance of the people-to-people dimension of our relationship. Cultural exchanges, artistic collaborations and partnerships between civil society organizations deepen mutual understanding between Swiss and Romanian citizens. They

remind us that diplomacy is not only conducted between governments and institutions, but also lived through everyday human connections.

This anniversary comes at a moment of global complexity. Europe and the wider world face unprecedented challenges—from geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty to climate change and rapid technological transformation. In this context, the value of trusted partnerships such as that between Switzerland and Romania cannot be overstated.

Looking back, Swiss–Romanian relations have evolved into a trusted partnership that goes beyond bilateral interests, contributing to regional stability and reinforcing a shared commitment to a Europe rooted in cooperation and dialogue. Looking ahead, both countries are determined to further deepen this relationship by strengthening economic ties, expanding cooperation in innovation and sustainability, and continuing joint efforts to promote social cohesion through durable and impactful projects.

As this anniversary turns into a moment of reflection on shared achievements and the path ahead, it's also an excellent opportunity to celebrate the consistency and trust that define our relationship, through a series of events showcasing Swiss–Romanian cultural synergies and symbolic expressions of Swiss identity, creativity, precision and know-how.

Among these, two flagship initiatives stand out: a contemporary dance performance in April by artists from the Zürich University of the Arts in collaboration with students from the University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest, and an event planned for June, aiming to honor one of Switzerland's most globally recognized ambassadors and symbols of excellence—Swiss watches.

For me, representing my country here during such a dynamic period is a true privilege. As Ambassador of Switzerland to Romania, over nearly three years since my posting, I have witnessed firsthand the energy, creativity and ambition that define this excellent bilateral partnership, which has confirmed with the passage of time that its strength lies not only in the rich historical legacy, but also in a shared determination to evolve and respond jointly to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

I look forward to continuing this mission with the same engagement and dedication and to celebrating future successes. Switzerland and Romania have much to learn from one another—and even more to achieve together and I remain confident that serving as Swiss Ambassador to Romania will continue to be a meaningful and rewarding experience to me.

On behalf of the Government of Switzerland, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Romanian partners and friends—in government, business, academia and civil society—and to all those who contribute every day to building and nurturing this exceptional friendship. May the next chapter of Swiss–Romanian relations be marked by an even deeper understanding, enduring trust, shared prosperity and lasting success.

THE CRISIS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM



H.E. Hassan ABOUYOUB

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to Romania

The ministers participating in the Punta del Este conference, which launched the Uruguay Round in September 1986, could not have imagined the developments that the WTO has undergone in recent years.

While the creation of the WTO was not formally on the Round's agenda, the adoption in Marrakesh in April 1994 of the decision to establish the WTO was an historic event.

The agreements reached under GATT 1994 concluded the most ambitious multilateral trade negotiations ever undertaken.

Thanks to these agreements, a single legal framework for world trade was adopted.

Subsequently, the Round broadened the scope of trade rules to include new areas, such as services with GATS, and intellectual property with the TRIPS Agreement. Sensitive sectors such as agriculture and textiles are now covered by stronger multilateral discipline, replacing protectionist exemptions.

The Round significantly strengthened the Dispute Settlement Mechanism. The system became more legalistic, integrated, and automated, with the "Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU)" and the establishment of a Dispute Settlement Body. The trading sys-

tem thus gained credibility and became more predictable, addressing concerns raised at the launch of the Round.

The lack of transparency in trade policies was resolved through the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). This mechanism, which originated at the Montreal Ministerial Conference, was subsequently integrated into the WTO, becoming the institutional instrument for the periodic review of members' trade policies.

Finally, the multilateral system, which had been fragmented and sometimes inconsistent, underwent a thorough reform. It now includes more detailed rules for investment-related measures (TRIMS), subsidies, safeguards, import licenses, rules of origin, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

This historic achievement, which enabled unprecedented growth in global trade of both goods and services, began to be jeopardized when the US refused to appoint its judges to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism in 2019.

A breach was opened in the system painstakingly established during the Uruguay Round. We can now speak of a profound crisis affecting the multilateral system.

Indeed:

- The multilateral system based on common rules is severely weakened.

The founding principles of non-discrimination, reciprocity, and the Most Favored Nation (MFN) clause are being sidelined.

The WTO's pivotal role in managing global trade rules is compromised.

The weakening of the WTO's legal authority, coupled with the paralysis of dispute settlement, will have unforeseen consequences.

How did we reach this stage of decay in the multilateral system? Several reasons:

- The divergent interests of WTO members have reached a critical point. Consequently, the consensus rule, the basis of the decision-making system within the General Council, is blocking any attempt to reform.
- The resurgence of protectionism in all regions of the world, the proliferation of regional agreements, and the emergence of unilateral trade policies are undermining both the spirit and the letter of the Marrakech Agreements. The episode of the unilateral increase in US tariffs, despite the recent Supreme Court decision.

What are the foreseeable consequences?

The cost of these tariff measures primarily affects the United States itself. According to the ECB, US importers and consumers bear the burden of the shock; foreign exporters absorb only a small portion. The ECB estimates that a 10-point increase in tariffs can lead to a decrease of approximately 4.3% in import volumes in the affected categories.

Regarding the inflationary effects of this measure, some increases are observed at the consumer level, amounting to 15% to 20%.

More generally, the 2025 tariff increase has raised average US tariffs from 2.4% to 9.6%, the highest level in approximately 80 years. Although the measured effect on growth is marginal, it is also estimated that approximately 90% of the cost of the tariffs has been passed on to importers.

In terms of employment, 100,000 jobs have been affected by these tariffs.

While 72% of world trade continues to comply with multilateral rules, it should be noted that compliance with notification requirements has been compromised: only about sixty of the 166 member countries continue to adhere to them.

In conclusion,

The crisis in the WTO system is multidimensional:

It is primarily juridical:

Since December 11, 2019, the Appellate Body has been paralyzed, depriving the system of its supreme recourse. Consequently, international trade law is losing its binding force, especially for the weakest countries, which relied on an impartial arbiter against the major powers.

It is also political:

The consensus rule among 166 members makes reforms very difficult. The ministerial meeting in Yaoundé at the end of March will illustrate this impasse. Indeed, the disagreement over renewing the moratorium on customs duties applied to e-commerce is revealing a shift towards plurilateral agreements that weaken the entire multilateral framework.

Finally, the crisis is geopolitical:

The major trading powers are abusing tariffs, subsidies, and quantitative restrictions to manage their foreign trade flows.

