

Romania in 30 years

A Vision for the Future

Responsibility
Loyalty
Generosity
Setting examples



La 1 Ianuarie 2007, România a început un nou timp istoric, tot atât de important și de inspirat ca și cel care a semnat anulul 1918.

Niciodată de atunci încercas nu am avut, din punct de vedere economic, militar și politic, o șansă mai mare de a ne consolida identitatea.

România are nevoie de o viziune durabilă, care să completeze democrația și libertățile garantate și apartenența la NATO și la Uniunea Europeană.

Am această răspundere în mâinile Prințesei Margareta și a Prințului Radu, cu speranța că voi putea să o ducă la bun sfârșit.

Nikolai



On the 1st of January 2007, Romania began a new chapter in her history, one that is as important and inspiring as the one that followed 1918.

Never have we had a better chance – from the economic, military and political points of view – to strengthen our identity.

Romania requires a consistent long term vision to nurture and sustain the democracy and freedoms that NATO and EU membership assure.

I have entrusted this task to Princess Margarita and Prince Radu, in the hope that they will be able to complete it.

Mihai R





Romania Deserves a Coherent Vision for the Future for the Following Reasons

BECAUSE, 140 YEARS AGO, Romania entrusted her throne to a European, Carol I - the first king in Romania's history. For 48 years, he practiced the most fruitful and progressive leadership in the modern history of Romania. He was the rarest statesman we have ever had as he established the foundations for a professional approach to politics, the economy, civil society and the army. These entities are the most important ingredients in today's transatlantic world. The cornerstones that King Carol I set in modernizing Romania are now the milestones of our European destiny. In 1881, Romania was a sovereign and independent state in Europe, at a time when half of the present EU member-states did not even exist.

FURTHERMORE, IN THIS ERA of globalisation, the Royal Family as an institution is an expression of Romanian statehood, not only through the very essence of Royalty, but also because Carol I defined the modern Romanian state. Irrespective of the Head of State in office, the Romanian Royal Family continues to represent a part of statehood both as an embodiment of Sovereignty, and as a symbol and a continuum. This is not a matter of politics, rather one of national identity.

AS WE LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY and take an active part in its public life, we have a vision of the future that involves self-sacrifice in serving Romanian interests. In King Michael, Romania has a man of international standing.

Our institution is unique in its pattern – the Family – the basic cell of the Romanian people, the place where a nation grows, finds its balance and perpetuates its values.

BECAUSE EACH OF THE FIVE GENERATIONS of the Royal Family contributed to the development of society, not only through public actions but also through personal commitments. Each of our kings established a Foundation bearing his name – the *Royal Foundations* – hubs of scientific and economic development of their time. Each of our queens was to the wounded soldiers a heroine and a mother. Through their charities, donations, personal effort and love they contributed to the cause of the disadvantaged. Our queens also acted as catalysts for our cultural development, which bloomed around them.

BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES of the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation, and those of the Office of the Special Representative of the Government, we have acquired a comprehensive insight into the future needs of Romania. When at home, we act as a link between authorities and civil society and between the influential and society at large. When abroad, we are seen as bearers of a neutral, credible and respected message from a broad perspective which goes beyond changes in government and politics.

FURTHERMORE, THE EXPERIENCE of public commitments in Romania and abroad has helped us define the lines along which Romania's development can be supported, in ways that fully respect national identity within a European and transatlantic context.



BECAUSE WE CAN BUILD BRIDGES - anchored in history, cultural and spiritual life - with European countries (be they EU Member-States or not) by highlighting the values that join us. Bridges which will contribute to democracy, prosperity, stability, the rule of law and predictability. These are the values and ideals rooted in tradition, permanence, culture, generosity, responsible altruism, identity, pride, and faith in God,

BECAUSE WE CAN HAVE an important contribution in bringing together the Romanians at home with those living abroad.

THE ROYAL FAMILY BELIEVES there are no limitations or barriers to partnership with politicians, political parties, public authorities, civil society, professional associations, the media, businessmen, the church, the army and academics. Genuine partnership stems from cooperation and loyalty, and not from competition or furthering of individual interests.

