

CHRONOLOGY OF THE ROMANIAN POLITICAL LIFE October 01, 2024 – March 31, 2025¹

October 01

- The President of the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP), Toni Greblă, announces that, for the 2024 general elections, 18,900 polling stations will be organized in Romania and 950 abroad.
- The president of Save Romania Union party (USR), Elena Lasconi, and an independent contender, Călin Georgescu, submit their candidacies to the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC) for the presidential elections of 24 November 2024.
- The president of the Romanian National Conservative Party (PNCR), Cristian Terheș, and party member Viorica Dăncilă, former Prime Minister, submit to the BEC the lists with 150,000 signatures in support of the PNCR for the parliamentary elections of 1 December 2024.

October 02

- The National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives (CNSAS) announces that there is no evidence that Nicușor Dan collaborated

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with the Securitate. This statement comes as a reaction to the allegations surfaced in the public sphere, shared by a representative of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) during the campaign for the local elections of 9 June, according to which Nicușor Dan had allegedly provided information to the Securitate about his colleagues in the Olympic team during the 1988 International Mathematics Olympiad.

- The Government approves financial aid of 2 billion LEI in total from the Budgetary Reserve Fund to compensate more than 230,000 farmers whose crops have been affected by drought. At the same meeting, the Government approves the allocation of 5.2 billion LEI for the construction of motorways in the Transylvania and Moldova regions, as well as for the Bucharest Ring Road. Additionally, the Government provides 560 million LEI in funding to county councils and local councils in Bucharest for social services expenditures.
- Two presidential candidacies are submitted to the BEC: former Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă, the current president of the National Liberal Party (PNL), with over 1.6 million signatures, and Kelemen Hunor, president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR), with over 270,000 signatures.

October 03

- The BEC rejects the candidacy for the presidential elections of independent contender Miron Cozma, the former leader of the miners in the Jiului Valley, on two grounds: the use of previously prepared lists for the 2019 elections and the lack of several mandatory documents required to register his candidacy. Miron Cozma insisted that the lists of supporters, with over 311,000 signatures and which have remained in the custody of AEP and BEC since 2019 should nevertheless be admitted.
- Two presidential candidacies are submitted to the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC) the one of independent candidate Mircea Geoană, backed by 500,000 signatures, and the one belonging to S.O.S. Romania party president, Diana Șoșoacă.

October 04

- Romania signs a partnership with the World Bank, which pledges to provide a loan of around 6 billion dollars for the period 2025-2029, with the aim of developing the country's economy.

- The District Electoral Office for Romanian citizens domiciled or residing abroad admits the candidacies proposed by several parties and alliances, as well as those of two independent candidates for the parliamentary elections, namely: UDMR, USR, the Social-Democratic Party (PSD), the Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR), Renewing Romania's European Project (REPER), S.O.S. Romania, National Christian Alliance, the Party of Young People (POT), the Socialist Romania Political Alliance, the United Social Democratic Party (PSDU), PNCR, the Romanian Ecologist Party (PER), Health, Education, Nature, Sustainability Party (SENS), and the independent candidates Florin Andreicuț and Claudia Puiu Barraud for the Chamber of Deputies. The Electoral Bureau also admits the candidacies proposed by the National Liberal Party (PNL) for the Senate. The BEC rejects the electoral list proposed by the PNL for the Chamber of Deputies, as well as the ones proposed by the Force of the Right Party (FD) and the Justice and Respect in Europe for All Party (DREPT) for the Senate on the grounds of gender non-representation.
- Cristian Diaconescu and Ana Birchall run in the presidential elections as independent candidates. Cristian Terheș runs in the presidential elections for the PNCR.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) provides clarifications on how Alliance employees obtain their security clearances from their home states, in the wake of public space debates on Mircea Geoană's ties to the Russian Federation. The former Deputy Secretary General of NATO calls on Romanian state institutions to investigate the allegations against him.

October 05

- Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, the president of PSD, admits the breakdown of dialogue with the PNL and its party leader Nicolae Ciucă, but informs that Romania has a strong and fully functional coalition government in place.
- PM Ciolacu stands in the presidential elections.
- The president of the Force of the Right Party (FD), Ludovic Orban, runs for the office of President of Romania and is supported not only by his own party, but also by the Popular Movement Party

(PMP), the Right Alternative Party and the Maniu-Mihalache National Peasants Party (PNȚMM).

- Following two appeals (lodged by Amalia Bellantoni and Mihai Gheorghe Ursa), the Constitutional Court of Romania (CCR) rejects the candidacy of Diana Șoșoacă (S.O.S. Romania) for the presidential elections on the grounds that she has violated the eligibility conditions for the Romanian presidency.

October 07

- The CCR publishes its ruling on the rejection of Diana Șoșoacă's presidential candidacy, a decision made by a majority of five judges out of nine — four of them were appointed by the PSD and one by the UDMR. The ruling states that Șoșoacă has violated democratic values and principles, the rule of law, disregarding the Constitution and Romania's commitments as a member of the European Union (EU) and NATO. In response to the CCR's decision, Diana Șoșoacă has shared legionary messages – banned under Romanian law – on social media, including tributes to the former legionary leader Corneliu Zelea Codreanu.
- The CCR rejects the appeals against the registration of the candidacies of George Simion, Mircea Geoană, Marcel Ciolacu and Ludovic Orban.
- PNL President Nicolae Ciucă announces the dissolution of the PNL-PSD political alliance, but states that the PNL members will remain in government to prevent potential abuses that could secure an electoral victory for the PSD.

October 08

- Diana Șoșoacă, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), is sanctioned in the European Parliament (EP) for disrupting the July plenary session: her daily allowance will be withheld for seven days, and she will be temporarily barred from taking part in the EP plenary for the same period of time.
- The Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Laura Vicol, resigns from her position after the publication of an investigation by Recorder, a journalistic publication, into the Nordis Management SRL business. One of the main shareholders is her

husband, Vladimir Răzvan Ciorbă. The Directorate for the Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) opens a criminal case against Nordis, which is accused of fraudulently selling unfinished apartment flats for large sums of money paid in advance by the buyers.

- Eighteen people submit their candidacies for the presidential elections, one of which was previously rejected by the BEC, namely that of Miron Cozma, as it did not meet the necessary criteria. The eighteen candidates are George Simion (AUR), Elena Lasconi (USR), Marcel Ciolacu (PSD), Nicolae Ciucă (PNL), Kelemen Hunor (UDMR), Ludovic Orban (FD), Ana Birchall (ind.), Călin Georgescu (ind.), Cristian Diaconescu (ind.), Cristian Terheș (PNCR), Mircea Geoană (ind.), Silviu Predoiu (National Action League Party/PLAN), Oana Crețu (PSDU), Sebastian Popescu (New Romania Party), Alexandra Beatrice Bertalan-Păcuraru (Alternative for National Dignity Party/ADN), Ciprian Mega (ind.), Răzvan Constantinescu (Patriots of the Romanian People Party/PPR).

October 09

- The PSD Senator, Robert Cazanciuc, submits a bill to amend the law on the election of the President of Romania and the law on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court, following the CCR decision which prohibits Diana Șoșoacă from running for the Romanian Presidency. The legislative initiative would shift the responsibility of either accepting or rejecting electoral candidates before BEC to the High Court of Cassation and Justice (ÎCCJ), the Administrative and Tax Litigation Department. The initiative also provides for the establishment of a qualified majority of two thirds of the number of CCR judges for issuing the decision regarding the compliance with the election procedures for the President of Romania.

October 10

- The former Minister of Health, Nelu Tătaru, is being prosecuted after the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) in Iași accused him of taking bribes from patients. The DNA is asking the Chamber of Deputies to lift his immunity in order to start house searches. On the proposal of the PNL President Ciucă, Nelu Tătaru is relieved of

his duties as President of the Vaslui branch of PNL and as President of the Health Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and will be excluded from the list for the parliamentary elections.

October 11

- Senator Eugen Pîrvulescu is placed under judicial control by the DNA for instigation to influence peddling. He left the PNL a few days ago and joined Mircea Geoană's team for the presidential elections.
- According to data published by the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the inflation rate in September 2024 fell to 4.62% and the rate of change in consumer prices rose by 6.1% over the last 12 months. The National Bank of Romania (BNR) forecasts the inflation rate to fall to 3.4% by the end of 2025.

