ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 January - 30 June 2019

COHESION, A COMMON EUROPEAN VALUE

Media Guide
## 1. CALENDAR
### INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND SIBIU SUMMIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Defence ministers</td>
<td>30-31 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Foreign Affairs ministers – Gymnich</td>
<td>31 January - 1 February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Internal Affairs and Justice ministers</td>
<td>6-8 February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of Trade ministers</td>
<td>21-22 February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Telecommunication ministers and Ministerial Conference on Eastern Partnership</td>
<td>1 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of EU Affairs ministers</td>
<td>11-12 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the ministers responsible for Diaspora policy</td>
<td>17-18 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Transportation ministers</td>
<td>26-27 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Energy ministers + Ministerial conference on the Eastern Partnership dimension</td>
<td>2 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Research ministers</td>
<td>3 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurogroup</td>
<td>5 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Meeting of the Finance ministers (ECOFIN)</td>
<td>5-6 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of Employment and Social Policy ministers (EPSCO-Social)</td>
<td>10-11 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy</td>
<td>11-12 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of Health ministers (EPSCO-Health)</td>
<td>15 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Culture ministers (EYSC-Culture)</td>
<td>15-16 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the ministers responsible for Competitiveness (Internal Market and Industry)</td>
<td>2-3 May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Summit of Heads of State and Government of EU Member States *</td>
<td>9 May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Environment ministers (ENVI)</td>
<td>20-21 May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the Agriculture ministers (AGRIFISH)</td>
<td>3-4 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of the ministers responsible for Urban Development</td>
<td>13-14 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-U.S. Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs</td>
<td>19 June 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All meetings take place in Bucharest, except the Informal Summit of Heads of State and Government of EU Member States, to be held in Sibiu.*
2. ACCREDITATION AND MEDIA CENTRE

- **Accreditation**

Media access and coverage for press-available events will only be possible with accreditation.

All accreditations must go through the portal


Those interested can apply as early as two months prior but not later than 10 days before the chosen event. If you choose the once-for-all option and the first event you wish to cover is less than 14 days away, your application will be treated as late accreditation – and should therefore apply for that event separately.

Multiple accreditation is possible – journalists may opt to register for all the events of the Presidency; they will receive separate confirmations for each event and will have to collect separate badges.

On the spot accreditation and late accreditation: due to vetting procedures, late accreditations (received less than 14 days before the event) will only be approved in exceptional cases and are not recommended.

- **The Media Centre at the Palace of Parliament**

The main hub of the 2019 Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be the Media Centre at the Palace of Parliament. Journalists will enter via the S2 entrance.

Please note that parking is available ONLY for official delegations.

Operating hours: 7:30 – 19:30

- **Media Centre facilities**

- 250 work spaces with broadband, phone and ISDN connections
- 5 all-in-one printers
- 20 soundproofed media booths with A/V editing facilities and broadband (see Official broadcaster below, p. 6)
- Free WiFi
- 250 lockers
- First aid point
• **Audio and video coverage of Presidency-related events**

See Official broadcaster below, p. 6.

Additional photo and video content is also available from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania by accessing the official Flickr and Vimeo pages, respectively (see Official website and social media, p. 5)

• **Press briefings:**
  - **On the record:** information may be attributed to the speaker, unless otherwise specified. Video and audio recording is permitted;
  - **Off the record:** information may be attributed to ‘EU officials’ or ‘diplomatic sources’, respectively. Video and audio recording is NOT permitted. The speaker may indicate that ‘on the record’ conditions apply;
  - **Informal:** information may not be attributed, under any circumstance, unless the speaker specifically indicates how.

• **Press representatives taking part in photo / TV image opportunities (pools) must¹:**
  - arrive on time; latecomers are not guaranteed access;
  - make sure that camera microphones are set to record background noise only (not conversations);
  - if, despite this setting, conversations are nonetheless recorded, such recordings must not be used;
  - not ask questions to Heads of States and Governments, Ministers or other meeting participants; - comply with the security distances established in the filming zone;
  - leave the meeting room as soon as the signal is given;
  - avoid pushing and shoving.

Non-compliance with these pool rules may have as consequence that the press representative and / or the media is banned from future photo / TV opportunities.

It is prohibited to film or photograph security installations and security staff.

¹ According to EU Council recommendations:
The Media Centre does not reserve workstations for journalists to use during high-level events. They may themselves reserve workstations in advance by indicating the name of the media and the journalist on a piece of paper taped to the chosen workstation.

