



MeMo C.A.E.S.A.R. nr. 32

10 ianuarie 2015 – 10 februarie 2015

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În plan economic, acordul cu FMI, Banca Mondială și Comisia Europeană a fost suspendat temporar până la atingerea la un consens între experții celor două delegații. BNR reduce din nou rata dobânzii, pe fondul deflației din zona euro și al scăderii prețului petrolului, iar activele fondurilor de pensii private vor crește cu 30% în 2015. Enel este presată să vândă activele din Europa de Est, compania încercând să asigure investitorii că va continua diminuarea îndatorării și se va reorienta spre piețe cu creștere mai mare.

În plan politic intern, fosta candidată la președinție, Elena Udrea, a fost arestată preventiv în dosarul Microsoft, iar foștii miniștri Zsolt Nagy și Codruț Șereș au fost condamnați definitiv în dosarul privatizărilor strategice. Klaus Iohannis a câștigat definitiv procesul cu ANI și preferă un guvern liberal condus de Cătălin Predoiu. Raportul MCV pentru România sesizează progrese în justiție, dar și probleme în Parlament, criticând refuzul parlamentarilor de a ridica imunitatea unora dintre aleșii politici.

În plan politic european și internațional, liderii Germaniei, Franței, Rusiei și Ucrainei s-au întâlnit în capitala Belarusului pentru a negocia un acord de pace în Ucraina, iar Uniunea Europeană a hotărât prelungirea sancțiunilor împotriva Rusiei cu 6 luni. Separatiștii ucraineni anunță mobilizarea generală, în timp ce statele occidentale vorbesc despre sprijinirea financiară și militară a Ucrainei. Rusia anunță măsuri pentru ieșirea din criză economică, însă experții rămân sceptici. SUA anunță progrese semnificative în campania internațională împotriva Statului Islamic.

În planul securității, președintele Iohannis a anunțat creșterea bugetului de apărare la 2% din bugetul de stat până în 2017, iar George Maior a demisionat din funcția de șef al Serviciului Român de Informații. Conflictul din Ucraina a suferit o nouă escaladare a ostilităților, iar ca răspuns NATO a decis poziționarea unor mici contingente de trupe în România și în alte cinci state est-europene. UE anunță măsuri sporite de securitate în urma atacurilor teroriste din Paris, care afectează însă negativ perspectivele României de aderare la spațiul Schengen.

La nivel social, începutul de an a adus noi statistici despre numărul de imigranți români și bulgari din Marea Britanie, care a rămas însă constant față de anii precedenți. Simona Halep a ajuns în sferturile Australian Open, iar România se află pe cale de a deveni capitala europeană a startup-urilor din domeniul tehnologiei. Vestea că România va organiza Campionatul European de Gimnastică Artistică din 2017 a atras atenția internațională prin susținerea Nadiei Comaneci. Pe plan cultural, documentarul românesc "Chuck Norris Vs. Communism" a primit recenzii pozitive la festivalul de film Sundance 2015, în timp ce România se pregătește de Expoziția Universală de la Milano din 2015.



ECONOMIC

În plan economic, guvernul nu a ajuns la un acord cu FMI și Comisia Europeană în cadrul misiunii de evaluare, cele două instituții cerând creșterea prețului la gaze din aprilie și restructurarea companiilor energetice Hunedoara și Oltenia. Acordul în sine rămâne în vigoare, iar faptul că nu se semnează o scrisoare de intenție înseamnă o suspendare temporară până când experții guvernului se vor pune de acord cu experții instituțiilor internaționale asupra problemelor care nu au fost armonizate în timpul acestei misiuni. Pe fondul deflației în zona euro și al scăderii prețului petrolului, BNR a scăzut din nou dobânda la o rată record de 2,5%. Această măsură a fost adoptată în contextul lansării de către Banca Centrală Europeană a programului de Quantitative Easing (QE), constând în achiziționarea de obligațiuni în valoare de €60mn lunar, până în septembrie 2016, cu bani creați electronic. Măsura își propune susținerea unei inflații moderate (1-2%) și stimularea creșterii economice în zona euro.

Acordul cu FMI, Banca Mondială și Comisia Europeană suspendat temporar pana la găsirea de soluții

“Romania's aid deal discussions with the International Monetary Fund has hit a road block over gas deregulation and restructuring the state-owned coal industry, Prime Minister Victor Ponta told reporters on Monday. The two sides have not signed a letter of agreement after the latest round of talks on Romania's standby aid deal, but a new IMF mission will come to Bucharest in April, Ponta added.”