BECAUSE THE ELISABETA PALACE now represents – irrespective of the Government in office – a source of national pride as well as of Romanian identity, permanence and traditions, due to the convergence of past and present, present and future.



The Values Underlying Romania's Permanence

Many of the ideas in this paper come from the thousands of Romanian students we have met and talked to in recent years. In twenty years' time, they will be in charge of our country's destiny; but they are already able to find answers to all questions.

PATRIOTISM IS A GEOPOLITICAL ARGUMENT, a quantifier of national security and a way of surviving as a nation in hard times. Patriotism means a sense of responsibility; it means generosity, loyalty and setting examples. Building highways and airports, seaports and schools is an act of patriotism. Patriotism in the third millennium relies therefore on development, on devising new instruments of progress, on welfare, on dignity, on inspiration and building connections, as well as on personal responsibility. At the same time, patriotism is vulnerable when radical nationalism attempts to take its place.

Permanence derives from prosperity and the rule of law, good governance and liberal democracy, togetherness and cooperation, and also from the value of education, the promotion of the fundamental institutions of a society, the cherishing of pride, traditions and continuity, models and vision. These too can all act as engines of development.

Democracy must always develop, weed out its shortcomings and grow in harmony with the other public virtues in order to restore a sense of responsibility, loyalty, respect for values, generosity and morality, the

impact of example-setting and respect for the common rules of living together. But let us first tackle *the sense of responsibility*.

Freedom and *democracy* are distinct notions, not always interrelated. Pragmatism, prosperity, economic development, seriousness, professionalism, individual responsibility and a certain sense of growth are all privileges of freedom.

The authority of a leader should be in direct proportion to the institutional responsibility the leader is granted. A sense of duty towards society is not enough. One has to be part of a system that nurtures responsibility. In this respect, freedom and strong institutions have a critical contribution; but so too does altruism, setting examples and the courage to uphold ideals publicly.

Speaking of *leadership*, an official of a faraway country recently said: “*We protect our people in that we care for what they experience*”. I have never heard such words in Romania or in Europe. What one hears in liberal democracies is mostly what people like to hear, and not what protects them from harmful experiences.

Personalities who make a mark on society and history are providential not only through their professional quality, but also through two other *sine qua non* ingredients: a *vision* (that has nothing to do with the Government’s administrative program) and *responsible altruism*, which should prevail over party, group or personal interests. Skills alone – with no horizon or ideal – are infertile, ego-massaging exercises, possibly trendsetters in political ability, but they will never lead to a nation’s welfare, dignity, stability and freedom.

For Romania, welfare and a life of dignity and freedom, as well as a connection to the Euro Atlantic family of nations cannot be brought about only by its NATO and EU membership but first and foremost by each and every one of *us*, that is by all segments of Romanian society. The Parliament, the President and Government are not the only ones responsible for Romania’s present and future. The media, the private sector, the army and the church, each and every citizen - high-school students - included are also responsible.

Today, two thirds of Romanians¹ think that the Royal House should become even more involved in Romania’s democratisation and development. Most Romanians think that the Royal House is closely related to values of tradition, national identity, continuity and national pride. More than half of Romanians appreciate the work done by Princess Margarita and her Foundation, and think that Prince Radu could accept a public office. Both the results and the conclusions of the poll are relevant. They show that Romanians’ level of trust in EU accession is close to their perception of the usefulness of the Royal House’s involvement in Romania’s development and democratic process. Also, most Romanians appreciate the values the Royal House stands for; furthermore, there is a nationwide awareness of the Royal Family and that our generation of the Royal Family is a distinct and positive presence in the eyes of Romanians.

¹ IRECSO opinion poll of May 2006.



A Strategy for Sustainable Development

*The strategy discussed below is not a political agenda;
it is a blueprint to support the sustainable building of Romania
over the next thirty years. It places itself alongside political efforts
in association with personalities of the economy, the army, politics,
culture, diplomacy, arts, education and the media.*

The first ten years

(2007 to 2017)

ROMANIA MUST EXERCISE good management of EU Structural Funds and other funding allocated by international agencies to develop and nurture private initiatives. All who have feasible projects will have access to this funding. If the projects are good, they will be recognised as such. Romania can become a second Spain with respect to the efficient use of the European Structural Funds, while learning pragmatism and effectiveness from Ireland and Luxemburg.

