



## **Club Romania – UE**

A non-governmental organisation

Av Slegers 351, Brussels 1200

Web: [www.euro-club.org](http://www.euro-club.org)

Email: [info@euro-club.org](mailto:info@euro-club.org)

Tel : +32 (0) 495 925 133

Fax: +32 (0) 2 779 8172

### **Profiles of Speakers – Conference 14 March 2005**

*Heide Rühle MEP*, represents Germany in the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance since 1999. She is a member of the EU-Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee. She has been actively involved in issues impacting the social dimension of Europe and beyond.

*Kristian Hedberg* is a member of the Enlargement Commissioner's Ollie Rehn Cabinet. An expert in international relations and trade, not only he is responsible for the relations with Romania and Bulgaria but also, among others, with competition and state aid, a delicate subject for Romania.

*Joost Lagendijk MEP*, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and member in a number of other commissions, he has followed closely Romania's progress and has repeatedly warned against a lighthearted approach to implementing the acquis.

*Lazar Comanescu, Ambassador of Romania to the EU*, a long-term diplomat, he has joined the Romanian representation to the EU in June 2001, after representing the country abroad in a variety of other functions.

*Nicolas van Helten* is an independent Law Enforcement and Security Consultant, who is involved in a number of projects in the new and candidate member states of the EU. From 2001 he plays an active role in advising the Ministry of Administration and Interior and the Police in Romania on the management of change.

*Tom Gallagher*, University of Bradford (Department of Peace Studies) author of several publications about democracy in the Balkans and particularly about Romania after the end of communism.

*Mihaela Gherghisan* is a professional journalist with Radio France International, specialised in EU affairs and NATO with 10 years experience. She will bring a well sought-after opinion on the high-profile issue of the freedom of the press in Romania, particularly debated over the past few months.

*Willy de Backer*, EurActiv, Brussels, Belgium, is the editor-in-chief of the European media portal EurActiv and has extensive experience in European affairs, as well as a wide knowledge as a journalist of the media environment. EurActiv is present in almost a dozen European countries, including Romania.