October 14

- MPs decide to lift the parliamentary immunity of Nelu Tătaru, with 177 votes in favor, 12 against and one abstention.

October 15

- Mayor Nicușor Dan proposes a referendum in Bucharest on local taxes and building permits. He underscores the need for income taxes and other taxes collected from Bucharest residents to be distributed by the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest between the General City Hall and the sector city halls. He also advocates that the Mayor General should issue all building permits across the city's entire administrative territory. The proposal comes as a consequence of the failure of the capital's Mayor General, Nicușor Dan (elected as an independent), and the mayor of Sector 4, Daniel Băluță (PSD), to reach common ground on starting consolidation work in the passage beneath Unirii Square in Bucharest.
- The Minister of Development, Public Works and Administration (MDLPA), Adrian-Ioan Veștea, signs 19 new financing contracts through the 'Anghel Saligny' National Investment Programme, with a total amount of 97,241,965 LEI. These projects are aimed at modernizing road infrastructure, setting up or extending drinking water supply systems, domestic sewerage networks and natural gas intelligent distribution systems.

- Romanian President Klaus Iohannis promulgates the law increasing Romania's European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BERD) capital by 19.36 million euros. Romania has been a member of the BERD since 1991.
- The CNSAS finalizes the procedure for vetting presidential candidates for collaboration with the former Securitate. Of all the candidates, the CNSAS found that Silviu Predoiu was employed as a Securitate officer. However, in the absence of evidence of his involvement in the suppression of human rights, he will not be labeled a Securitate collaborator, which would have prevented him from running in the elections.

October 16

- The Government approves a railway investment project that will see Romania benefit from 58 new electric trains worth 3.3 billion LEI, creating interconnected routes in thirteen cities across the country.
- The mayor of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, meets the PNL president Ciucă to present him a set of 20 measures he proposes to the candidates in the presidential and parliamentary elections. Nicușor Dan recalls that his top three choices in the presidential elections are the leaders of the main center-right parties in Romania, with whom he wants to co-operate: Nicolae Ciucă (PNL), Elena Lasconi (USR) and Ludovic Orban (FD). The mayor general expresses his openness to cooperation with the PSD president Ciolacu and the rest of the presidential candidates.
- The USR calls on the ruling PSD-PNL coalition to organize a referendum 'without criminals,' which would occur concurrently with the first round of the presidential elections.

October 17

- PM Ciolacu breaks his silence saying that his rift with Nicolae Ciucă, with whom he works in the current coalition government, was caused by the change in the legislation that allowed the current President Iohannis to run in the upcoming parliamentary elections.
- The S.O.S. Romania Party submits the Bucharest Municipality and Ilfov lists of candidates for the parliamentary elections (54 candidates

for Bucharest and 11 for Ilfov County). MEP Diana Șoșoacă opens the list for the Senate, while Dumitru Coarna opens the list for the Chamber of Deputies. Although Diana Șoșoacă's candidacy for the 2024 presidential elections was rejected following a ruling by the CCR, the Municipal Electoral Bureau decides to validate her candidacy for the parliamentary elections.

- AUR submits the Bucharest Municipality list of candidates for the parliamentary election, which is opened by the party's president, George Simion, followed by George Becali, Marian Enache and Lidia Vadim Tudor. For the Senate, Petrișor Peiu is the head of the list.

October 18

- REPER submits to the parliament two bills to operationalize the consultative referendum proposed by Mayor Nicușor Dan.

October 20

- PM Ciolacu officially presents his political program, entitled 'Project for Romania', presenting an investment plan of 155 billion euros for the next five years and targeting areas such as infrastructure, education, health, technology and agriculture. For PM Ciolacu, Romania's biggest stakes are reindustrialization and halting demographic decline.

October 21

- The General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest (CGMB) approves – with 47 votes in favor, 2 votes against, and no abstentions – Nicușor Dan's initiative to organize a local referendum on: the distribution of income taxes and other taxes collected from Bucharest residents by the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest, and the requirement that all building permits across the city's entire administrative territory be issued by the Mayor General. The PSD General Councilors propose adding a third question on the funding by Bucharest City Hall of education and drug prevention programs in all schools across the capital. The CGMB decides to hold the referendum on 24 November.

October 22

- Nicolae Ciucă calls on Elena Lasconi to withdraw from the presidential race, arguing that the fragmentation of votes could favor candidates who do not share pro-European and democratic values.
- MDLPA Adrian-Ioan Veștea signs 11 new financing contracts through the 'Anghel Saligny' investment program worth approximately 179 million LEI to modernize infrastructure, sewage treatment plants, the sewage system and to extend drinking water systems, mainly in rural and small and medium-sized urban areas.
- The Bucharest Tribunal decides that MEP Diana Șoșoacă is eligible to stand as a candidate in the Senate elections.

October 23

- Nicolae Ciucă launches his presidential program 'Prosperous and Secure Romania', in which one of the priorities is to capitalize on Romania's geostrategic position in the region, as well as in NATO and the EU.
- According to a survey conducted by INSCOP for the 2024 parliamentary elections, PSD is in first place in the voting intention with 30.2%, while AUR is in second place with 21.4%, followed by PNL with 13.2% and USR with 12.7%. The data was collected between 11-18 October 2024 through a CATI questionnaire interview.
- AUR contests the BEC decisions of October 11 and 21 on the procedure for the constitution and organization of the electoral bureaus for polling stations abroad, considering that the drawing of lots was carried out in the absence of the AUR representative. The BEC rejects the contestation as unfounded and holds that the regulations in force for the appointment of the members of the electoral bureau for the polling stations abroad were applied.

October 24

- The AUR supporters protest in front of the BEC against the decision to exclude the party's members from polling stations in the diaspora.

October 28

- Following the resignation of Lucian Romașcanu as leader of the PSD parliamentary group, Florian Bodog is appointed in his place. Lucian Romașcanu resigns in order to assume the position of President of Buzău County Council.

October 29

- PM Ciolacu says that after the elections any future coalition will be built around the PSD and that he is willing to create a coalition with any party that shares the same vision on the development of the Romanian state.
- Elena Lasconi proposes a single candidate of the right-wing forces for the presidential elections.
- With 221 votes in favor, 18 against and 19 abstentions, the Chamber of Deputies adopts the law allowing the referendum initiated by Nicușor Dan to be held in Bucharest at the same time as the first round of the presidential elections. The Chamber of Deputies is the decision-making chamber.

October 30

- The Romanian government approves an investment of 5 billion euros, funded through European funds, for the completion of the 88 km-long Târgu Neamț-Iași-Ungheni motorway within three years, through the 2021-2027 financial framework.
- The AEP approves the list of the 950 polling stations to be established abroad for the presidential and parliamentary elections, as proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE).
- The BEC finalizes the minutes on the number of lists of candidates submitted by political parties, political alliances and national minorities organizations. 31 parties and 19 national minorities organizations have registered candidates for the 2024 parliamentary elections.

October 31

- The AEP President Toni Greblă calls on TikTok, Facebook and Instagram platforms to check and take action against troll farms that can influence the electoral process. The AEP emphasizes the

importance of a clean and fair electoral environment, underlining the risks these activities pose to democracy. Greblă outlines the need for cooperation between authorities and social media platforms to prevent the manipulation of public opinion.

November 01

- The Roma Pro Europe Party decides to support Marcel Ciolacu in the presidential elections and to cooperate with the PSD for the legislative elections.

November 03

- Elena Lasconi expresses her support for a government formed by the USR and the PNL, but only if the PNL is led by Ilie Bolojan.

November 04

- Nelu Tătaru, former Health Minister and current PNL MP is placed under judicial control for 60 days under the accusation of bribery. The DNA prosecutors allege that, as a surgeon at the Huși hospital, he accepted money and products from patients, in amounts ranging from 100 to 500 LEI or in kind, such as eggs and meat. He cannot practice as a doctor for the duration of the preventive measure.
- On a working visit to France, PM Ciolacu says that if he becomes president of Romania, he would like to see a government led by Ilie Bolojan (PNL), the president of the Bihor County Council, whom he sees as a dialogue partner for the PSD.
- The Senate, as the decision-making chamber, adopts the law on military pensions with 90 votes in favor and 8 abstentions. The law provides for the automatic updating of pensions in line with salary increases between 2015 and 2024, maintaining the current amount if the recalculated amount is lower. Funds for 2024 are provided by the budgets for defense and public order institutions. The law excludes military pensioners who occupy positions of public dignity, such as members of the government or members of parliament, during their term of office.