Reuters, [Romania discussions with IMF stumble over gas and coal policy – PM](#), 09-02-2015

BNR coboară din nou rata dobânzii, pe fondul deflației din zona euro și al scăderii prețului petrolului

“Romania's national bank cut interest rates by 25 basis points on Wednesday to a record low of 2.5 per cent. The move came as the eurozone fell into deflation for the first time in five years and amid plunging oil prices. The reduction is the latest since the National Bank of Romania resumed its cycle of interest rate cuts in August and followed a fall in the country's inflation rate to 1.3 per cent in November, compared with a target range of 1.5-3.5 per cent.”

Financial Times, [Romania cuts interest rates to record low of 2.5%](#), 07-01-2015

Gabriel Resources amenință cu arbitraj internațional

“Gabriel said it was seeking an <<amicable resolution>> of the dispute. The Romanian government said on Tuesday that it had submitted a proposal about Gabriel's mine to the country's parliament in 2013, but this was rejected. It had no further comment.”

Financial Times, [Gold explorer Gabriel Resources seeks arbitration with Romania](#), 20-01-2015

Cinci firme interesate de construcția hidrocentralei Tarnița-Lăpuștești

“Hidro Tarnita did not name the bidders and said it would unveil the short-listed investors at a later date. Earlier this month, a study by consultancy A.T. Kearney and Fondul Proprietatea [...] showed



electricity demand in Romania is expected to grow by less than 1 percent a year over the next decade, casting doubt over the country's plans to build big new power plants.”

Reuters, [Five firms interested to build Romanian hydro power plant](#), 30-01-2015

Enel, presată să vândă activele din Europa de Est

“Enel is pressing ahead with plans to sell assets in Slovakia and Romania despite a recent delay, in an effort to reassure investors that it will keep paying down its debt and refocus on faster-growing markets. <<We do have offers [for the assets]. We know more or less what the issues are and we know that this process can be closed sometime between now and next June>>”, a spus CEO-ul Francesco Starace.

Financial Times, [Enel in push to sell Eastern Europe assets](#), 11-01-2015

Investițiile anuale ale OMV, diminuate cu cca. 30% în urma scăderii prețului petrolului

“Cuts will mainly affect projects under appraisal and development, but also mature operations in Austria and Romania, where OMV plans to halve the number of rigs in operation in 2015, said Jaap Huijskes, head of exploration and production.”

Reuters, [Austria's OMV takes 700 mln euro charge, slashes capex](#), 29-01-2015

Antibiotice lași va produce medicamente în colaborare cu trei companii indiene

“A Romanian delegation, led by their Health Minister Nicolae Banicioiu, today said that the European country will tie up with Indian pharmaceutical companies to research and develop new drugs. [...] Romania's state-owned drug agency <<Antibiotice Iasi>> will collaborate with Aurobindo Pharma to develop anti-viral medicines; Macleods Pharma for tuberculosis and Cipla for cancer medicine. The value of bilateral trade between Indian and Romania is estimated at USD 3 million in pharma sector, which will be increased in near future.”

The Economic Times, [Romania to research, develop new drugs with Indian pharma companies](#), 09-01-2015

The Time of India, [Romania to tie up with domestic pharma companies](#), 10-01-2015

Activele fondurilor de pensii private vor crește cu 30% în 2015

“The second pillar rise will be supported by a boost in the number of participants and [...] by contributions worth 4.4 billion lei, 14 percent higher than last year,” a spus Raluca Tintoiu, Presedinte al Asociației pentru Pensii Administrate Privat.

“Since the global financial crisis, Poland and Hungary have moved towards nationalising their private pension systems, drawing more money back into the state sector, and Bulgaria's parliament voted to follow suit in December.”

Reuters, [Romanian private pension assets to rise 30 pct in 2015 -industry body](#), 26-11-2014



POLITIC

Politică internă

În plan politic intern, luna ianuarie a fost marcată de o serie de arestări și condamnări pentru fapte de corupție ale unor foști miniștri și alți înalți demnitari. O atenție deosebită a primit cazul fostului Ministru al Turismului, Elena Udrea, reținută de procurorii DNA pentru mai multe fapte de trafic de influență, corupție și spălare de bani. Totodată, în cadrul raportului MCV publicat la sfârșitul lunii, Comisia Europeană apreciază progresele înregistrate de România în combaterea corupției, dar și probleme în Parlament. Documentul laudă activitatea instituțiilor anticorupție, în special a DNA și ANI, dar și a Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii. Însă potrivit raportului MCV, rămân o serie de probleme pe care România trebuie să le rezolve. Printre acestea se numără lipsa de constanță în cazul instanțelor sau deciziile luate în Parlament în cazul parlamentarilor care sunt bănuți că au încălcat legea. Documentul critică Parlamentul pentru refuzul de a ridica imunitatea unora dintre aleși.