From a space of regulated cooperation, the WTO is moving to a fragmented group of actors, splintering into competing blocs that clash and seriously threaten the prospects of the international economy.

The biggest victim will be the group of emerging countries, which are losing their marginal bargaining power and the rule of law that protects them against hegemonic blocks.

Ultimately, while the dynamics of trade are expected to demonstrate their resilience, the regulatory role of the WTO is, to say the least, compromised. It is therefore up to the secondary players in global trade to join forces with those who continue to believe in the rule of law, particularly the EU, to save the system and begin its reform to guarantee its sustainability.

SPAIN AND ROMANIA IN A CHANGING EUROPE: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY



H.E. José Antonio HERNÁNDEZ PÉREZ-SOLÓRZANO

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to Romania

In a period marked by profound geopolitical transformations, renewed security challenges, and accelerated global interdependence, diplomatic relations between European partners acquire a renewed strategic significance. Spain and Romania, though geographically distant, are united by shared values, common commitments within the European Union and NATO, and converging interests in the stability and security of Europe's Southern and Eastern flanks. This article reflects on the evolving bilateral relationship between Spain and Romania and explores avenues for deeper cooperation in security, economic development, cultural exchange, and multilateral diplomacy, drawing on recent concrete examples of our partnership in action.

The European continent is living through one of the most complex strategic moments since the end of the Cold War. Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine continues to challenge the unity of Europe and the resilience of our democratic societies. In this context, the security of the Black Sea region and the stability of Europe's Eastern flank are inseparable from developments in the Mediterranean and the Southern neighbourhood. Hybrid threats, disinformation campaigns, cyber risks, energy vulnerabilities, and irregular migration flows demonstrate that European security is indivisible. In 2026, as Spain and Romania mark 145 years of diplomatic relations, this reflection gains a special historical resonance, reminding us that today's strategic partnership is rooted in a long tradition of dialogue, trust, and mutual respect.

Spain and Romania, as committed members of both the European Union and NATO, approach these challenges from complementary strategic perspectives. Spain has traditionally focused on the Southern flank and the

Mediterranean, while Romania plays a central role in ensuring deterrence and defence on NATO's Eastern flank and in the Black Sea region. Today, these two perspectives converge more than ever. Security in the East and stability in the South are two sides of the same European strategic equation.

This shared understanding is reflected in Spain's concrete contribution to NATO's deterrence and defence posture in Romania. Spanish troops participate in the Multinational Battle Group in Cincu, under French leadership, reinforcing NATO's forward presence on the Eastern flank. In addition, Spain contributes to NATO's integrated air and missile defence through the deployment of a long-range radar detachment in Schitu, enhancing air surveillance and the protection of our shared skies. These contributions are not symbolic gestures; they represent tangible commitments to collective defence and to Romania's security as part of the broader European and transatlantic security architecture¹.

The strategic importance of this cooperation was powerfully underlined by the visit of His Majesty the King of Spain to Spanish troops deployed in Romania in June 2025. This visit — the first by a European Head of State following the election of President Nicușor Dan sent a clear political message: Spain's commitment to the security of NATO's Eastern flank and to the strength of bilateral relations with Romania is firm, visible, and enduring.

Beyond security, the bilateral relationship between Spain and Romania has gained renewed momentum within the European project.

Romania's full accession to the Schengen Area as of 1 January 2025 represents not only a historic achievement for the Romanian people, but also a strengthening of European cohesion and freedom of movement. For Spain, Romania's full integration into Schengen is a success for the European Union as a whole, enhancing connectivity, economic

exchange, and mutual trust among Member States.

Economic relations between our countries provide another concrete example of the depth and potential of our partnership. Bilateral trade has surpassed €6 billion, and more than 300 Spanish companies are firmly established in Romania, contributing to key sectors such as infrastructure, construction, renewable energy, and services. These figures reflect not only economic dynamism, but also confidence in Romania as a stable and attractive partner within the European market. Strengthening economic diplomacy and promoting sustainable investment aligned with Europe’s green and digital transitions remain shared priorities.

At the heart of the Spain–Romania relationship, however, lies a human dimension that no strategic document can fully capture. More than 600.000 Romanian citizens live and work in Spain. They are our neighbours, colleagues, friends, and family members.

This community forms a living bridge between our societies, embodying European integration in everyday life. In recent years, Romania has demonstrated European solidarity by sending fire fighting teams to support Spain during devastating wildfires, while individual stories of courage and sacrifice have reminded us of the shared values of humanity and solidarity that unite our nations.

Cultural and educational cooperation adds a vital long-term dimension to this partnership. Spanish language and culture enjoy growing appreciation in Romania, supported by bilingual education programs, university lectorates in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, and Timișoara, and the work of the Instituto Cervantes.

cultural events, and built the largest Hispanic library collection in the country. These efforts are not merely cultural initiatives; they are strategic investments in mutual understanding and in the next generation of European citizens.

Looking ahead, the strategic partnership between Spain and Romania can be further strengthened through deeper political dialogue, enhanced coordination within the EU and NATO, and joint initiatives addressing emerging challenges such as energy security, technological sovereignty, and societal resilience against disinformation. Strengthening connectivity between Southern and Eastern Europe both physical and institutional — can further reinforce cohesion within the European project.

In conclusion, Spain and Romania stand at a defining moment for Europe. By bridging the Southern and Eastern dimensions of European security and cooperation, our two countries contribute to a more stable, resilient, and united Europe. The celebration in 2026 of 145 years of diplomatic relations between Spain and Romania is not merely a commemoration of the past, but a reminder of the continuity, depth, and strategic maturity of our partnership — and a call to project this legacy into the future.

In times of uncertainty, partnership is not merely a diplomatic choice; it is a strategic necessity. The Spanish–Romanian relationship grounded in concrete action, shared values, and strong human ties, offers a compelling example of how European solidarity is translated into meaningful cooperation.

