



Clubul „România-UE” Bruxelles

PRESS RELEASE

*Brussels,
26 April 2006*

**Romania signs the Treaty of Accession to the European Union
- 20 months left until the formal entry into the EU -**

On Monday, 25th of April, Romania, together with Bulgaria, signed in Luxembourg the Treaty of Accession to the European Union, 10 years after the formal application for membership, and 4 years after the launch of accession negotiations.

The Luxembourg ceremony represents the embodiment of the formal recognition, by the EU-25, of Romania's efforts over the past 10 years towards building a real democratic state and a functioning market economy. The "România-UE" Club is pleased to have been an active witness to this historic moment. The Club was represented during the Luxembourg festivities by its President, Mr. Radu Cioponea.

The "România -EU" Club is confident that Romania will meet its integration commitments. Over the coming years, we believe Romania needs to focus its efforts on ensuring justice and home affairs reform, free competition, and the freedom of the press. We would like to draw the attention back to the safeguard clauses, which could delay the formal entry into the EU by one year.

Through its future activities, the Club will closely monitor the reform path in the key areas of justice, corruption, and administrative reform. Our goal is to raise the awareness of the Romanian population over the key obligations Romania has undertaken to fulfil ahead of formal EU entry. Also, we aim at launching an ongoing debate on these themes. The European Commission is closely monitoring Romania's progress, with a view to present the regular report in November 2005.

Additional information can be obtained from:

Radu CIOPONEA / President
Clubul „România-UE” Bruxelles
Tel : + 32 495 925133
Email: president@euro-club.org

www.euro-club.org

Note for journalists: „România-UE” Club Brussels

The "Romania-EU" Club Brussels is an independent group of Romanian experts living and working in Belgium. A large number of its members are directly involved in activities characteristic for the European capital. The Club is financially independent, has no religious or political affiliation, and is in no way linked to any governmental structure or political party in either Romania or the EU. Its main objective is that of contributing to Romania's integration into the EU, preferably by the 2007 deadline. The Club defines itself as a "think-tank" delivering an objective and independent opinion regarding relations between Romania and the EU. The Club operates on a strictly not-for-profit basis.