November 05

- The Romanian president promulgates the law that allows voters to vote in the same polling stations for referendums and parliamentary, presidential or European Parliament elections. This simplifies logistics and reduces the cost of the electoral process. Thus, the Bucharest referendum will be held on November 24, 2024, concurrently with the first round of the presidential elections.
- The European Affairs and Foreign Policy Committees of the two chambers of the Romanian Parliament issues a favorable opinion on Romania's candidate for European Commissioner, Roxana Mînzatu, with 35 votes in favor and six against. Mînzatu's portfolio includes Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Training.
- The BEC orders the AUR to remove the electoral posters placed on billboards in Sector 5 in Bucharest with the message "George Simion – The sure way to get rid of PeeSeeDee!" considered offensive to Marcel Ciolacu and the party he currently leads. This decision comes after the BEC accepted the appeal filed by the Sector 5 branch of the Social Democratic Party on November 4.

November 07

- The Minister of Digitalization announces that networks attempting to promote candidates in breach of national legislation have been identified. Dozens of accounts, part of several organized networks, were discovered promoting certain presidential or parliamentary candidates without complying with current legal provisions.
- The Government approves, through a decision, the declassification of Decision HG0999/2022 concerning the property located at 86 Aviatorilor Boulevard, under the administration of the Autonomous Authority for the Administration of State Protocol Assets (RA-APPS), which had been reported in the press as having been renovated for Klaus Iohannis. The declassified decision involves transferring the property from private to public state ownership and designating it as an official residence for former Heads of State.
- The Ombudsman challenges the military pensions law adopted on November 4, at the CCR, citing possible conflicts with constitutional principles. Objections include a violation of the principle of non-

discrimination, as some categories of military pensioners would benefit from more favorable conditions than others. Concerns are also raised about the retroactive application of certain provisions, which could cause confusion and inconsistent treatment of current pensioners.

- The Government decides to increase the budget of the Ministry of Finance by approximately 85 million LEI to pay state aid.

November 09

- Elena Lasconi calls on the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) and the National Authority for Communications Administration and Regulation (ANCOM) to investigate whether the elections are being influenced by Russian tactics, such as social media manipulation.

November 11

- The BEC decides that for the local referenda in Bucharest, which will take place on the same day as the first round of the presidential elections, voters will cast their votes in the same polling stations and during the same hours, using separate ballot papers.
- Chair of the parliamentary committee overseeing the SRI activity, Ioan Chirteș, asks the SRI to specify whether it has identified, either in Romania or abroad, entities that could influence the electoral process during the presidential and parliamentary campaigns.
- PM Ciolacu states during a government meeting that he currently has no information regarding Russian involvement in the presidential elections. Additionally, the SRI Committee confirms that no specific elements of foreign propaganda or disinformation campaigns affecting the elections have been identified.
- The CCR rules that the law amending the state military pensions scheme is unconstitutional, as it creates two different legal regimes for balancing military pensions and violates the principle of equality before the law.

November 12

- Both Ionuț Moșteanu, leader of the USR Parliamentary Group, and Nicolae Ciucă, the PNL presidential candidate, call on PM Ciolacu to publicly clarify why George Simion, leader of the AUR, has been

banned from entering the Republic of Moldova. Ciolacu responds to Ciucă's accusations, stating he has not received any information indicating that Simion could be a Russian spy or that he has met with Russian secret service agents. He emphasizes that checks with the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities did not confirm any links between Simion and espionage or foreign agents.

- The USR MP Claudiu Năsui announces that he won a legal case against President Iohannis, requiring the Presidential Administration to disclose expenses related to "luxury flights and travel." The court rules that the administration must provide the requested information within ten days, as it is of public interest.
- AUR's presidential candidate, George Simion, presents his electoral program titled "Simion's Plan for Romania," in Vaslui. The 200-point plan includes pledges to reduce the number of MPs to 300 and to provide Romanians with homes worth 35,000 euros.

November 13

- President Iohannis promulgates the law establishing a framework for the EU minimum wage, which aims to improve working conditions and reduce wage disparities among Member States, aligning Romania with EU regulations.
- The Senate, as the decision-making chamber, adopts the bill that allows Romania to purchase 32 F-35 fighter jets from the United States with 76 votes in favor out of 77 senators present.

November 14

- Elena Lasconi calls on the Prosecutor General and the Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE) to open an inquiry into reports of George Simion's meetings with Russian intelligence agents (GRU). She requests an investigation to confirm the authenticity of the information and safeguard national security.

November 15

- PM Ciolacu publishes the document received from the Ukrainian authorities that outlines why George Simion is banned from entering Ukraine. The Security Service in Kyiv imposed this restriction due

to his statements which allegedly discredited Ukraine internationally and promoted unionist ideology.

- President Klaus Iohannis promulgates the law for the acquisition of 32 F-35 fighter jets. The necessary funds will come from the state budget, the budget of Ministry of Defense, and loans or loan guarantees provided by the US Government.

November 18

- A presidential debate takes place on Digi24 television, with 6 of the 14 candidates participating in the elections. Notable absentees include PM Ciolacu and Senate President Nicolae Ciucă. During the debate, the FD candidate, Ludovic Orban, announces that he withdraws from the presidential race and endorses Elena Lasconi (USR).

November 19

- PNL President Ciucă requests the joint Standing Bureaus of Parliament to establish a parliamentary inquiry commission into the real estate developer Nordis case.
- Adrian Ioan Veștea resigns as Minister of Development to take over the leadership of the Brașov County Council. Marcel Boloș is appointed as interim minister.

November 20

- The EP confirms Roxana Mînzatu as Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, with the portfolio “People, Skills and Training”, following her hearing by two parliamentary committees on 12 November. Mînzatu was a PSD MP from 2016 to 2020 and served as Minister of European Investment and Projects in 2019.

November 21

- Romania signs an agreement with the United States to purchase the 32 F-35 fighter jets for the Romanian Armed Forces.
- The Government approves Romania's Energy Strategy for 2025-2035. The strategy aims to achieve energy independence from natural gas imports by 2027 and to resume domestic uranium production for nuclear energy consumption. Additionally, price caps on energy and gas will be extended for vulnerable citizens for the 2024-2025 winter season.

- BEC orders the removal of online campaign materials posted by independent candidate Călin Georgescu that lack the financial agent identification code. This decision follows a complaint filed by a private citizen with the Ilfov County Electoral Bureau, which initially rejected it as unfounded on 18 November.

November 22

- BEC accredits four polling institutes to conduct national exit polls for the presidential elections on 24 November (first round) and 8 December (run-off): the Centre for Urban and Regional Sociology (CURS), the AVANGARDE Socio-Behavioral Studies Group, the Centre for International Research and Analyze, ARA Public Opinion SRL. For the first time, real-time results of the first round of the presidential election will be available through a programme developed by the AEP, the INS, and the Special Telecommunications Service (STS).
- AEP announces that 18,008,480 citizens are registered on the permanent electoral roll, with 989,230 Romanians residing abroad.

November 24

- The first round of the presidential elections takes place. Expert Forum (EFOR) reports multiple irregularities through the Vote Monitor app, including restrictions or difficulties accessing voting for Bucharest voters during the referendum, and accredited observers facing challenges entering polling stations.

November 25

- AEP announces that, after tallying all 20,059 voting reports from the first round, the candidate securing the most votes is independent Călin Georgescu, with 2,120,404 votes (22.94%), followed by Elena Lasconi (USR) with 1,772,503 votes (19.18%) and Marcel Ciolacu (PSD) with 1,769,761 votes (19.15%). George Simion (AUR) follows with 1,281,327 votes (13.86%).
- George Simion declares victory of the sovereigntist movement over the PSD and the PNL, calling for a sovereigntist government and urging the AUR supporters to back Călin Georgescu in the run-off. Diana Șoșoacă, leader of S.O.S. Romania, also pledges support for

Georgescu on the condition that she be named Prime Minister and that her party be backed in Parliament. Although she expresses distrust in Georgescu, she prefers him over Lasconi.