Población extranjera a 1 de enero. Principales nacionalidades

	Censo 2025		Censo 2024		Variación 2024	
	Número de personas	% respecto al total de extranjeros	Número de personas	% respecto al total de extranjeros	Absoluta	Relativa (%)
Marruecos	968.999	14,0	920.693	14,2	48.306	5,2
Rumanía	609.270	8,8	620.463	9,5	-11.193	-1,8
Colombia	676.534	9,8	578.477	8,9	98.057	17,0
Italia	345.777	5,0	325.358	5,0	20.419	6,3
Venezuela	377.809	5,5	325.254	5,0	52.555	16,2
Reino Unido	266.462	3,9	272.402	4,2	-5.940	-2,2
China	238.372	3,4	226.718	3,5	11.654	5,1
Perú	260.544	3,8	219.643	3,4	40.901	18,6
Ucrania	202.105	2,9	210.012	3,2	-7.907	-3,8

Source: INE Annual Population Census 2025

Celebrating three decades of activity in Romania, the Instituto Cervantes has welcomed over 15,000 students, trained more than 1,000 teachers of Spanish, organized more than 3,200

I BRAZIL–ROMANIA FORUM ON CREATIVE ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY



H.E. Ricardo GUERRA DE ARAÚJO

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Romania

The First Brazil–Romania Creative Economy, Innovation and Technology Forum, organized by the Embassy of Brazil in Bucharest, will take place from 18 to 23 May 2026 and aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of creative industries, innovation, and technology. The Forum will bring together companies, institutions, start-ups, universities, and cultural organizations from both countries through B2B meetings, business missions, and thematic conferences.

On 19 May 2026, a dedicated Colloquium on the Creative Economy will be held at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE), providing an academic platform for dialogue on creativity, innovation, and sustainable development. By leveraging Romania's position as an emerging EU innovation hub and Brazil's global strength in creative and cultural industries, the Forum seeks to generate concrete business opportunities, promote the internationalization of creative products and services, and foster medium- and long-term partnerships, with the institutional support of APEX-Brasil.

Following the organization of two trade forums dedicated to industry and services in 2024 and 2025, in partnership with the chambers of commerce and industry of this country, the Embassy of Brazil in Bucharest will organize, in May 2026, the First Brazil–Romania Creative Economy, Innovation and Technology Forum, aimed at celebrating cultural diversity and sustainable development. This is an unprecedented initiative designed to bring together agents, institutions, and companies from both countries that operate across the various segments of the creative economy and technological innovation. The Forum will bring together representatives from sectors such as Communication and Marketing, Literature, Visual Arts,

Editorial Translation, Audiovisual, Trade and Investment Promotion, Tourism, Creative Technology and Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, among others.

The objective is to create a structured environment for dialogue, cooperation, and opportunity generation, strengthening the presence of creative and technological products and services in the Brazilian and Romanian markets. The initiative seeks to attract companies, start-ups, creative entrepreneurs, and representative institutions from both countries, offering a meeting space designed to foster partnerships, strengthen professional networks, and expand the circulation of cultural and technological goods and services. The event has the institutional support of APEX-Brasil.

Brazil and Romania maintain well-established diplomatic and economic relations, with growing exchanges in areas such as investment, trade, education, culture, science, and technology. Romania, a member of the European Union and an emerging innovation hub in Eastern Europe, stands out for its strength in the IT sector, creative services, audiovisual production, and cultural industries. Brazil, in turn, is globally recognized as a cultural and technological powerhouse, with a strong international presence in music, audiovisual content, design, literature, handicrafts, fashion, gaming, and culture-related technologies. The presence in Romania of two major Brazilian companies, VTEX and Stefanini, demonstrates the confidence of the Brazilian private sector in the Romanian business environment and highlights the country's potential for the expansion of creative and technology-driven companies. These companies act as strategic bridges for the expansion of

partnerships, investments, and joint initiatives in innovation and digital services. Although bilateral trade remains modest in volume, it presents significant potential for diversification, particularly in segments with higher added value and intellectual content. The complementarity between the two markets, Romania as a technological hub and Brazil as a cultural and creative reference, creates favorable conditions for new business partnerships, joint projects, and the circulation of creative goods and services.

The Forum will be held through the organization of business missions, business meetings (B2B), and thematic conferences, enabling companies, institutions, and experts from both countries to interact in a direct and structured manner. This dynamic will enhance mutual understanding of productive capacities, facilitate the identification of concrete opportunities for cooperation, and create a favorable environment for the development of joint projects, investments, and medium- and long-term commercial partnerships.

The audiovisual sector represents one of the most strategic areas for strengthening commercial relations between Brazil and Romania. The Forum provides a platform for film and television co-productions, partnerships between independent production companies, distribution agreements, professional exchanges, post-production services, animation and visual effects, as well as filming opportunities and regional incentives. This is a sector with significant potential for value generation, content exports, and the expansion of the cultural and commercial presence of both countries.

Brazil's music scene, from pop to classical, and one of the most exportable in the world, finds in Romania a vibrant market for festivals, electronic production, and digital consumption, creating opportunities for tours, licensing, co-productions, and the circulation of artists. In the field of literature and translation, growing Romanian interest in foreign literature and Brazil's openness to authors from Eastern Europe encourage editorial partnerships, translation programs, literary fairs, and writers' residencies. The visual arts also benefit from joint exhibitions, curator exchanges, participation in international art fairs, and the circulation of visual artists. In the fields of technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence, Romania is recognized for its excellence in IT and software engineering, while Brazil is advancing in creative technology start-ups, digital platforms, gaming, design, and AI applications. The convergence of creativity and technology opens opportunities for the development of digital products, AI solutions applied to culture and entertainment, creative education platforms, virtual and augmented reality projects, and services in design, branding, and digital communication.

The target audience of the I Brazil–Romania Forum on Creative Economy, Innovation and Technology consists of creative and technology-driven companies, start-ups, universities and research centers, as well as cultural institutions, museums, and art galleries interested in internationalization, bilateral cooperation, and the development of joint projects. The event is also aimed at professionals, managers, and decision-makers working in

the fields of creative economy, innovation, technology, and culture, offering a high-level platform for networking, knowledge exchange, identification of business opportunities, and the establishment of strategic partnerships between the two countries.

The I Brazil–Romania Forum on Creative Economy will be a unique opportunity for companies, institutions, and entrepreneurs from both countries to initiate strategic contacts, identify synergies, and establish the foundations for future commercial transactions, cultural partnerships, and innovation projects. By bringing together creativity, technology, audiovisual sectors, and economic diplomacy, the event opens a new chapter in bilateral cooperation and paves the way for a more dynamic, diversified, and sustainable relationship between Brazil and Romania.