Fosta candidată la președinție, Elena Udrea, arestată preventiv în dosarul Microsoft

“Lawmakers have approved a request to arrest of one of the most influential politicians of the last decade who prosecutors accuse of wide-ranging corruption charges. Parliament voted late Monday to allow Elena Udrea, a lawmaker, to be prosecuted and arrested in three cases following a parliamentary committee vote last week to allow a probe against her. Prosecutors want to arrest Udrea on suspicion of undeclared income, money laundering, taking bribes from a boxing gala she organized and on suspicion of involvement in the illegal licensing of software in schools.”

New Europe, [Romanian lawmakers approve prosecution, arrest of ex-minister accused of corruption](#), 09-02-2015

Daily Mail, [Romania: ex-minister indicted for money-laundering](#), 29-01-2015

Klaus Iohannis câștigă definitiv procesul cu ANI

“Klaus Iohannis, mayor of the Transylvanian town of Sibiu from 2000 to 2014, represented the city's government at the shareholders' meetings of two firms of which the city itself is a co-owner. Romania's National Integrity Agency (ANI) saw this as an illegal conflict of interest. Iohannis sued over the ANI report and scored a victory in the trial in September 2013. The agency's assessment that the Sibiu mayor's activities were incompatible was declared null and void. ANI then lodged an appeal with the High Court, and that trial began on Wednesday (14.01.2015). Iohannis has repeatedly stated that nothing about the case has changed in the interim, and he is therefore certain that the High Court will also decide in his favor.”

Deutsche Welle, [Romania's new President Iohannis in court](#), 15-01-2015

Președintele Klaus Iohannis preferă un guvern liberal condus de Cătălin Predoiu



“Romanian President Klaus Iohannis last night warned he cannot implement his reforming agenda with the current government and suggested new changes underway in the political structure of the Parliament may signal a change at the executive level as well. [...] << Yes, I want a liberal government. There is no secret about it>>, he concluded, adding a change of government could happen this year.”

Reuters, [Romania's next president says may try to topple government](#), 18-11-2014

Balkan EU, [Romanian President hints at change of government](#), 23-01-2015

Patru judecători și omul de afaceri, Dan Adamescu, condamnați la închisoare cu executare

“A court has sentenced a judge to 22 years in prison on charges that he took bribes to rule favorably in several cases involving one of Romania's richest businessmen. [...] Businessman Dan Adamescu was also sentenced to four years and four months while judge Elena Roventa received five years and 10 months. Two other judges were also sentenced to prison.”

ABC News, [Romanian Court Sentences Judge to 22 Years in Bribe Case](#), 02-02-2015

Foștii miniștri Zsolt Nagy și Codruț Șereș condamnați definitiv în dosarul privatizărilor strategice

“Two former Romanian government ministers and a Credit Suisse banker were jailed on Tuesday for espionage and treason related to planned privatisations. Former communications minister Zsolt Nagy was given a four-year sentence and former economy minister Codrut Seres was sentenced to four years and six months by the court in Romania, which has come under EU pressure to clean up its government and judiciary. They were convicted of leaking confidential privatisation data and joining an organised crime group that prosecutors said targeted a string of planned privatisations in 2005 to 2007.”

Reuters, [Romania jails ex-ministers, banker over privatisation plot](#), 29-01-2015

Raportul MCV pentru România: CE sesizează progrese în justiție, dar și probleme în parlament

“Romania has achieved <<impressive>> progress in fighting high-level corruption and organized crime, while Bulgarian policy changes stalled on political turmoil, the European Union said in a report on the bloc's poorest states. [...] Romania's new President Klaus Iohannis pledged to continue fighting corruption and urged Parliament to lift the immunity of all lawmakers under investigation. Romania's efforts to curb graft intensified before presidential elections last year as prosecutors probed high-profile politicians from Prime Minister Victor Ponta's party, businessmen and a constitution court judge. The cases involved Microsoft licenses, election fraud and tax evasion. Former Romanian Economy Minister Codrut Seres and former Communication Minister Zsolt Nagy were sentenced to prison this week for undermining state economy.”