- Expert Forum calls on the AEP to investigate potential undeclared campaign financing by Călin Georgescu, who reported no campaign income or expenses.
- Marcel Ciolacu resigns as president of the PSD but remains Prime Minister until a new majority is formed.
- President Iohannis states that he has received no intelligence reports indicating risks of foreign interference or influence over the presidential elections.
- The referendum initiated by Bucharest Mayor Nicușor Dan is validated, both in terms of turnout (40.96%) and positive responses to all three questions: 66.44% support granting the Mayor General authority to issue construction permits citywide; 64.39% support the redistribution of income and local taxes between the City Hall and the district town halls being approved by the General Council; 84.55% support funding and implementing a health education and anti-drug program in all Bucharest schools.
- Nicolae Ciucă resigns as the PNL President following the party's poor election results.

November 26

- REPER and independent candidate Mircea Geoană announce their support for Elena Lasconi (USR) in the second round of the presidential election.
- PM Ciolacu says that a PSD-USR-PNL coalition government is a possible outcome after the parliamentary elections, underlining the importance of political stability in Romania.

November 27

- PM Ciolacu announces that Romania will fully join the Schengen Area starting from January 1, 2025. He also states that Romanians will be able to travel to the United States without a visa in 2025, as the American visa rejection rate has fallen below 3%.
- AEP reports that all 14 presidential candidates who ran in the November 24 election registered their financial agents on time.

Among them, Marcel Ciolacu (PSD) declared the highest campaign contributions (66 million LEI) and also the highest campaign expenses (56,576,095 LEI). Two candidates – Călin Georgescu (independent) and Sebastian Constantin Popescu (Romanian Nation Party) – reported no campaign income or expenditure.

- Following consultations with trade unions and employer associations represented in the National Tripartite Council for Social Dialogue, the Government approves Decision No. 1506/2024, raising the national gross minimum wage from 3,700 LEI to 4,050 LEI as of January 1, 2025.

November 28

- AEP refers cases to the criminal investigation authorities concerning election posters that were published without the financial agent's identification code. It also asks the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) to investigate Romania's main influencers to determine whether they received payments from the candidates' campaign funds.
- CCR examines a request to annul the November 24 presidential election, filed by Cristian Vasile Terheş, and decides to recheck and recount all ballots, both valid and invalid.
- Members of the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT) confirm that cyberattacks aimed at influencing the fairness of the electoral process have occurred, based on documents presented by relevant national security and public order authorities.

November 29

The recount process for the first-round votes begins. PM Ciolacu reiterates his decision to withdraw from the presidential race, regardless of the outcome of the recount.

- BEC accredits four polling institutes to conduct national exit polls for the parliamentary elections: Centre for Urban and Regional Sociology (CURS), Centre for International Research and Analyses, Avangarde, ARA Public Opinion SRL.

December 01

- Parliamentary elections take place, and according to data provided by the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP) at the end of the campaign, 18,008,555 citizens are registered on the permanent electoral lists.
- According to the CURS exit poll for the Chamber of Deputies, PSD obtains 26 percent of the votes, followed by AUR with 19 percent, PNL with 15.5 percent, and USR with 15.5 percent. For the Senate, the same polling house reports PSD in first place with 26.1 percent, followed by AUR with 19.2 percent, PNL with 15.9 percent, and USR with 15.6 percent.

December 02

- Following the parliamentary elections on December 1, seven parties will be part of the next legislature: the Social-Democratic Party (PSD), the Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR), the National Liberal Party (PNL), the Save Romania Union (USR), S.O.S Romania, the Young People's Party (POT), and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR). They received the following scores for the Senate: PSD – 22.3 percent, AUR – 18.3 percent, PNL – 14.28 percent, USR – 12.26 percent, S.O.S – 7.76 percent, POT – 6.39 percent, and UDMR – 6.38 percent. For the Chamber of Deputies, the results are the following: PSD – 21.96 percent, AUR – 18.01 percent, PNL – 13.2 percent, USR – 12.4 percent, S.O.S – 7.36 percent, POT – 6.46 percent, and UDMR – 6.33 percent.
- Parties begin negotiations to form a parliamentary majority. The president of AUR announces his party's willingness to collaborate with all other parliamentary parties except for the PSD. Meanwhile, Marcel Ciolacu reiterates that he does not agree with a coalition that includes AUR but expresses openness to a new coalition with the PNL. AUR announces that they will support the independent candidate Călin Georgescu in the second round, while UDMR president Kelemen Hunor announces that his party will support Elena Lasconi.
- The Constitutional Court (CCR) decides to validate the first round of the presidential elections following a recount of votes, with Elena Lasconi and Călin Georgescu advancing to the second round.

December 03

- PSD spokesperson Lucian Romaşcanu states that in the case of a future PSD-PNL-USR-UDMR governing coalition, Marcel Ciolacu remains PSD's nominee for the position of prime minister. He also raises concerns about the opposition formed by the three extremist parties (AUR, POT, and S.O.S), which he considers a threat to democracy.
- MEP Rareş Bogdan resigns as interim president of PNL Diaspora following the poor parliamentary election results recorded abroad (only 60,000 votes). Siegfried Mureşan becomes interim president of the branch.

December 04

- Former presidential candidates Marcel Ciolacu (PSD) and Cristian Diaconescu (independent) announce that they will support Elena Lasconi in the second round of the presidential election.
- PNL interim president Ilie Bolojan announces that the pro-European political parties represented in Parliament, PSD, PNL, USR, UDMR, and the national minorities groups have agreed to form a coalition.
- President Iohannis declassifies information presented by the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), the Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI) during the CSAT meeting on November 28. The documents outline that the financing for the campaign of the independent candidate Călin Georgescu on TikTok is estimated at one million euros. MAI also identifies similarities between Georgescu's campaign and the propaganda actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine before the military aggression. These similarities include the use of influencers to manipulate public opinion. Georgescu also benefited from TikTok's failure to comply with national electoral legislation, which gave him greater visibility compared to his competitors.

December 05

- Several European leaders, including Moldovan President Maia Sandu and French President Emmanuel Macron, express support for USR candidate Elena Lasconi, stating that Romania's path toward further Europeanization and North Atlantic defense must continue.

- CCR receives four requests to invalidate the first round of the presidential elections from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, the Calea Europeană publication, and independent candidate Cristian Terheș.

December 06

- The DREPT, REPER, and PNCR parties request BEC to annul the parliamentary elections and invalidate their results due to alleged involvement of foreign extremist forces in the electoral process. BEC rejects all three requests.
- CCR decides to annul the entire presidential election process. The second round was scheduled for December 8. This decision nullifies the results of the first round, necessitating a new electoral campaign schedule and starting the presidential elections over from the beginning. The decision follows the declassification of CSAT information.
- BEC halts voting operations abroad and suspends voting preparations for domestic polling stations following the CCR's decision to annul the presidential elections. These decisions were made after diaspora voting had already begun. BEC decides to halt the diaspora voting process and to invalidate all votes cast.
- UDMR leader Kelemen Hunor requests that the CCR interpret the first two paragraphs of Article 83 of the Romanian Constitution concerning the President's term, to clarify whether President Klaus Iohannis must resign after December 21 or can remain in office until the 2025 elections are completed.
- President Klaus Iohannis states that he will remain in office until the next president is sworn in, according to Article 83, paragraph 2, of the Romanian Constitution: "The President of Romania shall exercise his office until the new President-elect takes the oath." The newly elected Parliament and incoming government will set the presidential election calendar.

December 07

- Elena Lasconi does not withdraw from the presidential campaign regardless of the Constitutional Court's decision and assures

Romanians that she will run for president again in 2025 once the new election dates are set.

December 08

- George Simion, the leader of AUR stages a protest at the polling stations of the “Mihai Viteazu” National College in Sector 2 of Bucharest, alongside his supporters, arguing that the state cannot function based on decisions that violate the constitution of a democratic European country.

December 09

- Independent presidential candidate Călin Georgescu denies public accusations regarding a possible professional relationship with Horațiu Potra, a former mercenary in the French Foreign Legion, with whom he allegedly met at a villa in Ciolpani to discuss his security. Georgescu claims in his speech that he does not know the former fighter and is not in communication with him.
- PSD President Marcel Ciolacu receives a “broad mandate” from the National Political Council to negotiate with other pro-European parties to form a parliamentary majority, participate in the government, and obtain the prime minister position in the new cabinet.
- USR requests a joint meeting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate to dismiss Toni Greblă from his position as AEP president, stating that it is “unacceptable” for him to remain in office after the annulled election. The USR argues that Greblă failed to act regarding candidate Călin Georgescu, and that allowing Georgescu's candidacy poses a threat to democracy.