A priority of the next ten years is transportation infrastructure, ranging from a network of highways “ploughing through” the country along well-chosen economic and tourist routes, to modern airports (with *Otopeni* a regional air hub) and seaports (*Constanța* could be Danubian Europe’s gate to the East) and to reliable customs and postal services.

Today’s global strategy encompasses both the production and the transportation of gas and oil. Romania has in this respect an important potential waiting to be taken advantage of.

The Danube is emblematic of Romania. Not only does it represent a strategic axis, but it is also a commercial and tourist pathway of a huge untapped potential. In its Romanian segment the Danube can make tourism and culture flourish as it has done in Budapest and Vienna. Developing both waterway transportation and cultural tourism will lend a new life to the riparian towns and cities, will give scope and purpose to their traditions, entrepreneurial spirit and cultural identity.

The Carpathians and the Moldovan monasteries are landmarks of international tourism, and are noted for



their beauty and uniqueness and international importance. A full tourism and logistics network could develop around them, providing high-quality services able to draw development-driving clients. *Dobrogea, Gorj, Caraș, Dâmbovița, Maramureș, Bistrița* and *Bucovina*, together with the string of spas should be easily accessible not only to Europeans, but also to Asians and Americans. Good highways and high quality services would make Romania's tourism potential of ten million tourists a year become reality.

Each county of Romania has a valuable heritage and unique potential. Europe pays a lot of attention to regional development. The Royal House organises "*Regional Evenings*," hosted at the *Elisabeta Palace* - a

venue for meeting new business partners, a place where each region's culture and traditions are promoted, a setting where local authorities can discuss their projects and achievements with foreign diplomats accredited in Bucharest or with foreign investors. The "*Regional Evenings*" will continue, year after year, so that businessmen and the captains of economic, political, social and cultural life can discover Romania's symbols and values, in the presence of mayors, prefects and leaders of each county's most successful representatives. In time, this vision could be translated into a local institutional program inspiring local communities and strengthening the regional concept in its economic, social, cultural and traditional components while giving free rein to entrepreneurship.

Bucharest should regain its European destiny, with modern and environmentally-friendly buildings and urban infrastructure and architecture, public transportation and services. We cannot underestimate the need to keep and tend the historical parks (*Grădina Icoanei, Herăstrău, Cișmigiu, Carol*) as cultural settings.

The cities of *Iași* and *Cluj* can continue to develop their role as centres of Romanian culture and education, capitals of historical principalities and citadels of the arts.

The geographically close cities of *Timișoara* and *Arad* could pool their economic and institutional resources to become an important urban pole, similar to Bucharest in the areas of economic development and tourism.

Private initiative is an engine of development. SMEs are Romanians' traditional means to express creativity, ingenuity and working abilities. We will continue to support all private entrepreneurs and lobby domestic and foreign authorities for better funding terms, and access to European and world markets. Nurturing private initiative can contribute to weeding out amateurism and mediocrity.

The *Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation* has launched development programmes targeting rural communities. We will continue to encourage local initiative, and to find foreign partners for Romanian communities, to make known the challenges that rural areas are faced with at the beginning of the third millennium.

The Royal Estate of Săvârșin, together with the local community, will become a model of Romanian rural development. A project whose implementation demands not only economic know-how and adaptation to globalisation, but also an awareness of values such as human kindness, love for one another and respect for each employee and partner. Solid local communities are the bricks of a solid, genuine national community. Within the integrated *Săvârșin* Project, special attention will be given to organic farming. We believe it to be one of Romania's assets in European touristic and economic competition in, as well as a source of health, culture, balance and harmony for sustainable development.

Similarly to the UK, France or Germany, Transylvanian castles have the potential to lend the place color and attractiveness – either as private country houses, libraries and conference centres, or as promoters of the arts and trades, museums, hotels and restaurants.