However, once the proceedings of the event have started, any reserved places not yet occupied will be freely available for others. Workstations equipped with an ISDN line are reserved primarily for media requiring this type of connectivity.

Documents from third-party sources can be distributed in the press area only with the prior permission of the Press Office.

The Presidency is not responsible for any lost property belonging to members of the press. Press representatives are advised not to leave equipment unsupervised and to use the lockers provided in the Media Centre.
To all media:

Please ensure your badge is clearly visible and please keep it with you at all other times. Lost badges must be reported at the Accreditation Office or the Information Desk.

All media are reminded that anyone entering the Palace of Parliament is subject to full inspection by security personnel. Any item brought to the venue, whether computer, camera or other equipment or hand-carried bag, is subject to full inspection.

There will be particular times in the schedule when everyone needs to be inside the venue simultaneously. It is recommended that media allow for extra time to enter the Palace of Parliament grounds through a security checkpoint at these predictably busy times.

Requests for information about the schedules of delegation activities outside official Presidency events should be directed to the press attaches of the delegations.

Smoking

Romanian law prohibits smoking in public venues. Smoking indoor is not therefore not permitted in the Media Centre.

3. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

#RO2019EU

www.romania2019.eu is available in Romanian, English and French, and provides information on the Presidency agenda and programme, links to the accreditation portal and media guide, as well as details on European institutions.

You may follow us on social media channels with official photos, footage and information at:

- [https://twitter.com/ro2019eu](https://twitter.com/ro2019eu)
- [https://www.flickr.com/](https://www.flickr.com/)
- [https://vimeo.com/ro2019eu](https://vimeo.com/ro2019eu)
- [https://www.instagram.com/ro2019eu/](https://www.instagram.com/ro2019eu/)
4. **HOST BROADCASTER TVR**

The host broadcaster of the 2019 Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU is TVR, the Romanian public television, a member of EBU (the European Broadcasting Union). It provides accredited journalists audiovisual content in broadcast quality (HD), free of charge, from informal ministerial meetings, the Summit in Sibiu and other high-level events taking place in Romania.

For the 2019 Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, TVR can be contacted at hostbroadcaster@tvr.ro.

Audiovisual material will be broadcast via EbS, the European Union’s TV information service, via satellite, and can be downloaded in real time. The live feed of the audiovisual material can be received in the media booths, the SNG parking spaces at the main conference locations and media centre at the Palace of Parliament (Bucharest), at the Bucharest headquarters of the National Bank of Romania (for Presidency-related events) and at the Summit Media Center (Sibiu).

In order to download and use audiovisual content on-site, please contact the official host broadcaster at hostbroadcaster@tvr.ro or at the information desk in the press centre.

TVR will provide the following audiovisual material on informal Council meetings:

- arrivals of the ministers from a position outside the main entrance
- doorsteps – short statements before the start of meetings, in the original language
- handshakes (welcome by the host, original audio, no translation)
- tour-de-table – before the beginning of the meeting
- family photo
- Romanian Presidency press conferences, other ministerial press conferences and briefings as per the official programme

**TVR provides live coverage and edited highlighted packages of events. Additional broadcasting requirements should be notified to the host broadcaster and will incur charges.**
4.1 Media booths

Location

The Media Center at the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest: 20

The National Bank of Romania: 6, when there are Presidency-related events

Sibiu (for the Summit): 6

Equipment

The media booths are equipped with universal power outlets (220V), wired and wireless internet access, LAN connection to the internal production network to get access to media files correspondent to live recordings, an HD monitor/TV. The booths are wired to receive live video and audio feeds (floor language and translations) from the meetings covered by the host broadcaster. Media booths have HD SDI signal with embedded audio. Some of the booths are also equipped with ISDN lines.

Booking

The media booths can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis by sending an email to hostbroadcaster@tvr.ro, or at the information desk in the press centre. Any additional technical requirements should be notified to the host broadcaster and are subject to a fee.
4.2 Stand up positions

Location

The Media Centre at the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest: 20

The National Bank of Romania: 6, when there are Presidency-related events

Sibiu (for the Summit): 10

Equipment

TVR can provide, upon request and subject to a fee, several fully equipped stand up positions with a camera, microphone and appropriate lighting.

Booking

For bookings, please contact the official host broadcaster. The rate card may be sent by email, upon request. All facilities will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For queries and bookings, please contact the official host broadcaster by email hostbroadcaster@tvr.ro or at the information desk in the press centre.