December 10

- Representatives of PSD, PNL, USR, UDMR, and the parliamentary group of national minorities attend the first round of consultations to form a parliamentary majority. All political groups agree to create a joint governing program and potentially support a common candidate for the 2025 presidential election.
- AEP announces that all 14 presidential candidates have submitted their reports of electoral income and expenditures. Independent candidate Călin Georgescu declared zero income and zero expenses.

- USR First Vice-President and Mayor of Timișoara, Dominic Fritz, states that USR is willing to join a new government only if it pledges to adopt reforms that support state development and protect human rights. He believes that forming a pro-European coalition is essential for the country's stability and that choosing presidential candidates should not be a focus during such a fragile time.
- The High Court of Cassation and Justice rejects Clotilde Armand's appeal against the Bucharest Court of Appeal's decision regarding the National Integrity Agency (ANI) report on incompatibility. In 2022, the ANI found that the former mayor of Sector 1 was in a conflict of interest and in a situation of incompatibility after being appointed as manager of an EU-funded project by the Sector 1 City Hall. Armand had filed to annul the ANI report, but the court ruled against her.

December 12

- The Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) decides that Romania will fully join the Schengen Area, including its land borders, starting January 1, 2025. Romania and Bulgaria had already joined the maritime and air Schengen zones earlier in 2024.

December 16

- Nicușor Dan, the mayor of Bucharest, announces his candidacy for the 2025 presidential election as a center-right, pro-European independent. Although he is running as an independent, he expresses hope to be supported by all pro-European parliamentary parties, including the PSD, the PNL, the USR, and the UDMR. He states that Romania needs a competent president with a democratic vision and is open to dialogue with the ruling coalition. Dan cites three significant challenges facing Romania: corruption, a lack of national direction, and socio-cultural divisions among its people.

December 17

- Leaders of PSD, PNL, UDMR, and the parliamentary group of national minorities announce consensus on the principles and measures of the future governing program, focusing on reforms,

investment, and reducing public spending. The objectives include reforming the central administration, debureaucratizing, simplifying, deregulating, decentralizing, improving the efficiency of local public administration, and reforming public finances.

- USR leader Elena Lasconi states that her party was not invited to the government formation discussions at Victoria Palace.

December 18

- The DREPT party announces its support for Nicușor Dan's presidential candidacy in 2025, offering its national infrastructure for signature collection and campaigning.
- Fitch Ratings confirms Romania's long-term foreign currency rating at "BBB minus" and downgrades its outlook from stable to negative, indicating a potential further downgrade.
- The Romanian government decides to extend the cap on RCA insurance prices until March 31, 2025, and the cap on markups for basic food items.

December 19

- PSD President Marcel Ciolacu announces that PSD is withdrawing from the negotiations for government formation and will support a minority right-wing government in Parliament.
- Following PSD's exit, UDMR President Kelemen Hunor, Bucharest Mayor Nicușor Dan, and Senate President Nicolae Ciucă state that Romania is experiencing a period of political instability and that a minority executive is not a viable solution.
- AUR leader George Simion proposes a national unity government as the only way to bring the country out of crisis, downplaying the divisions between "pro-European" and "sovereignist" parties. Simion wishes for the next prime minister to be appointed from the ranks of the AUR party, because he claims that AUR has an economic recovery program that can be implemented in three to six months.
- In response to Ciolacu's announcement, President Klaus Iohannis calls on all political leaders to join negotiations to form a new government and avoid a political crisis.

December 20

- Government formation talks resume at Victoria Palace among the following participants: PSD President Marcel Ciolacu, interim PNL President Ilie Bolojan, UDMR President Kelemen Hunor, and national minorities representative Varujan Pambuccian.

December 21

- Senators vote on the composition of specialized committees. Since party representation in committees reflects the Senate's political configuration, PSD holds the most committee chairs (seven), followed by PNL (five), AUR (four), USR (three), and S.O.S and UDMR (two each).

December 22

- Consultations for nominating the prime minister take place at Cotroceni Palace, attended by representatives of PSD, PNL, UDMR, and USR. AUR, POT, and S.O.S Romania refuse to participate, claiming President Iohannis is illegitimate.
- The composition of the new Marcel Ciolacu government is announced. PSD will manage eight ministries: Defense, Economy and Digitalization, Transport, Health, Agriculture, Culture, Labor, and Justice. PNL will manage six: Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, EU Funds, Environment, Education, and Research. UDMR will manage two: Finance and Development.

December 23

- During a joint parliamentary session, the Marcel Ciolacu government receives a vote of confidence. Out of the 450 MPs present, 383 voted, with 240 in favor and 143 against. PSD, PNL, UDMR, and the National Minority Group supported the government. The new ministers include Foreign Affairs Minister Emil Hurezeanu, Justice Minister Radu Marinescu, and Education Minister Daniel David. The rest were part of the previous Ciolacu cabinet. UDMR rejoins the government after leaving on June 13, 2023.
- AUR submits a complaint to the CCR regarding the vacancy of the Romanian presidency following Klaus Iohannis's term expiration and calls for resuming the second round of the presidential elections.

- Ilie Bolojan, interim PNL president, is elected president of the Senate, while Ciprian Șerban, PSD group leader, is elected president of the Chamber of Deputies.
- The new ruling coalition (PSD, PNL, UDMR, and national minorities) announces their joint presidential candidate for the 2025 elections: the former PNL president Crin Antonescu, who previously ran for president in 2009 and finished third behind Traian Băsescu and Mircea Geoană.

December 24

- Following AUR's complaint, S.O.S Romania also files a complaint with CCR regarding President Klaus Iohannis's term. Diana Șoșoacă cites Article 81, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, arguing that Iohannis remaining in office after December 21 constitutes an unconstitutional third term. In Romania, a president may serve a maximum of two terms, consecutive or not.

December 27

- Nati Meir is extradited from Greece to Romania to serve an 11-year prison sentence. He was convicted of seven crimes including fraud, influence peddling, and bribery. In one case, he is accused of deceiving several people by promising jobs in Israel. He also allegedly demanded approximately 100,000 euros from other individuals, claiming he could influence judges to release them from pre-trial detention. Meir was an MP with the Greater Romania Party (PRM) from 2004 to 2008 and ran for president in 2009.

December 29

- The final version of the Emergency Ordinance No. 156/2024 is published. Nicknamed the “Train Ordinance” by journalists, it aims to reduce the 2025 budget deficit. It includes fiscal measures such as freezing pensions, public sector wages, student scholarships, child allowances, and special pensions for dignitaries and public employees. It also raises dividend tax, lowers the non-taxable threshold for micro-enterprises, blocks public hiring (except for unique vacancies), eliminates some tax breaks for the IT industry,

agriculture, construction, and food industries sectors, and cuts public funding for political parties by 25 percent compared to the previous year. The ordinance is adopted on December 30, 2024.

January 01

- Romania and Bulgaria officially become full members of the Schengen Area starting January 1, 2025. The customs checkpoints at Romania's borders with Bulgaria and Hungary will be removed starting today.

January 02

- Călin Georgescu is challenging the Constitutional Court's decision to annul the elections at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). However the ECtHR directives apply only to legislative elections, and the powers of the President of Romania are not such that he would be considered part of the legislative body.

January 04

- The joint candidate of the governing coalition, Crin Antonescu, announces that he is unilaterally suspending his candidacy, citing the lack of an established electoral calendar for the presidential election and insufficient support from the parties. However, he expresses his willingness to resume his candidacy if the aforementioned circumstances change and if the PSD, the PNL, and the UDMR publicly declare their support for him following decisions made within the internal bodies of the parties.

January 06

- Elena Lasconi, the leader of USR, laments that the CCR still does not provide concrete explanations regarding the annulment of the 2024 presidential elections and criticizes the Court for assuming extended powers. Marius Lulea, the vice-president of the AUR party, also describes the postponement of the presidential elections until May as a human rights violation and accuses the government of illegitimacy.