In terms of expected outcomes, the I Brazil–Romania Forum on Creative Economy, Innovation and Technology aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries by promoting the generation of qualified B2B contacts and the establishment of lasting strategic partnerships. The event is expected to contribute to the identification of concrete business opportunities, stimulate the organization of future trade missions, and encourage joint projects in the fields of creative economy, technology, and innovation. In addition, the Forum should enhance the visibility and presence of Brazilian companies and institutions in the Romanian market, fostering the internationalization of creative products and services, the exchange of knowledge, and the consolidation of a medium- and long-term agenda of economic and cultural cooperation between Brazil and Romania.

The JKR Agency will act as the official digital partner of the I Brazil–Romania Forum on Creative Economy, Innovation and Technology. The agency will support the event through the conception and development of the Forum's visual identity, including the creation of the official logo, as well as the production of promotional and institutional materials. In addition, JKR Agency will be responsible for the digital communication strategy and for promoting the Forum on social media, contributing to increasing the event's visibility, engaging strategic audiences, and strengthening the positioning of the Forum as a contemporary platform for dialogue between creativity, innovation, and economic diplomacy.



Professor Dr. Cătălin Copăescu
Founder and Executive Director of the
Surgical Training Institute

The logo for Surgical Training Institute, featuring the letters 'sti' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the letters, and a small white arrowhead points to the right above the 'i'.

surgical
training
institute

At Surgical Training Institute, powered by Ponderas Academic Hospital, we organize educational activities, courses, symposiums and clinical immersions addressed to both Romanian and foreign surgeons who are willing to develop their skills in laparoscopic surgery and endoscopic techniques.

Our team of 40 experts from Romania and abroad has over 18 years of experience in organizing courses and have trained over 2000 participants so far.

Surgical Training Institute

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CROATIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY DYNAMIC IN ALL AREAS OF COOPERATION IN RECENT YEARS



H.E. Marija KAPITANOVIĆ

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to Romania

Croatian-Romanian relations are growing stronger year after year. We are partner and friendly countries. Besides the dynamic and very good political relations, important achievements have been made recently when it comes to increasing of the participation of Croatian companies in Romania, as well as when it comes to presenting Croatian culture to the Romanian public.

Croatian engineering company Končar, a regional leader in power engineering and a top manufacturer of rail vehicles, currently participate in the revitalization of the Vidraru hydropower plant in Romania. Končar Elektroindustrija signed a contract as part of a consortium led by the prominent Romanian company Electromontaj to carry out the revitalization of Hidroelectrica's Vidraru hydropower plant. The total contract value exceeds 188 million euros, with Končar's share close to 80 million euros. The Vidraru hydropower plant, strategically situated on the Argeş, River, is a cornerstone of Romania's energy infrastructure. The seven yearlong project aims to boost the plant's efficiency, extend its operational life, and reinforce Romania's overall energy capabilities.

Moreover, we welcome further strengthening of the collaboration among our ports. To our satisfaction, the cooperation between the port of Vukovar and Constanța has been developing very well over the last years and reason for more satisfaction is that both ports are looking for further enlargement of transport volumes.

Another very encouraging outcome is that the port au-

thorities of the cities of Vukovar and Galați have recently established cooperation in the range of inland waterway transport.

An important impulse for Croatian-Romanian economic relations is certainly the reintroduction of the Croatian national carrier direct line between the two capitals, Zagreb and Bucharest, last summer. After a couple of years' break, the flights from Zagreb to Bucharest resumed in a summer schedule on behalf of the Croatia Airlines. The direct line facilitates economic connections and opens the door to Romanian visitors to enjoy the old coastal towns on the Adriatic Sea, such as Split founded within the ancient Roman walls of the Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, health resorts, sailing around Kornati National Park which encompasses 89 scattered islets, to enjoy Plitvice waterfalls or simply to enjoy the gastronomy and landscapes of the Istrian peninsula. We believe that every Romanian visitor will promote our friendship and cooperation.

As for tourism, we are pleased to see the increase in the number of Romanian tourists visiting Croatia. In 2025, 161.467 Romanian tourists chose Croatia for their summer holiday destination.

The sphere of cultural exchange has also been marked by an exquisite project presenting Croatian fine arts in Romania. The exhibition *Parallel Lines / High Modernism in Croatia 1949 – 1998*, from the collection of the National Museum of Modern Art in Zagreb, was officially opened at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest, in December 2024 and the visitors could

enjoy it until the October 2025. This exhibition was set up in the impressive gallery space of 1,500 square meters on the first floor of the Palace of the Parliament, and was based on the curatorial concept developed by the Modern Art Museum director in Zagreb, Mr Branko Franceschi.

The Parallel Lines exhibition showcased more than 180 artworks of the most prominent Croatian artists that reflect the diversity of visual art production in Croatia between 1949 and 1998 when the last Croatian territories that had been occupied during the Croatian War of Independence were reintegrated. During that remarkable cultural period, particularly in the 1960s, Zagreb emerged as an international hub for experimentation in the arts. General inclinations toward anti-aesthetics and anti-mainstream production spread from visual arts to music, film and poetry which were locally supported by international manifestations such as the Zagreb Music Biennial and international theatre and film festivals.

The exhibition was on view at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest until October 2025. The exhibition was made possible with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Zagreb, and the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Bucharest. It was presented under the high patronage of the Croatian Parliament and it is one of the largest cultural projects representing Croatia in Romania since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between our two countries.

On the political level, last couple of years were marked by an intense level of exchange of the visits of Croatian high representatives to Bucharest and Romanian visits at government level to Zagreb. In the first place, the official visit of the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Zagreb and the bilateral consultations on the level of State Secretaries for European Affairs in Zagreb. We look forward to host Romanian high officials for the summit of the heads of the parliaments of the Three Seas Initiative and for the summit of the heads of states or governments that will take place in April in Dubrovnik. The consultations between the high-level representatives of Croatia and Romania proved once again that Croatia and Romania share many similar positions when it comes to the EU agenda.

A strong bond between our countries are our respective minorities. A historical Croatian minority in Romania, most of whom live in Caraș-Severin County, and the Romanian minority in Croatia. Both communities' rights are guaranteed in the Constitutions of respective countries. We are particularly glad that Istro-Romanian

dialect, spoken in eastern Istria, is being taught in one school in the multicultural Croatian peninsula. It is a highly valued part of our cultural and linguistic heritage.