Bloomberg Business, [EU Says Romanian Fight Against Crime on Track, Bulgaria Stalls](#), 28-01-2015

European Commission, [Commission reports on progress in Romania under the Co-operation and Verification Mechanism](#), 28-01-2015

Președintele Iohannis promite consolidarea parteneriatului strategic cu Statele Unite



“Romania is willing to strengthen its strategic partnership with the United States by expanding cooperation both in the military and economic fields, President Klaus Iohannis said during a meeting with Victoria Nuland, U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs. Iohannis also reiterated Romania's strong commitment as a NATO member, expressing his decision to allocate necessary resources to adequately respond to security concerns in the region and Europe. Nuland said her visit to Romania is owed to Iohannis, adding that she should have met the president at an early date.”

Xinhua News Agency, [Romania's new president pledge close ties with U.S.](#), 14-01-2015

România primește vizita Ministrului de externe britanic Philip Hammond

“Romania and Britain will further strengthen their bilateral relations, especially on economic, security and defense levels, stressed Prime Minister Victor Ponta and visiting British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond Wednesday. Ponta and Hammond also approached topics regarding the recent events in the European Union, focusing on identifying appropriate steps to face the current economic and security challenges.”

Xinhua News Agency, [Romania, UK to further strengthen relations](#), 14-01-2015

Politică europeană și internațională

Tensiunile dintre Rusia și statele occidentale rămân la un nivel ridicat. Liderii Germaniei, Franței, Rusiei și Ucrainei s-au întâlnit în capitala Belarusului pentru a negocia un acord de pace în Ucraina, pornind de la un plan franco-german. Uniunea Europeană a hotărât prelungirea sancțiunilor împotriva Rusiei, în timp ce NATO pregătește poziționarea de efective în Europa de est, inclusiv în România. Remarcăm o desfășurare similară a evenimentelor cu cele din august-septembrie anul trecut, când o ofensivă separatistă puternic susținută de Rusia a forțat guvernul ucrainian să cedeze teren și să caute semnarea armistițiului. Rămâne de văzut dacă liderii europeni vor continua să facă front comun împotriva Rusiei și vor decide extinderea sancțiunilor la summitul Consiliului European de pe 12 februarie.

Uniunea Europeană

Summit de pace la Minsk pentru rezolvarea conflictului din Ucraina

“The talks come after Angela Merkel and François Hollande went to Kiev and Moscow last week in an attempt to resolve the crisis which began in April. The Normandy diplomacy came as a response to a reported letter from Mr Putin offering an olive branch after weeks of bloodshed in eastern Ukraine. Mrs Merkel also went to the US to meet Barack Obama.”

The Telegraph, [Ukraine crisis: Minsk peace talks](#), 29-01-2015

Uniunea Europeană prelungeste termenul sancțiunilor împotriva Rusiei



“The European Union extended by six months an existing set of sanctions against Russian and pro-Russia separatist officials because of the continued fighting in eastern Ukraine. The new radical left-wing government in Greece didn't fall immediately in line with plans for further actions against Russia and insisted a stronger statement against Moscow should be toned down first. Instead of mentioning the threat of new economic sanctions, the joint statement only mentioned <<any appropriate action>> was on the table for the Feb. 12 EU summit of government leaders. France and some others said that while firmness was essential, room for negotiation had to be kept open. EU foreign affairs chief Mogherini said that the EU was also preparing a list of new officials to be put on the visa ban and asset freeze program.”

The New York Times, [EU to Extend Existing Russia Sanctions Over Ukraine](#), 29-01-2015

Politico Magazine, [Time for Plan B on Ukraine?](#), 26-01-2015

Tensiuni între Angela Merkel și Viktor Orbán în timpul vizitei cancelarului german la Budapesta

“German chancellor Angela Merkel criticised Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán over his government's treatment of the opposition, civil society, and media and openly clashed with him over the definition of democracy during a visit to Budapest on Monday (2 February). In a sometimes tense joint press conference, Merkel expressed doubt over Orbán's interpretation of democracy. <<Honestly, I can't understand what is meant by illiberal when it comes to democracy>>, she said.”

EU Observer, [Merkel clashes with Orbán on meaning of 'democracy'](#), 03-02-2015

Merkel ar putea sprijini legături mai puternice ale UE cu Uniunea Eurasiatică, cu condiția rezolvării crizei din Ucraina

“Germany's chancellor said Monday that she could eventually support a common economic area between the European Union and the trade bloc of former Soviet republics pushed by the Kremlin--provided that the separatist crisis in Ukraine is resolved.”