January 08

- The first 2025 meeting of the governing coalition takes place, during which it is decided that the presidential elections will be held on May 4 (first round) and May 18 (run-off), with Crin Antonescu being endorsed as the coalition's joint candidate. Additionally, the 2025 budget draft is expected to be presented within the coalition by January 27 and to be submitted for a vote in Parliament during the first week of February.
- The former Minister of Education Ligia Deca is appointed Vice-Rector at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA). The last legal act she signed as minister was to increase SNSPA's budget by 2.9 million euros.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that Romanians will enjoy visa-free travel to the United States through the Visa Waiver Program starting in March.

January 09

- The Minister of Finance, Tanczos Barna, announces that Romania ended the year 2024 with a budget deficit of 8.6%.
- In a televised interview, the Minister of Finance confirms that the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) is conducting an investigation into Călin Georgescu's election campaign, during which the candidate reported spending zero LEI.

January 10

- The government announces in its meeting that a restructuring of public institutions is forthcoming, and for this to be carried out, approximately 20% of public sector employees will be laid off after taking an exam. As a solution, the government proposes that the personnel to find work in the private sector.
- A protest takes place in front of the Romanian Parliament, with supporters of former presidential candidate Călin Georgescu participating. Approximately 4,000 people are protesting against the CCR's decision to annul the presidential elections and are demanding the resumption of the second round of voting.

January 12

- Crin Antonescu states that he would like Călin Georgescu to be admitted to the presidential race so that he can answer questions in a political debate.
- AUR organizes a protest in Bucharest against the decision to annul the second round of the presidential elections, initially scheduled for December 8, 2024. The organizers claim that 100,000 people attended, but the police estimate the turnout at around 20,000 people. The main messages conveyed focused on repeating the second round of elections, supporting Călin Georgescu, as well as calling for the resignation of Klaus Iohannis. The protest began at 14:00 at Universității Square and continued with a march toward Victoria Palace and Cotroceni Palace.

January 13

- AUR proposes measures to mitigate the austerity imposed by the "Train Ordinance," such as increasing the number of employees in the private sector from 5 to 7 million and building 100,000 social housing units annually with an interest rate of 2%, which would bring 3.5 billion euros to the budget. Additionally, they propose a 16% reduction in public sector employees, which would save 1% of the gross domestic product (GDP).
- Elena Lasconi declares that President Klaus Iohannis is "illegally and abusively" holding the position of head of state, given that his mandate expired on December 21.

January 14

- George Simion is unanimously elected vice-president of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party.
- During an internal meeting, PNL vice-presidents Robert Sighiartău and Adrian Cozma call for the party to request the resignation of Klaus Iohannis. However, the National Political Bureau rejects this idea, stating that such an action would lead to political instability.

January 15

- USR files a criminal complaint against PSD members Marcel Ciolacu and Alfred Simonis for bribing voters, using their influence and

authority to obtain undue benefits for others, and obstructing the exercise of electoral rights. This complaint follows the Alfred Simonis's statements in which he acknowledged that the Social Democrats offered votes to candidate George Simion during the annulled presidential elections.

- 161 MPs from the AUR, S.O.S. Romania, and POT parties submit a request to suspend President Klaus Iohannis. Representatives of USR, the only opposition party that does not sign the request, state that they do not support this initiative, as a potential referendum would coincide with the presidential elections in May.
- The Ministry of Energy notifies the Commission for the Examination of Foreign Direct Investments (CEISD) regarding the transaction involving the acquisition of the electricity company E.ON Romania by the Hungarian state-owned company MVM Group. The reasons for the notification are the lack of transparency of the MVM group and the company's ties to the Russian Federation. CEISD has veto power over this transaction.

January 17

- Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu describes the efforts to suspend Klaus Iohannis, made by MPs from the AUR, POT, and S.O.S. parties, as an unnecessary initiative and a populist measure.
- The High Court of Cassation and Justice (ICCJ) definitively rejects Călin Georgescu's request to rerun the presidential elections.
- Elena Lasconi calls for the resignation of the President of the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP), Toni Greblă.

January 18

- AUR organizes pro-Georgescu rallies in several cities across the country, with thousands of people participating.

January 20

- The process of registering Romanians from the diaspora to vote in the presidential elections begins. They can register online and choose to vote either by mail or at a polling station abroad.

January 21

- AUR condemns the refusal of the parliamentary majority PSD-PNL-UDMR to include the request to convene an extraordinary session of Parliament on the Senate's plenary agenda and claims that the current government is resorting to institutional blockages against the opposition on the issue of the annulment of the presidential elections.
- ECtHR rejects Călin Georgescu's request to rerun the 2024 presidential elections in Romania, deeming it inadmissible. The ECtHR concluded that in Romania's constitutional structure, there is no indication that the presidential duties are of a nature that would transform the position into a part of the "legislative power," and therefore, it is not within the ECtHR's jurisdiction.
- The leader of the USR senators, Ștefan Pălărie, requests a parliamentary hearing with the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, regarding the annulment of the presidential elections.

January 22

- The president of the Senate Ilie Bolojan announces that he will reduce the central administration staff by 20% through measures such as implementing an electronic timekeeping system, minimizing fuel quotas, and changing the working hours of senators for efficiency. The restructuring aims to improve financial transparency. These measures trigger a spontaneous protest by employees, and unions who demand fair consultations and respect for labor rights.
- AUR decides to support Călin Georgescu in the presidential elections within the National Leadership Council.
- Crin Antonescu, the joint candidate of the governing coalition in the presidential elections, declares that allocating 5% of GDP for defense, a measure requested by Donald Trump, is "impossible to achieve." However, he states that increasing military funding is "necessary."

January 24

- Elena Lasconi, the president of the USR, believes that two polls should be conducted to evaluate her and Nicușor Dan, in order to decide who will represent USR in the presidential election. This

decision comes in response to recent rumors circulating in the public space that some USR members are shifting their support toward the current mayor of the capital, rather than the current party president.

- On Union Day, over 1,000 people participate in the Hora Unirii event at Tineretului Park in Bucharest, organized by Călin Georgescu. Among the participants is George Simion, the president of AUR, but not Călin Georgescu himself. The event is promoted as a call for national unity and support for traditional values.

January 25

- Representatives of major parties, including George Simion (AUR), Marcel Ciolacu (PSD), Elena Lasconi (USR), and Anamaria Gavrilă (POT), consider the theft of the Dacian treasure in the Netherlands a true national tragedy that must be rectified as quickly as possible. Additionally, Mihail Neamțu, an MP from AUR, calls for an investigation into the theft of the Dacian treasure displayed at the Drents Museum in the Netherlands, where inadequate security measures led to the loss of the golden helmet from Coțofenești and three other golden bracelets from Romania's treasure.

January 27

- The Venice Commission publishes conclusions regarding the annulment of elections in Romania and specifies that any decision to annul elections must clearly outline the legal violations and provide evidence. It states that the Constitutional Court's decision to annul the elections solely based on classified information cannot guarantee transparency or the possibility of verifying the evidence.
- Elena Lasconi states that there is still no clear response from the Constitutional Court regarding the annulment of the electoral process. George Simion considers the Constitutional Court's decision a "coup d'état" and an event that threatens democracy in Romania. Anamaria Gavrilă, the president of POT, believes that the institution responsible for the annulment of the electoral process is the AEP, which must present the reports and evidence related to this decision.

- Nicușor Dan announces that he is open to a meeting with Elena Lasconi, but his decision to run in the presidential elections remains unchanged, and he does not see an alternative response regarding this initiative. However, the current mayor of the capital states that collaboration with the USR remains valid, whatever decision may arise in the future.
- A protest is held by employees of the Chamber of Deputies, who are dissatisfied with the decision to reduce the staff numbers. A similar protest occurred a week ago at the Senate, following the Senate President Ilie Bolojan's decision to lay off 200 employees.
- The mayor of Sinaia, Vlad Oprea (PNL), is placed under judicial control with a bail requirement by DNA prosecutors and must pay a bail of 600,000 lei within five days. The mayor is accused of continuously accepting bribes and engaging in financial transactions using information obtained through his position.
- The National Museum of Romanian History (MNIR) sues the Drents Museum after the theft of the artifacts, arguing that the Dutch museum should have ensured the presence of a physical guard, while the Drents Museum denies this contractual obligation. The insured value of the collection exceeds 30 million euros, and the stolen items are estimated to be worth nearly 6 million euros.