The Croatian minority in Romania speaks modern Croatian while simultaneously preserving their Karaš dialect as an exceptionally important element of their identity. Since last year, a very important project has been underway – renovation of Bilingual Romanian-Croatian High School building in Karaševo with the financial support of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

An increased presence of Croatia in the economic and cultural spheres in Romania contributes to a better connection and understanding of our two countries. Croatia is a maritime country; the country is very well known for its Adriatic Sea beyond its borders. The intense blue and crystal-clear Adriatic Sea with the scent of salt and pine trees has been a gateway to the world for Croats, for many past centuries. It was especially an area of commercial and cultural interactions. The fact that we are a maritime country and a long-standing tourism destination has made us open and approachable as a nation, and it remains so today.

I strongly believe that the relations between our two countries will continue to develop in a spirit of openness towards each other, understanding of our specificities, and mutual respect. That is the essence of the European Union, to be united while at the same time respecting our diversities.

OVERVIEW ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND ROMANIA



H.E. Mu'tazz Abed Al-Rahman Taha KHASAWNEH

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Romania

Diplomatic relations between Jordan and Romania date back to 1965. The two countries share close and longstanding ties of friendship. Both countries' leadership are always keen for continuing to enhance their friendly cooperation to achieve concrete goals on the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Jordan has always been a close and reliable partner to Romania on the bilateral level and through the strategic EU-Jordanian partnership. The two countries have cooperated on a number of regional and international issues. Strengthening political and economic cooperation, promoting regional stability, and sustaining humanitarian efforts have been the cornerstones of the bilateral relationship between Jordan and Romania. This strong foundation shall enable both countries to elevate their relations into a strategic partnership in the future.

Bilateral Representation

Jordan maintains an Embassy in Bucharest since 1974; likewise Romania has an embassy in Amman since then. Also, preparations are underway to open a Jordanian consulate in the city of Cluj-Napoca during the spring of 2026.

Political Relations

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan paid an official visit to Romania in 2009. This visit had a lot of importance for enhancing relations between the two countries.

Two rounds of political consultations were convened between Jordan and Romania; the last round was held in Amman in March 2023.

Jordan and Romania remains committed to the peace and security in the Middle East region and Ukraine.

Both countries stresses the need to achieve a comprehensive and just peace based on the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and rejects any change in the historical status of the city of Jerusalem and its holy sites.

Jordan appreciates Romania's numerous efforts in providing substantial aid to Gaza and medical support to many Palestinian children in Gaza.

Jordan and Romania are also partners in promoting international law and legitimacy as well as global security and prosperity, and they share perspectives in regard to addressing issues of global concern such as terrorism, violent extremism, illegal drug trade, organized crime, and trafficking in persons.

Economic and Trade Relations

Jordan has traditionally strong trading ties with Romania. In 2025 up to Oct, Jordan's exports to Romania amounted to USD 2.49 million increasing by 43%, while imports amounted to USD 454.58 million increasing by 43%, when compared to the same period of 2024.

Jordan's top imports from Romania are live sheep, barley and hard wheat, while Jordan's top exports to Romania are mineral or chemical fertilizers, diammonium hydrogen orthophosphate, mineral or chemical fertilizers.

The two countries has signed a Trade Agreement in 1995, by which the Jordanian-Romanian Joint Committee was established. In addition, in March 2022, an agreement was signed to establish Jordanian-Romanian Business Council aiming to encourage joint cooperation between the two business communities, which contributes to increasing the volume of trade exchange, expanding the base of economic activities between the two countries, exchanging investment information, and exchanging visits of trade delegations in both directions.

Cultural and Tourist Cooperation

A dynamic cultural exchange exists between both countries, supported by various academic and professional programs. Upon an agreement between the two countries, around (26) Jordanian students are granted scholarships in the Romanian universities on a yearly basis.

Cultural and Tourist Cooperation

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Jordan and Romania are also bound together through people-to-people exchanges and contacts in business, the arts, education and research, sports and recreation. Over the past years, the Jordanian – Romanian partnership has thrived due to the steadfast bonds between the peoples of the two countries. In 2025, around (6227) Romanian tourists visited Jordan. It's worth noting that the number of Romanian tourists to Jordan increased in 2025 compared to the year 2024, with a relative change of (85.6%).

INDEPENDENT, PERMANENT NEUTRAL TURKMENISTAN



H.E. Annamamet ANNAYEV

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to Romania

Important aspects of Turkmenistan's historical development.

Turkmenistan, a country in Central Asia, gained its independence in 1991. Every year on 27 September Turkmenistan celebrates its Independence Day. The most important component of Turkmenistan's development is its status of Permanent Neutrality. Turkmenistan's first official declaration on neutrality was made at the 1992 Helsinki Summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 1995, at the Islamabad Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Turkmenistan's initiative for permanent neutrality was formally welcomed. Later that same year, Turkmenistan joined the Non-Aligned Movement, which expressed its support in the Cartagena Declaration. Finally, on December 12, 1995, Turkmenistan's neutrality was endorsed by 185 member states of the United Nations. Since that historic day, Turkmenistan has embraced this international mandate with responsibility and determination. Neutrality has empowered our country to become a reliable partner, a bridge of dialogue, and a constructive actor in international and regional affairs. Subsequently, this status was confirmed twice by UN resolutions in 2015 and 2025. It should be noted that there are only a few countries in the world that have declared their neutrality, but Turkmenistan's

neutrality is the first and only one declared by the UN.

Formats of Turkmenistan's economic co-operation. Goals and priorities.

Turkmenistan is a member of many international organizations such as:

- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO);
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (associate member);
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD);
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);
- International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE);
- Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Regardless of the format of co-operation –

international-multilateral or bilateral – Turkmenistan is guided by the principles of openness, equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit. Priority goals in economic terms are to build a high-tech industry, a developed innovation and digital industry and transport and logistics infrastructure. Over the past ten years Turkmenistan has invested more than 15 billion US dollars in the development of transport and logistics infrastructure alone. The International Sea Port in the city of Turkmenbashi, the International Railway Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran, airports have been built and reconstructed, hundreds of kilometers of roads and railways within the country and to neighboring countries, dozens of bridges and viaducts have been built. Oil refineries and complexes have been built and modernized. Enterprises of oil and gas chemistry, chemical, construction, textile, agricultural industries, new villages and towns, and many others are being built and modernized. Work in all these areas continues.

*Turkmenistan's huge energy resources as well as rare earth metal reserves.
Strategies to establish international co-operation.*

Turkmenistan ranks fourth in the world ranking in terms of natural gas reserves. The Galkynyş field ranks first in the world in terms of gas reserves, with reserves of 27.4 trillion cubic meters.