Wall Street Journal, [Merkel Could Support Closer EU Ties with Kremlin-Backed Bloc](#), 03-02-2015

BCE decide să restricționeze împrumuturile acordate Greciei, acțiunile băncilor elene scad puternic

“The eurozone's monetary policy makers have tightened Greek lenders' access to cheap liquidity, banning the use of the country's debt as collateral for the European Central Bank's cash weeks before a limit was expected to come into force”.

Financial Times, [ECB raises heat on Athens with curb on cash for banks](#), 05-02-2015

Alte Regiuni

Rusia anunță măsuri pentru ieșirea din criză economică, experții rămân sceptici

“With oil prices down more than 50 percent in the past year, the ruble having lost more than half its value, a recession looming and the country already dipping into its rainy-day funds, the Russian



economy is in a race against time. But one would be hard pressed to grasp the depth of the troubles from the Kremlin's prescriptions. Anton Siluanov, the finance minister, laid out the government's long-promised <<anti-crisis>> package in a live broadcast on state television last week, a laundry list of half-measures and a vague promise of a 10 percent budget cut that economists almost unanimously dismissed as inadequate."

The New York Times, [Russia outlines prescription to bolster its ailing economy, but experts scoff](#), 03-02-2015

Separatiștii ucraineni anunță mobilizarea generală, statele occidentale vorbesc despre sprijinirea financiară și militară a Ucrainei

Russian-backed separatists on Monday announced plans to boost their ranks facing government troops in Ukraine's breakaway east to 100,000 after the collapse of ceasefire talks. As the rebels continue to advance on Ukrainian positions, Alexander Zakharchenko, leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, called for a draft within 10 days to "mobilise 100,000 people" to defend his separatist enclave and the Lugansk People's Republic nearby. [...] The announcement comes as the Obama administration is considering again whether to send heavy weapons to the Ukrainian government in response to claims that Russia is increasing its own deliveries of arms to separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Financial Times, [Ukraine rebel leader orders military mobilization](#), 02-02-2015

Secretarul de Stat american anunță progrese în campania internațională împotriva Statului Islamic

"The US secretary of state, John Kerry, claimed that the Iraqi government and its international backers had made significant gains in the battle against Islamic State extremists, recapturing territory while killing half its leadership and thousands of its fighters. <<In recent months Daesh's momentum was halted in Iraq and in some cases reversed. Ground forces supported by nearly 2,000 air strikes now, have reclaimed more than 700 square kilometres>> declared Kerry. He said camps were being opened in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar to train Syrian opposition fighters, who western powers hope will be a counterweight to Isis in the battle with the Assad regime in Damascus. Britain's foreign secretary, Philip Hammond also underlined the importance of efforts to stop Isis recruits travelling through European countries such as Romania and Bulgaria and said he had visited the capitals of both countries, where Britain was working closely with the national security services."

The Guardian, [John Kerry: tide beginning to turn against Islamic State](#), 22-01-2015

SECURITATE

În planul securității, luna ianuarie a fost marcată de două evenimente tulburătoare: escaladarea ostilităților din Ucraina și atentatele teroriste din Paris. În Ucraina, un nou val de confruntări între autoritățile ucrainiene și forțele separatiste pare să fi pus definitiv punct armistițiului semnat în luna septembrie a anului trecut. Autoritățile de la Kiev și oficiali ai NATO au acuzat Rusia de o nouă



mobilizare de efective (peste 9000 de soldați) și echipament militar pe teritoriul Ucrainei. În același timp, după mai bine de jumătate de an în care privirile Europei au fost îndreptate către est, atacul împotriva redacției revistei Charlie Hebdo a readus în centrul atenției amenințarea terorismului islamist. Statele europene au luat măsuri sporite de securitate și au demarat discuții pentru întărirea colaborării la nivelul Uniunii Europene. Pentru România, preocuparea statelor europene pentru securitatea internă ar putea ridica noi obstacole în calea aderării la spațiul Schengen.

Președintele Iohannis anunță creșterea bugetului de apărare la 2% din bugetul de stat până în 2017

“Romania’s president said he’d reached a political consensus to boost defense spending to at least 2 percent of gross domestic product by 2017. <<A country has resorted to force to redesign its borders and all these serious things are happening next to us that we can’t ignore>> Iohannis said. Romania, which is targeting a 2015 budget gap of 1.8 percent of GDP, plans to ask the European Commission to allow it to exceed the goal so it can allocate cash to buy modern military equipment and new fighter jets. Romania's defense budget for the current year is some 1.7 percent of GDP. The increase would bring expenditure to the minimum level recommended by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.”