The *Royal Institute for Hospitality Management* (co-founded with *Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne* and *IRECSON Romania*) will be an elite school for the future managers of big estates or hotels.

The title of “Supplier to the Royal House” was granted to several carefully selected private companies and individuals as a symbol and token of appreciation for the quality of their products and of their continuing concern and care for consumers. HM King Michael and HRM Queen Anne continue each to grant their high patronage to historical and cultural bodies.



We have granted our patronage to sporting bodies such as the *Foundation for Romanian Athletics* and the *Romanian Federation of Traditional Karate*. We will continue to do so, particularly with those sports that, although forgotten or ignored, were a source of national pride in the last century.

We will have our specific contribution to Romania's integration in the coming years, in far-reaching European projects such as the Lisbon Strategy, the European Energy Policy, the European Social Model. We will contribute to EU institutional reform, the Constitutional Treaty and the EU Innovation policy.

In 2006 we launched the *Europe of Regions Initiative*, aimed at developing direct links between Romanian and European regions in trade, transportation, tourism, culture, secondary and tertiary education and with the media, the Diaspora and Local Authorities - both civilian and military. We want this initiative to continue for ten years and mirror the *Regional Evenings* conducted in the *Elisabeta Palace*.

Based on Queen Marie's memorable visit to the USA in 1926, we have developed a project called *The Friendship Tour*, consisting of a number of trips to each State. The tours target five influential segments, which are, meeting local businessmen, politicians, university students, (the future leaders of the USA) local media and, in a particularly symbolical approach, the Romanian communities of the Diaspora. *The Friendship Tour* brings Romanian interests and reality to each American community.

Romanians living abroad can contribute much to their homeland's development and Romania must provide the best conditions for them to do so. The Royal Family has always been and will continue to be a bridge between Romanians living abroad and those at home.

We will support the establishment of information centres about Romania in important countries. Poetry and Chamber Music do not have a sufficient impact on public opinion in Western countries. The scope and methods of such centres – ideally the fruit of joint efforts



of Romania and its Diaspora – could be placed under the aegis of the *Romanian Royal Foundations*. People's interest in Romania must be raised and kept alive with updated information, appropriate to the times in which we are living.

The Royal Foundations can support research work or the production of documentaries on Romania's relations with other countries, treated individually and structured by areas of interest. A book about the Romanian-German relations would cover historical issues, (modern) politics, science, culture, literature and the arts. Films or books dealing with Romania's relations

with the USA, France, Italy, Spain, UK or Japan would be valuable and relevant tools for Romania's presence in the world.

In past decades Romania contributed to further education, industry and the infrastructure of countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Romania's presence in North and South Africa, the Middle East, Central or South-Eastern Asia, Latin America or the Southern Caucasus - in higher education or in the economy - would benefit both Romania and the European Union.

The Next Twenty Years

(2017 to 2037)

ROMANIA CANNOT BECOME a competitive and prosperous country in just ten years. That is why we must tackle the long-term projects that should be continually addressed by Romania:

In twenty years, Romania's destiny will be in the hands of the young of today. Their minds are teeming with ideas, inspirations and interest in integration, development and the future. They realise they have to be the best in order to stand a chance in an increasingly competitive world. They belong to a generation which is immune to the new "wooden language." Schools should arm them with values; they must be encouraged to improve, and to be innovative. The educational system should bring together all partners in education - students, educators, parents, local communities, the Government, as well as the media. The Royal Family is

competent in supporting education, it can give recognition and support to dedicated professional educators. The *Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation* contributes to the refurbishment and equipment of schools and local educational centers; it helps students - both the exceptional and those with learning problems - so that they can all make the best of their talents and skills. There are many students' associations under our patronage; there will be more in the coming years.

We have always been eager to visit educational institutions at all levels. The young have the power to impact Romania's progress and recognition. That is why we stand by them and support their aspirations - in the next 30 years, they are the most powerful resource Romania has.



Businessmen and influential people should follow the Atlantic Model in supporting the schools where they studied. They can invest in school equipment or in human capital, as well as grant scholarships to the best students, to students in rural areas, and to students with disabilities.

