

**Romania's contribution to international peace and stability and to fighting the threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**



After 1989, Romania has assumed an **active participation in international peacekeeping and peace-support missions.** This role has been driven by its commitment to peace, security and

human rights, European and Trans-Atlantic integration, as well as military reform and modernization aimed at flexible, professional, rapidly deployable and self-sustainable forces, compatible with NATO standards and missions.

**q Over 9,000 Romanian military and police officers have taken part in the UN peacekeeping operations since 1991:**

- 1991: participation with a military hospital (363 active medical staff) in the Gulf

- 25 military observers with OSCE Mission in Moldova in 1992;

- participation with a military hospital (235 active medical staff) in Somalia (UNOSOM II);

- 786 military personnel in Angola;

- 5 military observers in Rwanda (UNAMIR II) in 1994;

- 400 soldiers in Operation ALBA (Albania), in 1997.

**q Current participation in international peace-keeping / peace support missions**

- 400 military in Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan);

- 81 military in ISAF (Afghanistan);

- 822 military in Iraqi Freedom Operation;

- 113 military in EUFOR (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

- 150 military in KFOR (Kosovo);

- 115 gendarmes, 70 civilian police and one military observer in UNMIK (Kosovo);

- 8 military observers in UNMEE (Ethiopia-Eritrea);

- 26 military observers and one civilian policeman in MONUC (D. R. of Congo);

- 5 military observers in UNIKOM (Iraq - Kuwait);

- 18 civilian police in UNMIBH (Bosnia-Herzegovina);

- 4 military observers in UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire);

- 3 military observers in UNMIL (Liberia);

- 4 civilian policemen in MINUSTAH (Haiti);

- 4 military observers in ONUB (Burundi);

one military observer in UNAMA (Afghanistan);

9 military observers, 9 civilian police, 27 civilians

in OSCE missions & presences in Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Serbia

Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Chechnya and with the OSCE Chair-in-

Office Representative for Nagorno - Karabakh.

**Romania co-sponsored resolution 1584 adopted by the UN SC aiming at strengthening the international sanctions against Côte d'Ivoire**

On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted the resolution 1584 (2005) authorizing the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French forces supporting it to monitor the application of its 15 November decision, which had imposed an immediate arms embargo requiring all countries to prevent the "direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer" to Côte d'Ivoire of arms or any related materiel.

The resolution was presented by Denmark, France, **Romania**, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The new text authorized UNOCI and French forces to cooperate with regional governments and the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Sierra Leone to keep arms flows in check with unannounced inspections of all plane cargo holds and transportation vehicles at seaports, airports, airfields, military bases and border crossings of Côte d'Ivoire.

**Romanian Senate briefed upon the participation of troops in peacekeeping missions**

The Standing Bureau of the Romanian Senate received on Wednesday details from President Traian Basescu on the subject of participation of Romanian armed forces in missions abroad.

The head of state informed the Senate that, on the basis of requests and legal prerogatives conferred to the President of Romania, he approved the modification of the national expenses structure linked to Romania's participation in the protection team of the United Nations mission in Iraq. The President also approved 12 additional military staff from the Service of Guard and Protection to the close protection team of agents who will participate in the U.N. mission in Afghanistan, as well as the retirement of the engineers detachment of 45 military from ALTHEA operation, and the continuation of the Romanian participation in this mission with two HUMINT teams, each composed of five troops, and an EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team of three soldiers.

According to the Romanian Presidency report, following a United States request made in 2004, Romania's Supreme Defence Council approved in October the country's participation in the protection force of the U.N. Mission in Iraq with an infantry detachment of 100 soldiers from the Ministry of National Defence (MAn), equipped so as to answer the necessities of the operation theatre missions, with the relevant expenses to be borne by U.S./U.N.

At the same time, at the end of last year, the leadership of the General Staff of the European Union conveyed an official request to Romania to reconsider the offer of participation with forces to ALTHEA operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In its turn, the U.N. Secretariat asked for additional troops to the close protection team commissioned to participate in peacekeeping missions outside the national territory.-



**Raymond Anthony Hall: "The Romanian experience with regard to refugee asylum could be transferred to other countries"**

Romania is a transit country as well as a destination for persons and the law on refugee integration promoted by the Romanian Government acknowledges their refugee statute, enabling them to benefit from the integration system, regional director of the European Office of the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) Raymond Anthony Hall told a news conference in Bucharest on Friday. The UNCHR official drew attention to the fact that Romania, as a future EU member, will come under pressure. Romania will have increased responsibility as for border control, as its borders will be the EU's borders, Hall said. He stressed that it is difficult for a country to concomitantly ensure border safety and protect the people who need it most.

Hall said that the Romanian experience with regard to refugee asylum could be transferred to other countries. According to Raymond Anthony Hall, an acknowledged refugee in Romania can benefit from repayable state-funded aid worth some 2.8 million lei per person per month for a six-month period, while asylum seekers avail of 25,000 lei per day.

As for UNCHR criteria on delineating refugee migration, Hall said that there is a yawning gap between practice and theory, as it is very difficult to make the difference between them and consequently an asylum procedure similar to the one adopted in Romania is needed.