Brussels studio

TVR is the first host broadcaster to provide a VOXBOX studio on location in Brussels, in the EU Council Justus Lipsius Building, in the Atrium, for live and recorded TV productions. The services will be provided free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, please contact the official host broadcaster.
5. #RO2019EU MEDIA CONTACTS

Spokespersons for the Romanian Presidency

DORIS MIRCEA
SPOKESPERSON FOR PRESIDENCY
Tel: +40.730.709.809
E-mail: doris.mircea@mae.ro

NELU BARBU
SPOKESPERSON FOR PRESIDENCY
Tel: +40.741.252.555
E-mail: nelu.barbu@gov.ro

Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union

MIHAELA POP
SPOKESPERSON FOR COREPER II
Tel.: +32-2-7000.612
Fax: +32-2-7000.641
E-mail: mihaela.pop@rpro.eu

RALUCA ANGHEL
SPOKESPERSON FOR COREPER I
Tel.: +32-2-7000.107
Fax: +32-2-7000.641
E-mail: raluca.anghel@rpro.eu
6. USEFUL INFORMATION

6.1 About Romania

- **Language**
  
The official language is Romanian. English and French are also spoken.

- **Visas**
  
  Citizens of the European Union or from the European Economic Area can enter Romania at any border checkpoint where they must present a valid identity document – passport or National Identity Card.

  EU/EEA citizens may enter and stay within the territory of Romania in accordance with the right of free movement and residence granted under the Romanian legislation, according to European provisions. For a stay in Romania longer than 90 days, a registration certificate has to be obtained from the Romanian Immigration Office.

  American and Canadian citizens as well as citizens of Australia, New Zealand and most European countries do not need an entry visa to visit Romania (for stays up to 90 days). However, a valid passport is required for all overseas / non-EU visitors. Your passport has to be valid for at least 90 days from the date of your intended departure from Romania (it will not expire sooner than three months from the date of departure).

  More entry and visa information as well as a list of Non-EU citizens for whom a visa is required are available at the following addresses:

  http://evisa.mae.ro/

  https://www.mae.ro/anexa_1_ro.pdf

  https://www.mae.ro/anexa_2_en.pdf

  Please be aware that a valid press accreditation does not guarantee visa approval, nor vice-versa.
• **Currency**

The official Romanian currency is the New Romanian Leu (RON), with its subdivision „ban“; for sums higher than 1 leu, the plural „lei“ is used.

Foreign currencies may be exchanged at banks or authorized exchange offices (called „casa de schimb valutar“). International airports and larger hotels also offer currency exchange services.

International financial systems, such as Visa and Mastercard, are widely used. Most stores accept contactless cards of NFC. Cash exchange offices usually do not charge a commission or fee.

ATM machines are available at main banks and at airports and shopping centres. Some ATMs allow the withdrawal of foreign currency.

• **Main institutions working hours**

8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., may vary

Some bank offices are open up to 6.00 p.m.

• **Public Holidays in Romania (January - June 2019)**

1 January (Tuesday) – New Year’s Day
2 January (Wednesday) – Day after New Year’s Day
24 January (Thursday) – Unification Day
26 April (Friday) – Orthodox Good Friday
28 April (Sunday) – Orthodox Easter
29 April (Monday) – Orthodox Easter Monday
1 May (Wednesday) – Labour Day
1 June (Saturday) – International Children’s Day
9 June (Sunday) – Descent of the Holy Spirit
16 June (Sunday) – Orthodox Pentecost
17 June (Monday) – Whit Monday

• **Official time**

The official time in Romania is EET (Eastern European Time), UTC/GMT +2.

The time changes to daylight saving (EEST) on 31 March 2019, when clocks will be set one hour forward (3 o’clock becomes 4 o’clock).
• **Connections**

**Internet**

Romania has one of the fastest internet connections in the world. Nearly every hotel, bar or public place provides free WiFi. 4G is available mostly everywhere, except very remote areas.

**Plug socket**

Main electricity is at 220 V and 50Hz, in the CEE 7 standard. An adapter is needed for different voltages and plugs. Media representatives should plan to bring their own adapters. There are shops in Bucharest and in the Henri Coandă International Airport that can help if you need to purchase one.

• **Country code**

The telephone country code for Romania is +40 or 0040.