January 28

- The Government approves two Government Decisions (Government Decision No. 17/2025 and Government Decision No. 18/2025) with electoral character, for organizing the presidential and partial local elections that will take place in May 2025. Thus, the electoral period will begin on February 18, 2025, and the deadline for submitting candidacies to the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC) will be March 15 at 24:00. The electoral campaign will start on April 4 and end on May 3 at 7:00. The first round will take place on May 4, and the second round on May 18. Voting abroad will take place on May 2, 3, and 4.
- A survey conducted by CURS regarding the presidential elections shows that Călin Georgescu, an independent candidate supported by AUR and POT, is the leading candidate with 37% of voting

intentions in the first round. In second place is the Mayor of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, with 21%, followed by Crin Antonescu, the candidate of the governing coalition (PSD, PNL, UDMR), with 18%. This survey was conducted from January 21 to 25, 2025, with data collected from 1,100 respondents through telephone interviews, with a maximum margin of error of +/- 3%, at a confidence level of 95%.

January 29

- George Simion, president of AUR, along with his supporters and sympathizers, protests in front of the European Parliament regarding the annulment of the elections.
- Nicușor Dan and Elena Lasconi decide to remain in the race for the presidential elections after a meeting. Dan states that he cannot influence the USR's decision to support Lasconi, while she emphasizes the importance of marginalizing isolationist candidates. Both candidates expressed confidence that a pro-Western candidate will reach the second round.
- Crin Antonescu is validated by the UDMR to be the party's candidate for the presidential elections. In addition to the UDMR, Crin Antonescu was also validated by the PNL on January 26 and by the PSD on January 21, officially becoming the joint candidate of the governing coalition.
- The Permanent Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies approves a memorandum that foresees a reduction of 240 positions in the staffing allocation for the Chamber.

January 30

- The execution of the consolidated general budget for 2024 ends with a deficit of 152.7 billion LEI (8.65% of GDP), significantly higher than in 2023. In 2023, the budget deficit was 90.06 billion LEI (5.61% of GDP).

January 31

- The Extraordinary Congress of the PMP decides to support the independent candidate Nicușor Dan in the May presidential election.

- The government allocates 2 billion LEI for low-income pensioners, separate from the pension budget. The decision regarding the timing and conditions for granting this aid will be made after the budget is adopted. Approximately 2.93 million pensioners could benefit from this support, and Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu also proposes a possible pension indexation based on the inflation rate, depending on available financial resources.

February 01

- Ilie Bolojan, the incumbent president of the National Liberal Party (PNL), states that new elections for the party leadership will be held later this year, but only in the second half of the year.
- The Standing Bureaus of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate reject forwarding the request to suspend the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, to a plenary vote, on the grounds that the procedural requirements were not met – specifically, the simultaneous registration of the request in both chambers. This rejection comes in response to a suspension initiative signed by 161 MPs from the POT, AUR, and S.O.S. Romania parties.

February 02

- Former Prime Minister and PSD President Victor Ponta announces his candidacy for the May presidential elections via a Facebook post. His announcement coincides with the PSD Congress, where Crin Antonescu's candidacy is officially endorsed. On the same day, Prime Minister and PSD President Marcel Ciolacu declares that any PSD member wishing to run against Crin Antonescu will be expelled from the party. Ponta opposes this decision and intends to submit his candidacy, even at the risk of a second expulsion from PSD.

February 03

- The first joint plenary session of the new parliamentary term takes place. On this occasion, the S.O.S. Romania party loses four deputies and two senators, who announce that they will now serve as independents.

- Employees of the Romanian Senate protest once again against the planned staff cuts announced by Ilie Bolojan, the President of the Senate. Later, the staff reduction proposal is approved in a Senate vote.
- Former head of the Legal Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Laura Vicol, and her husband Vladimir Ciorbă, shareholder of Nordis, are taken into custody following hearings at DIICOT regarding the Nordis case. The investigation targets several individuals on charges including the formation of an organized criminal group, embezzlement with particularly severe consequences, money laundering, tax evasion, and major fraud.

February 04

- In Parliament, debates on the 2025 state budget reach an impasse when opposition MP Claudiu Năsui (USR) reveals that the budget includes a 700,000 LEI allocation for former judges to obtain medication. This provision is later removed through an adopted amendment.
- The Official Gazette publishes the decision to merge the Ministry of Labor with the Ministry of Family Affairs.

February 05

- AUR calls for Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu's resignation, accusing him of mismanaging public funds and favoring private interests, particularly in the context of the Nordis scandal. The party claims that the current government enables "national looting" and vows to step up political pressure on the PSD and the PNL. The USR also demands Ciolacu's resignation, citing his connections to the NORDIS scheme, especially through his appointment of Laura Vicol – whose husband is the main shareholder of Nordis – as head of the Chamber's Legal Committee. Additionally, Ciolacu is accused of using a Nordis luxury aircraft for personal travel.
- The Standing Bureaus of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate reject forwarding to a plenary vote a second request to suspend President Iohannis, once again submitted by POT, AUR, and S.O.S. Following the resignation of two S.O.S. MPs, the number of supporting signatures fell to 153 – below the one-third threshold required to initiate a suspension procedure.

- The 2025 state budget is adopted by Parliament with 254 votes in favor and 192 against. It is based on an estimated 2.5% economic growth and a projected 7% budget deficit relative to the GDP.
- Nicolae Ciucă, former Prime Minister and PNL President, resigns from his seat in the Romanian Senate.
- Bucharest Mayor Nicușor Dan criticizes the PNL-PSD-UDMR coalition for rejecting budget amendments that would have ensured fair fund distribution for the capital. He argues that sector mayors receive disproportionately high sums, while the City Hall is allocated only 4 billion LEI for all expenditures and investments.
- The Ministry of Development announces new investments through the "Anghel Saligny" program, allocating 130 million LEI for road, gas, water, and sewage infrastructure projects.

February 07

- Cristian Popescu Piedone, the former mayor of Bucharest's Sectors 4 and 5, is appointed head of the National Authority for Consumer Protection (ANPC). He served as mayor of Sector 4 from 2008 to 2015, resigning in the aftermath of the Colectiv nightclub fire that killed 65 people. In 2019, Piedone was sentenced to 8 years and 6 months in prison for abuse of office related to wrongfully authorizing the club's operations. On appeal in 2022, his sentence was reduced to 4 years. Despite being on trial in 2020, he won the mayoral election in Sector 5.

February 09

- Diana Șoșoacă announces she is gathering signatures to run in the May 2025 presidential elections. She makes the announcement in a Facebook post: "Diana President 2025. Sign for Romania. The power is in your hands."

February 10

- Romanian President Klaus Werner Iohannis announces that he would resign – marking the first presidential resignation in the country's history. Prior to this announcement, Parliament had begun the suspension process, with the Standing Bureaus voting

unanimously to initiate it. Following Iohannis's resignation, Senate President Ilie Bolojan is set to assume the interim presidency on February 12. During his interim term, Bolojan will step down from his leadership roles. Cătălin Predoiu will serve as interim PNL President, while Mircea Abrudean will become interim President of the Senate. Additionally, Ilie Bolojan announces that he will not run in the 2025 presidential election.

February 11

- The Constitutional Court of Romania (CCR) confirms the vacancy of the presidential office following Klaus Iohannis's resignation, effective February 12.
- In response to speculations that Ilie Bolojan would have been appointed Prime Minister had Iohannis remained in office, Elena Lasconi expresses hope that Bolojan, as interim president, will explain the motivation of the Constitutional Court's decision to annul the 2024 presidential elections.

February 12

- Ilie Bolojan officially becomes interim President of Romania after Klaus Iohannis's resignation. Previously, he served as mayor of Oradea, president of the Bihor County Council, and senator. As interim president, he cannot dissolve Parliament or call referendums, but he represents Romania internationally and has the power to promulgate laws. Bolojan pledges to ensure stability and public trust in institutions.
- Bucharest Mayor Nicușor Dan urges Ilie Bolojan to address two key issues: clarifying the annulment of the previous elections and ensuring the transparency of the upcoming elections.

