



Club Romania – UE  
A non-governmental organisation  
Av Slegers 351, Brussels 1200  
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## **Will Romania avoid the safeguard clause?**

What can Romania do to become an effective EU-Member State in 2007

### **CONFERENCE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

#### **Introduction**

The event will debate the topic of Romania's entry into the European Union. On 25 April 2005, Romania is expected to sign the accession treaty. Considering the existence of the so-called "safeguard clause", a question arises: what needs to be done in Romania in order to fully comply with the accession criteria by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, the target date for accession, and thus avoid the imposition of the safeguard clause. It must be said that both the political class and the civil society are determined to prove that Romania is capable of meeting the demands by this target date.

#### **Motivation:**

To have a balanced discussion and present different opinions we intend to invite speakers from different backgrounds: European Institutions but also Romanian institutions, the international press and NGOs. The objectives of the seminar are:

- to initiate a cross-domain debate about Romania;
- to identify main lines of action and the potential contribution of our Club;
- to raise the profile of the Club within the European affairs environment.

#### **Time and place:**

The event will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005 in a conference room of the European Parliament.

#### **Target Audience:**

- Delegation to the EU – Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee
- DG Enlargement
- Committee of the Regions
- Our contacts in press/media
- Our contacts in other federations and NGOs
- The general public (international and Romanian)

#### **Proposed event:**

- A conference organised for an audience of about 100 participants followed by a cocktail where the public and speakers can continue networking.





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## **Agenda:**

- 17:00 Opening – Radu Cioponea, President, Club Ro-UE (co-moderator)
- 17:10 Welcome Speech – Heide Rühle MEP
- 17:30 What should Romania do to become an effective EU Member State? –  
Kristian Hedberg, European Commission, Cabinet of Commissioner Rehn
- 17:50 Implementing the Acquis – Joost Lagendijk MEP
- 18:10 The Romanian Point of View – His Excellency, Mr. Lazar Comanescu,  
Ambassador of Romania to the EU
- 18:30 Break
- 19:00 Corruption in Romania – Nicolas van Helten, independent consultant
- 19:20 Freedom of the Press in Romania – Mihaela Gherghisan, Radio France
- 19:40 Hardships of transition in the Balkans; focus on Romania – Tom  
Gallagher, University of Bradford
- 20:00 Conclusions – Willy de Backer, Editor in Chief, EurActiv (co-moderator)
- 20:15 Cocktail

Each speaker will have a 15 minutes presentation. This will be followed by five minutes of questions and answers.