Bloomberg, [Romania to Boost Defense Spending in Face of Russian ‘Challenge’](#), 12-01-2015

Xinhua News Agency, [Romania to increase defense budget](#), 13-01-2015

George Maior demisionează din funcția de șef al Serviciului Român de Informații

“The chief of Romania’s Intelligence Service has resigned after criticizing the country’s top court for rejecting security laws which allowed the government to collect data on people without court approval. The Constitutional Court earlier this month rejected laws that would have allowed authorities to retain data and other personal details on people without persuading a court that the person represented a security risk. George Maior, who directed the Intelligence Service since 2006, stepped down days after he said the laws were necessary for national security and protecting people.”

The Washington Post, [Romania’s spy chief who backed security laws resigns](#), 27-01-2015

Conflictul din Ucraina suferă o nouă escaladare a ostilităților

“Despite hopes that the conflict was edging towards resolution, Ukraine’s war has entered its deadliest period since a nominal ceasefire halted a Russian-led advance in September. Foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine had signed a document in Berlin [on January 21st] calling for Kiev’s forces and Russian-backed rebels to pull back artillery from the front lines: but on the ground came signs of intensified violence. In the nine days to January 21st, at least 262 people were killed in eastern Ukraine, an average of 29 a day. Ukraine and its Western allies say that Russia is, once again, actively directing the offensive. Kiev accuses Russia of having 9,000 troops in eastern Ukraine. [Ukrainian President] Poroshenko remains publicly committed to a diplomatic solution. But many no longer believe that diplomacy can work.”

The Economist, [Ceasefire no more](#), 31-01-2015

The Guardian, [Donetsk trolleybus explosion blows Ukraine peace negotiations apart](#), 22-01-2015



NATO va poziționa mici contingente de trupe în România și alte cinci state est-europene

“NATO will deploy small units in six Eastern European nations - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania - to help coordinate a spearhead force set up in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine. The forward units will comprise a few dozen personnel only. They will plan and organize military exercises, and provide command and control for any reinforcements the force might require. Defense ministers from the 28-nation military alliance will discuss the full force when they meet on Feb. 5.”

The New York Times, [NATO to Deploy Small Units in 6 Eastern European Nations](#), 30-01-2015

Statele europene anunță măsuri sporite de securitate în urma atacurilor teroriste din Paris

“Protection has been stepped up across Europe in wake of a series of terrorist incidents. In France, military forces and police are <<everywhere>> since 7 January, when the terrorist attack on *Charlie Hebdo* took place. The Ministry of Defense decided to deploy 10,500 soldiers to sensitive areas, with nearly half of them assigned to the protection of the country's 717 Jewish schools. Belgium has increased its terror warning to three, the second highest, following raids in which two suspects were killed. Planned measures reportedly include the freezing of assets of foreign fighters, stripping terrorist fighters of their Belgian nationality, and wiretapping. The terror threat against British police has been raised to severe, the highest level yet, with police chiefs considering the more widespread deployment of Taser stun guns as an additional security measure. In Romania, the Paris attacks revived talks on the issue of the so called <<big brother>> law, designed to regulate prepaid SIM cards.”

EurActiv, [Anti-terrorist measures in EU go in all directions](#), 16-01-2015

The Guardian, [Soldiers to guard Belgian Jewish sites as Europol warns of further attacks](#), 17-01-2015

Brookings Institute, [Be Afraid. Be A Little Afraid: The Threat of Terrorism from Western Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq](#), 01-2015

Uniunea Europeană vizează noi prevederi comunitare pentru combaterea terorismului

“European Union foreign ministers sought a united response to the threat from militant Islamists following the attacks in Paris on 7 January. One idea is to place European security officials in EU overseas missions to collect and share information on the terrorism threat. <<It is a matter of having people on the ground that can liaise at the same level with security agents in the countries where we have delegations>> EU foreign policy chief Mogherini said. The attacks have also given new impetus to unblock EU plans to oblige EU countries to set up an EU-wide passenger list to collect data from flights to and from the EU. The proposal, which would include names, phone numbers and credit card details of passengers entering or leaving the EU, was put forward by the European Commission in 2011 but has been stuck in the European Parliament over privacy concerns. Priorities also include stopping EU citizens leaving to fight abroad and curbing radical Islam on the Internet to prevent them bringing violence back home”.