The strategic vector of development of Turkmenistan's oil and gas sector is focused on deepening the processing of local raw materials and production of highly profitable, export-oriented products. The main goal is to strengthen energy cooperation, attract strategic investments and confirm Turkmenistan's role as a regional energy center.

In the oil and gas sector, Turkmenistan cooperates with many well-known foreign companies, such as China's CNPC, Italy's ENI, Dragon Oil (UAE), US Baker Hughes, Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and many others.

Turkmenistan pursues a balanced approach combining the development of the fuel and energy sector with programs to reduce its carbon footprint. It views natural gas as an important low-emission transition fuel capable of meeting the growing demand for clean energy sources. Priority is given to the implementation of projects to reduce methane emissions and the widespread introduction of digitalization.

The energy transition for Turkmenistan does not mean replacing hydrocarbons, but rather their efficient and deep processing. Work is underway to attract investment in the modernization of the petrochemical industry to produce high-tech products such as polymers and mineral fertilizers; and to expand Turkmen gas export routes to South Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Special attention is paid to the introduction of modern monetization tools – liquefied natural gas (LNG)

production, blue hydrogen, petrochemical development and technologies to reduce methane emissions.

Turkmenistan from a cultural and religious point of view, unique traditions and promoting them abroad.

From the cultural point of view, the territory of Turkmenistan is the birthplace of the Margian civilisation, the Parthian Empire, Dehistan and the founders of the Seljuk State. Ancient Merv was the scientific and cultural center of the Middle Ages and had the most famous library and observatory of that time. There are unique monuments of architecture and art of town-planning, land reclamation, such as Gonur- Depe, ancient Anev, Altyndepe, Shakhislam and many others. Famous monuments of antiquity and favorite places for Turkmen and foreign tourists are the fortress city of Nisa of the ancient Parthian Empire, the beautiful city of Kone Urgench, the State Historical and Cultural Reserve 'Ancient Merv', which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The exquisite Turkmen carpets created by the hands of the Turkmen people over thousands of years and the famous Akhalteke horses, called heavenly horses in China since ancient times, still amaze with their finesse.

Unique natural sights are the Valley of Dinosaurs, located in the east of the country, which reveals the traces of giant foot-and-mouths that died out millions of years ago; the fire crater 'Gates of Hell' located in the Kara-Kum desert; the subtropical oasis in Kara- Kala surrounded by mountains and many others.

Speaking about the culture of the Turkmen people, it is necessary to mention the poetry of Makhtumkuli Pyragy, whose 300th anniversary was widely celebrated both in Turkmenistan and abroad in 2024, which was declared the year 'The Fount of Wisdom of Magtymguly Pyragy'.

To promote cultural cooperation, Turkmenistan regularly holds international festivals, contests of theatre, cinema, music and national folklore, various exhibitions and days of culture, both domestically and worldwide, and actively participates in similar events held by other countries. Just by the example of cooperation with Romania, it is worth mentioning the 'Days of Turkmenistan Culture in Romania' held in May 2023 in the cities of Bucharest and Constanta; various exhibitions held regularly, the most recent of which were the First Exhibition of Turkmen carpets in March 2025 at the Museum of Peasantry in Bucharest; the Days of Turkmenistan Cinema in the same museum in April 2025; the Exhibition of Turkmenistan Culture in June 2025 at the Dimitri Gusti Village Museum; the annual Novruz holiday in March and many others.

Bilateral political, economic, cultural relations with Romania.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations

between Turkmenistan and Romania on 21 July 1992, for more than 33 years, cooperation has been developing very successfully in political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

Bilateral visits are carried out at the highest levels, between ministries and departments, parliaments of the two countries, cultural and scientific institutions, economic departments and enterprises.

Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the inter-parliamentary Turkmen- Romanian friendship group, meetings of the intergovernmental commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation, the Turkmen- Romanian working group on cooperation in the field of transport, the Turkmen-Romanian working group on cooperation in the field of energy are held.

The most recent of such events was the 8th meeting of the Turkmen-Romanian Working Group on Energy Cooperation in April 2025 in Ashgabat.

In the cultural and humanitarian sphere, the relations between our countries can be called exemplary among European countries.

In addition to the very active co-operation in the cultural sphere, as mentioned above, very fruitful co- operation continues in the field of education.

Within the framework of the Program of Cooperation between the Ministries of Education of Turkmenistan and Romania, more than one hundred Turkmen students start studying in Romanian higher education institutions every year.

Strategies should be developed in bilateral relations: economic, cultural, tourism and trade.

In order to intensify trade, economic and tourist relations between Turkmenistan and Romania, it is necessary to establish transport connectivity between our countries. Turkmenistan and Romania have initiated the creation of the Caspian Sea-Black Sea Transport Corridor, Azerbaijan and Georgia have also joined it. In order to prepare an agreement on this transport corridor, a quadripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkmenistan, Romania, Azerbaijan and Georgia was held in Bucharest in March 2019, which resulted in the adoption of the Bucharest Declaration. The preparatory work for the signing of this agreement is nearing completion. Turkmenistan and Romania have great potential for cooperation in transport and logistics, energy resources, oil and gas products, construction materials, agriculture, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, digitalization, ecology, tourism and other areas.

Turkmenistan's perceiving in Romania.

From the very beginning, I found Romania a warm country, not only in terms of climate and nature, but also in terms of people. Later on, in many towns and villages I met and continue to meet this openness,

kindness and hospitality.

In addition to the above-mentioned events, the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Romania organizes conferences, round tables, exhibitions, sports events in the exhibition halls of the Parliament, in the city and municipal museums, universities, libraries of the cities of Bucharest, Ploiesti, Constanta, Iasi, Alba Iulia, Cluj- Napoca, Brasov, the municipality Carei of Satu Mare region, Mogosia and other cities. The Embassy also actively participates in the events organized by the local administrations of Romania. Many similarities can be seen between our peoples in the way Turkmens and Romanians value their history, culture and traditions. There are similarities in the patterns, ornaments and colors of Turkmen and Romanian carpets, women's clothing. Even the language has such similar words as gazan- cazan, pişik-pisică, perde- perdea and others. Turkmenistan, like Romania, with its ancient culture, is both close and understandable to Romanians and attracts them with its originality. Thanks to this cultural exchange, Romanians not only learn about Turkmenistan, but also show interest to go there. And this is not only in terms of economic relations, but also in terms of culture, tourism and nature. This is confirmed by the words of a Romanian woman at the stand of Turkmenistan at the Festival of Asian Culture in September 2025 at the Dimitri Gusti Museum: "I look at your stand and do not want to leave it, I want to go to Turkmenistan".