• **Emergency numbers**

**Dial 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, the fire brigade or ambulance**

**Border Police:** +4021 / 9590

www.politiadefrontiera.ro

**Henri Coandă International Airport:** +4021 / 204.10.00

www.bucharestairports.ro

**Railways Information:** +4021 / 9521

www.crfcalatori.ro

**National Consumer’s Authority:** 021 / 9551

www.anpc.gov.ro

• **Health emergencies**

Many pharmacies in Bucharest have late working hours, until 8 or 9 p.m.

• **Addresses of the main hospitals in Bucharest:**

**The Emergency University Hospital:**

Splaiul Independenței 169, +4021 / 318.0523

**The Floreasca Emergency Hospital:**

Calea Floreasca 8, +40 21 / 599.2300
• **Accommodation**

Please be aware that the Romanian Presidency will not be reserving any hotel rooms for media representatives. The peak season in Bucharest is April and May, therefore you are kindly advised to book a room well in advance.

**The following hotels are located close to the Palace of Parliament:**

**Hotels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercontinental Bucharest</td>
<td>Nicolae Balcescu nr.4</td>
<td>+40 21 310 20 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Hotel Continental Bucharest</td>
<td>Calea Victoriei 56</td>
<td>+40 372 12 17 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Epoque</td>
<td>Intrarea Aurora 17C</td>
<td>+40 21 312.32.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JW Mariott Bucharest Grand Hotel</td>
<td>Calea 13 Septembrie 90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn Bucharest Old Town</td>
<td>Doamnei 12</td>
<td>+40 21 312 03 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramada Bucharest Majestic</td>
<td>Calea Victoriei 38-40</td>
<td>+40 21 310 23 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Tulip Victoria Bucharest Hotel</td>
<td>Calea Victoriei 166</td>
<td>+40 21 212 55 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novotel Bucharest City Centrel</td>
<td>Calea victoriei 37B</td>
<td>+4021 308 85 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibis Bucharest Palatul Parlamentului City Centre Hotel</td>
<td>Izvor 82-84</td>
<td>+4021 401 10 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2 Transport

- **From the airport**

  The national airline is Tarom. Here is a list of its European and national routes:

  [https://www.tarom.ro](https://www.tarom.ro)

  Situated 16.5 km North of the Bucharest city centre, the *Henri Coandă* International Airport is the largest Romanian airport, serving 67 external destinations and 9 domestic destinations.

- **Ways to get to Bucharest:**

  **Express bus**

  - *24/7* schedule, with stops right outside the arrival and departure terminals:

  - *780 Express* line, towards Bucharest North Railway Station (main railway station).

  - *783 Express* line, towards the city centre.

  *A one-way trip on the express line costs 3.5 lei (0.75 Euro); tickets or rechargeable cards can be purchased at the bus stop.*

  **Taxi**

  Inside the airport there are touch screen terminals, for taxi orders, should customers prefer a particular company. Licensed taxis are available for passengers arriving at *Henri Coandă* International Airport at the terminal exit and accept passengers in order of arrival.

  PRICES: a trip to Bucharest is around 10 - 15 Euros, depending on distance (taxis charge about 1.69 - 3.50 lei per kilometer, 0.4 - 0.8 Euro)

  **Car rental**

  There are several rent-a-car companies in the *Henri Coandă* International Airport, some of them 24/7. Prices are similar to other EU states

  *The trip by car or by bus to the city takes 30 – 50 minutes, depending on traffic.*
6.3 Getting around Bucharest

- **Taxis**
  In Bucharest, prices vary from 1.69 - 3.50 lei/km (0.4 - 0.8 Euro).

- **Rent-a-car**
  Several local and international car rental companies function in Romania, with prices starting at 20 Euros per day.

- **Bucharest public transport**
  - **Trams, buses and trolleybuses**

  ![Map of Bucharest transport network](http://stbsa.ro/)

  Price for one trip: 1.3 lei (0.3 euro)

  ONLY for Romanian pre-paid SIM cards or plans: a one day travel card can be purchased via SMS at 7464 (just text the letter „A”). Price - 9 lei (1.8 euro)

  **Operating hours:** 05.00 a.m. – 11.30 p.m.

  Various cards available in main stations
• The subway / metro

Price for one trip: 2.5 lei (0,5 euro)

The ‘Metro’ is the fastest way around the Romanian capital, with central stations close to the main institutions and points of interest.

Operating hours: 05.00 a.m. – 11.30 p.m.

Access cards may be purchased at the stations
#RO2019EU