EurActiv, [EU considers foreign 'security agents' to counter terrorism](#), 20-01-2015

The Guardian, [Theresa May leads calls for EU-wide travel database to track all passengers](#), 12-01-2015



Atacurile teroriste din Paris afectează speranțele României de aderare la spațiul Schengen

“The EU is set to toughen rule enforcement in the Schengen Zone following the terrorist attacks in France, making it likely that Romania and Bulgaria will face more hurdles in their already lengthy attempt to join the passport-free area. <<We are in a very desperate situation, all our aspiration for Schengen are gone bust after what happened in Paris. And the classical countries - Germany, France - continue to make this error of believing that the East is East again>> centre-right Romanian MEP Traian Ungureanu said. While recognising that the two countries match technical requirements to be part of the area, Paris, Berlin and The Hague are sceptical about the domestic judiciary and law enforcement. <<I am afraid that member states are now more focused on security issues than on enlarging the zone of free movement>> a Portuguese centre-right MEP said.”

EU Observer, [French attack harms Bulgaria and Romania's Schengen hopes](#), 22-01-2015

SOCIAL

Prezența României în presa internațională la început de an este marcată de subiecte specifice acestei perioade: reevaluarea numărului de imigranți români din Marea Britanie, detalii noi despre revoluția din 1989 și un studiu american despre importanța programelor de asistență maternală care readuce atenția asupra orfelinatelor din România. Pe plan sportiv, începutul de an aduce și vestea că România va organiza Campionatul European de Gimnastică Artistică din 2017, la 60 de ani de când a găzduit prima ediție a Campionatului. Veștile pozitive vin și din zona de antreprenariat și tehnologie, unde potențialul României este remarcat și susținut. România este prezentă la Australian Open prin tenismena Simona Halep și la festivalul de film Sundance 2015 prin documentarul românesc “Chuck Norris Vs. Communism”.

Numărul de imigranți români și bulgari din Marea Britanie a rămas constant în 2014

“Romanian and Bulgarian migration to Britain has remained steady over the past few years, according to new research which contradicts fears that the dropping of labour controls would bring a surge of migrants into the country. The study — published on Tuesday by Oxford university’s Migration Observatory — found that while the UK’s total population of Romanians and Bulgarians now stands at just over a quarter of a million, the majority arrived before transitional controls on these countries ended in January 2014.”

Financial Times, [Romanian and Bulgarian migrant numbers remain steady](#), 30-12-2014

Noi informații despre sfârșitul dictaturii lui Nicolae Ceaușescu

“Even 25 years after Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown in an uprising, it’s not clear who was involved in his toppling. Hungarian author and DW contributor Arpad Szöczi has a look at new information. [...] After many years of research in the archives of the Hungarian and Romanian intelligence services, the author found explosive information that was never made public: Ceausescu is said to have told the armed forces in western Romania to train rockets on Hungary so they could hit back in case of an intervention by the neighboring country.”

Deutsche Welle, [New information on the end of the Ceausescu era](#), 15-01-2015



Simona Halep, eliminată în sferturile Australian Open de rusoaica Ekaterina Makarova

“Ekaterina Makarova continued her impressive rise as a grand slam contender by dismantling listless third seed Simona Halep 6-4 6-0 to reach the semi-finals of the Australian Open on Tuesday. The 10th-seeded Russian, who made her maiden grand slam semi-final at the U.S. Open last year, leaped on Romanian Halep's serve, breaking her twice in the first set and three times in the second to roar to a 5-0 lead.”

Reuters, [Magic Makarova routs Halep to reach semi-finals](#), 26-01-2015

Forbes, [Simona Halep's Quest To Lift Tennis' Biggest Trophies](#), 20-01-2015

România, pe drumul de a deveni capitala europeană a start-up-urilor în domeniul tehnologiei

“It has the highest number of technology workers per capita, close to 64,000 specialist IT workers, and counts Avangate and UberVu among its most recent exit successes. These factors, combined with an enviable tax regime; as low as 0% for IT workers, have conspired to help create one of Europe's hottest start-up scenes; Romania. [...] The Romanian start-up ecosystem now boasts numerous incubators, co-working spaces and dedicated events to help emerging entrepreneurs. The largest dedicated tech conference in Eastern Europe, HowToWeb5, is held in Bucharest.”