"Zexe Zahana was born out of a love for Romanian culinary tradition, but also from the desire to carry it forward in a contemporary language. We do not reinvent Romanian dishes; we restore their charm. We take old recipes and refine them through modern techniques, while preserving their soul. Local ingredients are the key to this balance; they anchor us in authenticity and bring emotion to every dish. We believe that Romania has an extraordinary cuisine, one that deserves to be presented with care, respect, and taste."

Chef Amalia Stanciu

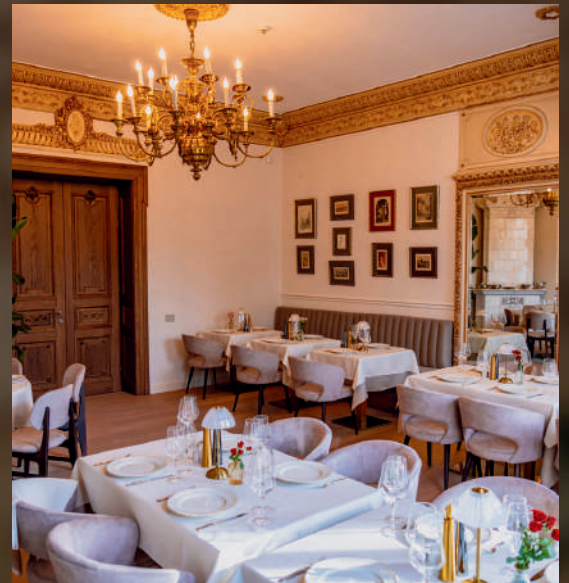


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Zexe Interbelic

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GHANA AND ROMANIA: DIPLOMACY, TRUST, AND A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE



H.E. Professor Dr. Nasty VLĂDOIU

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ghana in Romania

The relationship between Ghana and Romania today expresses more than a simple diplomatic connection. It reflects the potential of a partnership built over time on the basis of mutual respect, institutional openness, and a genuine desire to transform good political relations into concrete cooperation. In an international context marked by rapid change, economic realignments, and new strategic priorities, such bilateral relations become all the more valuable when they are grounded in a solid diplomatic memory and a forward-looking vision.

Ghana holds a special place in the modern history of the African continent. It was the first state in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve political independence, thus becoming a landmark of African emancipation and a symbol of self-determination, national dignity, and political affirmation. This historical legacy continues to define Ghana's international profile and to give it a distinct voice in the African and international arena.

Beyond its historical importance, Ghana has distinguished itself over the years through a trajectory characterized by resilience, balance, and institutional continuity. Its current development directions express a clear commitment to strengthening prosperity, supporting economic progress, and reinforcing social confidence. This is an approach that goes beyond

declarations and reflects the commitment of a state determined to consolidate its institutions, create opportunities, and affirm its role as a credible partner in an increasingly competitive international environment.

In recent years, Ghana has demonstrated its capacity to respond to challenges through a combination of democratic stability, strategic vision, and public policies oriented toward sustainable development. The strengthening of democratic institutions, the promotion of economic progress, the support of social cohesion, and the protection of cultural heritage have all contributed to Ghana's image as a stable and credible state in the sub-Saharan region. At the same time, the country has maintained its openness to international partnerships based on mutual respect, shared objectives, and mutual benefit. It is precisely this combination of internal stability and readiness for cooperation that makes Ghana a relevant partner for European states interested in balanced and lasting relations with Africa.

On the economic and social level, Ghana is currently promoting initiatives designed to create new opportunities and strengthen long-term development prospects. One of the most important programs is the "24-Hour Economy," a strategic initiative through which businesses, industries, and public institutions are

encouraged to operate continuously through a multi-shift system. The objectives are clear: to increase productivity, reduce operational costs, stimulate exports, and generate sustainable and well-paid jobs for young people. Alongside this program, other key initiatives target strategic investments in infrastructure, the modernization of agriculture, food security, the development of value chains, reliable access to energy, digital inclusion, and human capital development. These programs project the image of a country that is not limited to managing the present, but is seriously building its future.

Within this broader framework, the relationship between Ghana and Romania acquires particular significance. The connection between the two states has its roots in the period when Ghana was asserting itself as a sovereign state, following the attainment of independence on 6 March 1957, when the new Ghanaian state began consolidating its place and influence on the international stage. In this context, Romania was among the first states to recognize Ghana, later strengthening this closeness through the official establishment of diplomatic relations in 1961. This beginning created a foundation of trust that allowed the development of a durable and respectful relationship. In international relations, such historical milestones are not mere archival details, but elements that sustain the legitimacy and consistency of long-term cooperation.

In recent decades, Ghana and Romania have taken important steps to give greater substance to their bilateral relations. A significant example is the recent opening of the Romania–Republic of Ghana Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an initiative that I personally launched in my capacity as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ghana in Romania, with the

aim of strengthening the economic and commercial relations between the two states and providing a lasting framework for cooperation between the business communities of Ghana and Romania. Such an institutional structure is essential for transforming diplomatic dialogue into concrete projects, direct business-to-business contacts, investments, trade exchanges, and new platforms for collaboration. In a world where economic diplomacy is becoming increasingly important, such instruments directly contribute to the maturation of a bilateral partnership. The Ghana–Romania relationship, however, is not limited only to the political or economic dimension. It also includes an important cultural and human component. Ghana presents itself to its international partners not only through its institutions and economic developments, but also through the richness of its culture, its traditions, heritage, resources, and national identity.

The promotion of these elements contributes to better mutual understanding and closer ties between the two peoples. At the same time, the good conduct of the Ghanaian community in Romania and its respect for the laws of the Romanian state represent a practical and important dimension of this relationship of friendship.



69th National Day of the Republic of Ghana,
March 6th, 2026, Bucharest



61st Anniversary of the African Union, May 29th, 2024,
Bucharest

Looking to the future, there are every reason to believe that the relationship between Ghana and Romania can become stronger, more visible, and more substantial. There is a solid historical foundation, there is mutual respect, and there is a clear will to develop cooperation for the benefit of both states and both peoples. In an international context that is constantly evolving, partnerships built on seriousness, balance, and common interests are becoming increasingly important. Ghana and Romania have the opportunity to demonstrate that diplomatic dialogue can be transformed into lasting, modern, and results-oriented collaboration.