We will encourage the opening of several colleges of education for elite teachers trained to teach in rural schools. As leaders of rural communities, they will both teach children and help communities understand and meet the challenges of the modern world. Village teachers can thus become friends and role models, but

this can only happen in cooperation with the communities concerned.

We will ceaselessly encourage the practice of decency and civility in human relationships, a culture of dignity, respect and tolerance - people can thus value harmony, responsibility and excellence. We will promote the concept of corporate social responsibility (*i.e. while making profit, companies have social and moral duties towards individuals, communities and the environment*).

Working in harmony with the Church is an encompassing way to promote faith in God, love and



generosity, together with the spiritual and social dimensions of specific projects.

The Royal House's project to re-establish the *Romanian Royal Foundations*, presided over by HRH The Princess Margarita, targets the arts, science, education and scientific practice. The collection of organisations bearing the names of the four Kings of the Romanian Royal Family (Carol I, Ferdinand, Carol II and Michael) will regain its nature and identity, as well as the financial and human resources it needs. The *Royal Foundations* are public interest organisations of national scope, which require the continuing financial support of prestigious

companies. A board made up of the important Romanian personalities, and a committee of experts specializing in various subjects. This structure will ensure continuity in operations and long-term strategy.

The *Romanian Royal Foundations* will encourage the production, over the years, of the Romanian Encyclopedia – a responsible and comprehensive work encompassing all Romanian personalities and achievements in the arts and sciences - in hard copy and electronic format. King Carol I gave Romania the railways. We want to give Romania a comprehensive encyclopedia.



Economic and institutional corruption is a pernicious phenomena bred by poverty and the recent past. We are however afraid that globalisation and the spreading of democracy will generate new versions of this scourge: *psychological corruption*, *mental corruption* and *emotional corruption*. We intend to support the development of deterrents to such corruption, which has the potential to cause - society wide – severe, and potentially incurable damage.

Pushed aside as “burdens” on the shoulders of an already poor society, the elderly no longer have the chance to take part in educating the young, who are thus left without possible models and help. The *Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation* will continue to work with Local Authorities actively to involve the elderly in the life of the community, not only through leisure activities but also by opening up channels of dialogue between generations – thus giving the elderly purpose and a sense of usefulness, as well as the love and care they deserve.

We will continue to support Romania’s cooperation (in the areas of the economy, defense, education, culture, environment and sustainable development) with other countries. Besides the permanent priority given to the Euro-Atlantic region, we must also promote Romania’s active presence in other parts of the world, i.e. Latin America, South-Eastern Asia, China, India, Africa and Australia.

We will initiate partnerships or events tackling global trends in society and the environment like access to natural resources and migration.

We will also do our best to contribute directly or through

relevant agencies or initiatives, to identify solutions to serious climate change-related issues. We will endeavour to highlight the problems caused by the huge displacements of populations in search of food and water, starvation and the depletion of natural resources. All elements could generate a global wide recession.

We will give our support to projects promoting alternative energy and encourage new ideas and models in this area of research. At the same time we will take a direct role in related educational effort (e.g. on the best use of water and heating). In Romania in particular we will endeavor to contribute positively to the finding of solutions to problems relating to the aging population, the low birth rate and the depopulation caused by migration of the young who believe they have no future at home. We will share our concerns with domestic and foreign organisations, some of which enjoy worldwide reputation and visibility.



The Royal Family will always be and work with us, in the three “centres” of Romanian Royalty – the *Elisabeta Palace* (for public action), *Săvârșin* (a model of rural development) and the *Pelișor Castle* (the historical Seat of the Royal Family).

HRH The Princess Margareta of Romania
HSH Radu, Prince of Hohenzollern-Veringen

Handwritten signatures of Margareta and Radu. The signature on the left is 'Margareta' and the signature on the right is 'Radu Prince of Hohenzollern-Veringen'. Below the signatures are the printed names 'Margareta' and 'Radu Prince of Romania'.

Elisabeta Palace, 1st January 2007