Forbes, [Now Romania Sets Its Sights On Becoming Tech Startup Capital Of Europe](#), 21-12-2014

România, un jucător important pe piață de cripto-monedă

“That Romania represented fertile soil for bitcoin seemed obvious from the get go; that it would become a European center for cryptocurrency was harder to predict. Yet become a center it did, though not without some hiccups along the way. Romanian exchange BTCXchange were offering 0% transaction fees on buying and selling services until they issued a statement in December of last year recommending that users withdraw all their bitcoin and cease trading for ‘security’ reasons. [...] The country sports only 17 bitcoin merchants to date and though there are several bitcoin ATMs across the region this is not the bitcoin mecca that the Netherlands has proven to be. Romania is nevertheless an important player in European cryptocurrency circles.”

InsideBitcoins, [Bitcoin Around the World: Romania](#), 30-01-2015

România va organiza Campionatul European de Gimnastică Artistică din 2017

“The delegates have voted for Bucharest (ROU) to host their 7th European Championships in men's and women's artistic gymnastics from April 10th to 17th, 2017. [...] This championship will be held in a sports complex which will be financed to the amount of 80 million Euro by the Romanian state and the city of Bucharest. This event will also mark the 60th anniversary of the creation of Women's European Championships, the first of which was organised in Bucharest in 1957.”

UEG, [European Championships in Bucharest in 2017](#), 30-01-2015

UEG, [2017 RENDEZ-VOUS TAKEN IN THE COUNTRY OF NADIA COMANECI!](#), 26-01-2015



România își confirmă participarea la Expoziția Universală de la Milano 2015

“MAE showed that the pavilion project, with the theme <<Living with Nature>>, illustrates national priorities such as sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, competitiveness, scientific excellence and research, but also emphasizes the cultural uniqueness and wealth of national traditions, starting with the architectural reinterpretation of a traditional Romanian house, integrated in the contemporary flow through modern means of audio-video presentation, innovative technological solutions and promotion of healthy food models, based on bio agricultural products. [...] The Milano 2015 Universal Exposition, in which Romania participates with a built national pavilion, will take place between May 1 - October 31.”

ACTmedia, [Romania to participate in the Milano 2015 Universal Exposition](#), 26-01-2015

Piața vinului din România se diversifică

“About 30,000 hectares of new, well-designed vineyards have been planted since 2007. This represents almost a third of the country’s total area planted with wine-friendly *Vitis vinifera* vines. According to some estimates, no fewer than 120 new wineries came onstream in Romania last year alone. Romanians have always been keen wine drinkers and most smallholdings have a few vines. What is new is that a fragile domestic market has emerged for wines with real aspirations to quality and high prices (much higher than the wines would command abroad).”

Financial Times, [Romania’s grape hopes](#), 16-01-2015

Un studiu american făcut în orfelinatele din România arată efectele negative ale neglijării copiilor la o vârstă fragedă

“In perhaps the most famous study of childhood neglect, researchers have closely tracked the progress, or lack of it, in children who lived as infants in Romania’s bleak orphanages and are now teenagers. A new analysis now shows that these children, who display a variety of behavioral and cognitive problems, have less white matter in their brains than do a group of comparable children in local families. [...] But there’s some potential good news: A small group of children who were taken out of orphanages and moved into foster homes at age 2 appeared to bounce back, at least in brain structure.”

The Telegraph, [Loving foster homes repaired brain damage of Romanian orphans](#), 26-01-2015

Science, [Childhood neglect erodes the brain](#), 26-01-2015

Oamenii de știință protestează față de decretul din România privind revocarea titlului de doctor

“Romanian scientists have responded angrily to an <<emergency>> governmental decree issued by prime minister Victor Ponta that allows people to relinquish their doctoral degrees through the ministry of education, without an explanation. Previously, as in most countries, a PhD in Romania could only be revoked after an investigation. The decree, issued on 30 December, follows Ponta’s announcement on 16 December that he was renouncing his PhD in international law, which has been dogged by allegations of plagiarism for several years.”

Nature, [Scientists protest Romanian decree on PhD revocation](#), 06-01-2015



“Chuck Norris Vs. Communism” - un nou film documentar românesc la festivalul de film Sundance 2015

“Through a series of interviews and dramatic re-enactments, the documentary chronicles how the exposure to movies let people see outside the boundaries of what Ceausescu’s government presented, planting seeds of unrest that eventually played a part in the revolution that overthrew the regime in 1989.”

BBC, [Talking Movies: How Chuck Norris changed Romania](#), 27-01-2015

The Verge, [Chuck Norris vs. Communism: how VHS piracy started a political revolution](#), 24-01-2015