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STRENGTHENING ROMANIA'S DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN THE EVOLVING EUROPEAN SECURITY ENVIRONMENT



Mr. Răzvan-Marian PÎRCĂLĂBESCU

General Director of ROMARM

Recent developments in the European security environment, particularly the war in Ukraine and the evolving dynamics in the Black Sea region, have renewed attention on the importance of defence industrial capabilities. Across Europe, governments are increasingly focusing on strengthening the defence industrial base and expanding production capacities for critical military equipment.

For Romania, a country located on NATO's eastern flank and at the eastern border of the European Union, the development of a modern and resilient defence industry represents an important component of national security and regional stability. In recent years, the Romanian government has increased defence spending to over 2% of GDP, in line with NATO commitments, reflecting both a strategic commitment to collective defence and a growing emphasis on strengthening national capabilities.

Alongside the modernization of the armed forces, Romanian authorities are also pursuing a broader strategy aimed at revitalizing the national defence industry. This approach seeks to expand domestic production capabilities, modernize industrial infrastructure, and promote cooperation with international partners in order to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness.

Within this industrial ecosystem, the National Company Romarm occupies a central position. As a state-owned holding coordinating a network of specialized subsidiaries involved in the production of armaments, ammunition, and military equipment, Romarm plays a significant role in maintaining Romania's defence industrial capabilities.

The company's existing industrial infrastructure, technological expertise, and skilled workforce enable it to contribute both to national defence requirements and to broader opportunities for industrial cooperation at the European level. Efforts to modernize production facilities, introduce new technologies, and improve industrial processes are key elements in adapting to the evolving demands of the defence sector.

International partnerships represent another important dimension of this development strategy. Cooperation with companies and organizations from the Euro-Atlantic space facilitates technology transfer, enhances competitiveness, and supports the integration of Romania's defence industry into European supply chains. Such initiatives contribute to aligning national capabilities with the technological and operational standards of NATO and European partners.

At the same time, recent geopolitical developments have significantly increased demand for defence

equipment across Europe, particularly in areas such as ammunition production and essential military systems. This context creates new opportunities for countries with existing industrial capacities to expand production and strengthen their role within the broader European defence ecosystem.

In this regard, the development of Romania's defence industrial base is increasingly viewed not only as an economic objective but also as a strategic component of national resilience and regional security. Strengthening domestic production capabilities contributes to ensuring supply chain stability, supporting allied cooperation, and reinforcing collective defence efforts.

Looking ahead, continued investment in industrial modernization, human capital, and technological

innovation will remain essential for sustaining the competitiveness of Romania's defence sector. By expanding international partnerships and integrating more deeply into European defence initiatives, Romania aims to further consolidate its role as a reliable partner within the Euro-Atlantic security community.

In a security environment characterized by complex and rapidly evolving challenges, the strengthening of defence industrial capabilities has become a key pillar of strategic resilience. Through sustained efforts to develop its defence industry and enhance cooperation with international partners, Romania seeks to contribute actively to regional stability and to the collective security framework of NATO and the European Union.



O.P.I.A. Roundtable “Romania’s Defence Industry: Financing, Responsibility, and Partnership for National Security”, March 10th, 2026, Bucharest

SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Mr. Valentin- Ovidiu PREDA

Founder of Diplomacy 360

Ms. Florina GRIGORAŞ

Director Sports Diplomacy & Public Affairs

Romanian gymnastics is redefining its development model through a strategic partnership that opens the door to private capital.

Gymnastics is building a new development framework through a high-stakes strategic partnership aimed at connecting Romanian sport to private capital.

A recently launched partnership between the Romanian Gymnastics Federation and the Diplomacy 360 Association brings to the forefront a different approach to how athletic performance can be supported and leveraged beyond the strictly competitive dimension.

The initiative puts forward an integrated vision in which sport is connected with diplomacy, communication, and institutional partnerships, in an effort to create a more stable and predictable framework for the development of Romanian gymnastics.

The collaboration seeks to identify diversified funding sources, develop projects with an international outlook, and establish meaningful connections with the economic and diplomatic environment.

At the same time, the initiative aims to reposition Romanian gymnastics not only as a traditional sporting discipline, but also as an image-building vector.

“Romanian gymnastics needs, now more than ever, solid partnerships and a modern vision for development. Through this collaboration with Diplomacy 360, we aim to open new opportunities for our athletes and to build a sustainable framework that supports long-term performance”, stated Ioan Silviu Suci, President of the Romanian Gymnastics Federation.

In this context, Diplomacy 360 will support the development of fundraising, communication, and strategic engagement components, facilitating access to new partnerships and promotional opportunities, including at the international level.

“This partnership reflects our mission to connect Romanian sport with relevant resources, partners, and



opportunities at both national and international levels. We aim to actively contribute to the development of Romanian gymnastics and to the consolidation of a modern model for supporting athletic performance”, stated Valentin-Ovidiu Preda, President of Diplomacy 360 and CEO of the Romanian Business Exchange.

In the coming period, the collaboration will be materialized through a series of projects and initiatives dedicated to increasing the visibility of Romanian gymnastics, in the context of the “Nadia Comăneci Year 2026”.

The first major initiative marking the debut of this partnership is the organization, in April, of the Sports Diplomacy Forum – “10 – The Symbol of Excellence”, conceived as a platform for strategic dialogue that capitalizes on the symbolic legacy of the score “10” — a global benchmark of athletic excellence — to support Romania’s positioning within contemporary diplomacy.

The event, organized in partnership with the Senate of Romania, will bring together representatives from the diplomatic, institutional, economic, and sports sectors in a high-level roundtable format dedicated to exploring sport as an instrument of soft power, international cooperation, and strategic development.

This initiative aims both to promote Romanian gymnastics as a vector of image and international influence, and to facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders across sectors, with a view to developing sustainable partnerships.

Held within a prestigious institutional setting, the event aspires to become a benchmark for dialogue between sport, diplomacy, and the business environment, contributing to the development of a sustainable performance ecosystem in which sport functions as an active instrument of international positioning.

Through this collaboration, the two organizations aim not only to attract financial resources, but also to develop a coherent and modern model for supporting gymnastics, adapted to the new realities of sport and international relations.



Ioan Silviu Suci (President - Romanian Gymnastics Federation)
Florina Grigoras (Director Sports Diplomacy & Public Affairs
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IUSTIN MITREA, SALES MANAGER FIT4YOU LE CLUB



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