



Romanian Perspectives

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President George W. Bush congratulates President Traian Basescu...



The President of Romania, Traian Basescu, was congratulated by his American counterpart George W. Bush, on the occasion of his election into office.

During a telephone discussion that lasted for a couple of minutes,



President Bush assured the new President of Romania that Romania is a friend of the United States and that he will continue and strengthen the US – Romanian relations. President Bush also expressed his appreciation for Romania's contribution to security in Europe and the world.

...and US Secretary of State Colin Powell congratulates Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu



The Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu was congratulated by the US Secretary of State Colin



Powell during a telephone conversation,

on January 1st. The special character of the strategic partnership between Romania and the United States of America was highlighted as well as the positive perspectives of the bilateral relation.

President Basescu meets US Congress staffers



After meeting a delegation of the US Congress at his residence, President Traian Basescu declared: "As a NATO member and a future EU member, Romania will assume an important role together with its NATO allies, Turkey and

Bulgaria, in solving the Black Sea issues. I want Romania to become a country which generates stability in the area."

Building stability in the Black Sea Region

"[...] we do have the necessary strength, creativity, and ability to be a pillar of stability and security in and between the Black Sea region and the Western Balkans, two areas of ultimate regional strategic importance." President Traian Basescu

General James Jones visits Romania

President Traian Basescu met the top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Europe General James Jones, during his visit in Romania (January 12th-January 13th) and discussed facilities that can serve as NATO and U.S. military bases.



General J. Jones: "Romania has been very generous to offer us the opportunity to look at several bases that might be strategically positioned in such a way that by working together on Romanian bases we can enhance the capability of the Alliance and the bilateral closeness that is already very good."

President T. Basescu:

"Romania wants to take a major role in providing stability in the region, and can be a strong element of balance in the Black Sea region."

Romanian Prime Minister visits Brussels



Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu went on a two-day official visit (24th -25th of January) to Brussels, his first formal contact with the European institutions since he took over the office in late December.

Prime Minister Tariceanu and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Durao Barroso in Brussels

The Romanian Government cuts taxes

On December 29th 2004, the Romanian Government adopted an Emergency Ordinance on the introduction of the single flat tax of 16% on personal income and on corporate profit, which entered into force starting with January 1st. Thus, the corporate tax is reduced from 25% to 16% creating a more attractive milieu for Romanian and foreign investments, while the personal income tax, previously ranging between 18% and 40% is also reduced to 16%.

The Embassy of Romania in Washington D.C. hosts the Republican Rapid Responders Pre-Inaugural Ball



H.E. Ambassador Sorin Ducaru welcomed the distinguished guests.

On January the 20th, over 300 participants gathered at the Embassy of Romania to celebrate the Inauguration of the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush. The Pre-Inaugural Ball was organized by the Republican Rapid Responders.

Ambassador Sorin Ducaru welcomed distinguished guests such as astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the Moon during the Apollo 11 mission, Mr. Pat Oxford, Managing Partner at Bracewell & Patterson, Mr. Brock Bierman, Chief of Staff at the U.S. Agency for International Development and Chairman of Republican Rapid Responders, well as Mr. Tom Balvin and Mrs. Nancy Barnett, Co-Chairs of the Pre-Inaugural Committee. Mr. John Rakolta, Honorary Council of Romania in Detroit, Mrs. Lia Roberts, Honorary Council of Romania in Las Vegas, leaders of the Romanian - American Community, and representatives of the Romanian media accredited to Washington also attended the Pre-Inaugural Ball.



H.E. Ambassador Sorin Ducaru and astronaut Buzz Aldrin



H.E. Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, Mrs. Terry Rakolta, Mr. John Rakolta, Mrs. Carmen Ducaru, Mrs. Tcholon Akmatallieva, H.E. Ambassador Bakyt Abdrisaev.



Mr. Brock Bierman, Chief of Staff at the U.S. Agency for International Development and Chairman of Republican Rapid Responders speaking to the guests.



H.E. Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, Mrs. Terry Rakolta, Mr. John Rakolta, Mrs. Carmen Ducaru, Mrs. Susanna Nazarian, H.E. Ambassador Arman Kirakossian.

New York:

The Romanian Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Sorin Ducaru attended the "Outstanding Citizen Achievement Citation Ceremony" for Mrs. Leslie Hawke, organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development, BUREAU FOR EUROPE & EURASIA

On the evening of January 10th, 2005 at New York University, Ms. Leslie Hawke, founder and administrator of "Gata, Dispus si Capabil" (Ready, Willing and Able), based in Bacau and Bucharest, Romania, was recognized with the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Citation from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Ms. Hawke has created an innovative and highly effective program that provides Roma street children and their families with the skills, tools and support needed to break the cycle of marginalization and poverty. As a direct result, hundreds of at-risk families have developed the capabilities and confidence to transition from crisis to stable, self-sufficiency. Ms. Hawke is being recognized for her extraordinary volunteer efforts to help these most vulnerable members of Romanian society become active agents of social change.

The USAID Outstanding Citizen Achievement Citation recognizes and highlights volunteerism in an overseas development context. USAID's goal with this citation is to increase public awareness of individuals and organizations that are working to further the mission of USAID in the United States and abroad. Recipients of this citation are honored for achievements which have contributed to the realization of USAID's mission to provide economic development and humanitarian assistance around the world.



Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, Ms. Leslie Hawke, Ms. Maria Gheorghiu and actor Ethan Hawke