February 13

- The government allocates financial aid of 800 LEI to low-income pensioners. The first installment is to be distributed before Easter, and the second installment is planned for July.
- In his first speech as interim president, Ilie Bolojan outlines his priorities: maintaining economic, social, and political stability,

continuing Romania's European integration, and organizing free and fair elections.

- Signature gathering begins for a motion of no confidence against Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu's government. So far, 125 MPs from AUR and S.O.S. Romania have signed.

February 14

- Interim President Ilie Bolojan appoints three presidential advisors: Luminița Odobescu (European Affairs Department), former Foreign Minister; Bogdan Mazuru (Foreign Policy Department); and Cristian Diaconescu (National Security Department), former candidate in the 2024 presidential elections.
- The Ministry of Development disburses over 1 billion LEI for 627 projects under the “Anghel Saligny” program, targeting road, water, sewerage, and gas infrastructure. The total program budget for 2025 is 10 billion LEI.

February 15

- The National Council of the “Forța Dreptei” party unanimously votes to support Nicușor Dan in the presidential elections.
- Interim President Ilie Bolojan meets with business representatives, who call for stability and predictability. Discussions focus on reforms, investment, and the efficient use of EU funds. Bolojan promises constructive dialogue and fair elections to restore public trust.

February 17

- Education Minister Daniel David informs the Chamber of Deputies that he will not attend the “Government Hour” session, citing other commitments.
- Diana Șoșoacă, president of S.O.S. Romania, reiterates her intention to run in the May presidential elections, despite her candidacy being rejected by the Constitutional Court in 2024.
- The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER) files a complaint with the General Prosecutor's Office against Diana Șoșoacă, after she praised dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu in a speech in the European Parliament.

February 18

- Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu states that a Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT) meeting is needed following criticism from U.S. Vice President JD Vance regarding the annulment of the 2024 presidential elections. However, only interim President Ilie Bolojan can convene such a meeting. Vance alleged that the elections were annulled due to pressure from Romania's continental neighbors and questioned the strength of Romania's democracy.

February 19

- The Chamber of Deputies adopts a law establishing the authorities responsible for the control and defense of Romanian airspace. The law defines measures against unauthorized use of airspace by aircraft, drones, and other aerial vehicles. The law passed with 196 votes in favor, 99 against, and 2 abstentions. MPs from S.O.S., AUR, and POT opposed the bill. Diana Buzoianu (USR) criticized the “sovereigntist” parties’ vote, arguing that, without the law, the military could not legally neutralize unauthorized drones – an especially relevant issue due to the recent identification of Russian drones over Tulcea and Galați counties. The Senate will cast the final vote.

February 20

- Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu announces that approximately 1,800 civil service and contractual positions will be eliminated from government agencies.
- A random draw is held to appoint the five judges who will form the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC) for the May presidential elections: Maricel Nechita, Mihaela Mîneran, Ana Hermina Iancu, Mihnea Adrian Tănase, and Cristinel Grosu.
- The Romanian government approves a budget of roughly 1.186 billion LEI for the organization of the presidential elections.

February 22

- The Central Electoral Bureau (BEC) approves the registration of the “Romania Forward Electoral Alliance,” composed of PSD, PNL, and UDMR, having the support of the National Minorities group.

The alliance designates Crin Antonescu as its sole presidential candidate for the 2025 elections.

February 24

- Interim President Ilie Bolojan invites leaders of parliamentary parties for consultations ahead of the March 6 extraordinary European Council meeting.
- USR calls on the president of the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP), Toni Greblă, to urgently publish the report on the November 2024 elections.

February 25

- AUR, S.O.S. Romania, and POT submit a motion of no confidence against Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu's government, titled "The Nordis Prime Minister Must Go – Romanians Are Tired of Being Humiliated." USR announces that it will not support the motion.

February 26

- Călin Georgescu is detained by police in traffic and brought to the General Prosecutor's Office for questioning regarding allegations of subverting the constitutional order, illegal arms possession, unauthorized handling of pyrotechnics, public incitement to violence, and organizing or supporting fascist, racist, or xenophobic groups. Searches are also carried out at the homes of his associates, including mercenary Horațiu Potra.
- Political leaders Marcel Ciolacu (PSD), Elena Lasconi (USR), Kelemen Hunor (UDMR), and Diana Șoșoacă (S.O.S.) support the judiciary's actions, and affirm the legal grounds for Georgescu's detention.
- Marcel Ciolacu announces that the PSD delegation participating in the consultations with interim President Ilie Bolojan expressed its opposition towards sending Romanian troops to Ukraine.

February 28

- The motion of no confidence against the Ciolacu government is rejected, receiving only 147 votes – despite being initially signed by 155 MPs. A minimum of 233 votes was required. Prime Minister

Ciolacu points out that the motion failed with fewer votes than the number of signatures and reaffirms Romania's political stability.

- A joint session of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate votes to dismiss Toni Greblă from his role as president of the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP), with 267 votes in favor, 56 against, and 71 abstentions.

March 01

- AUR organizes a protest in Bucharest in support of Călin Georgescu. POT members also take part in the event, bringing together approximately 4,000 people.

March 03

- POT starts the procedure to dismiss Ilie Bolojan as President of the Senate, accusing him of taking decisions without prior consultation. For the procedure to commence, a request from at least one third of the total number of senators is required. POT has seven senators, S.O.S Romania has ten and AUR has twenty-eight out of a total of 136 senators.

March 04

- MAE responds to allegations launched by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Services which accuse the EU of having played a key role in the annulment of the first round of the Romanian presidential elections and the indictment of Călin Georgescu. MAE says that the recent allegations made by the Russian services are “ridiculous,” completely unfounded and are part of a series of hybrid actions aimed at undermining democracy in Romania.
- Elena Lasconi declares that she would prefer Ilie Bolojan to enter the presidential race, as he has a real chance of being elected according to polls, and that, if he runs, she will support him and withdraw from the race. In the event that Ilie Bolojan runs, Nicușor Dan has announced that he will remain in the presidential race.

March 05

- USR MPs are reflecting on tabling a no-confidence motion only after the second round of the presidential elections, considering

that the motion tabled by AUR, S.O.S. Romania and POT is nothing but a useless democratic game that threatens the state's democracy.

- Claudiu Târziu, the president of the AUR National Council, publicly demands explanations from Călin Georgescu for his recent statements on a Moldovan TV station, where he referred to the inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova as the "Moldovan people". Although AUR declares its support for Călin Georgescu, Claudiu Târziu believes that Călin Georgescu's speech glorifies Soviet ideals and other principles that AUR rejects. AUR supports the union of the Republic of Moldova with Romania and thus considers that the inhabitants of the two countries are part of the same Romanian people.
- PSD Vice-President Vasile Dîncu says that PSD is willing to support a possible candidacy of Ilie Bolojan if Crin Antonescu withdraws.
- Romania declares Russian military attaché, Victor Makovskiy, and his deputy, Yevgeny Ignatiev, *persona non grata* and orders them to leave the country. The decision was taken on the grounds of violations of the 1961 Vienna Convention. The Russian embassy called the move "unfounded and unfriendly" and threatened with retaliation. The expulsion comes amid tensions between Romania and Russia. Under international law, Romania is not obliged to give official reasons for the decision.

March 06

- Victor Ponta officially announces his presidential candidacy and claims to be a completely different person than he was ten years ago, when he lost to Klaus Iohannis in the second round of the presidential election.
- The Romanian government is considering reallocating unused European funds to defense. PM Marcel Ciolacu, together with the Ministers of Finance and European Funds, are evaluating the available amounts. The initiative align with the EU's defense investment strategy amid geopolitical tensions. Romania has received 9.15 billion EUR through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), but has only used only 1.6 billion EUR. More than 7 billion EUR is planned for spending in 2024, but doubts remain about project implementation. Additionally, the government aims to develop the national military industry.

- Elena Lasconi claims that Marcel Ciolacu promised to resign as PM if she withdraws from the presidential race and supports Crin Antonescu. However, Lasconi says that she will not endorse Crin Antonescu and that she would rather support Ilie Bolojan.

March 07

- The Mayor of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, files his candidacy for the presidential election and the lists with the 200,000 signatures needed to run.
- Călin Georgescu files his candidacy for the May presidential election. Backed by AUR and POT, he has submitted 324,000 signatures. Georgescu is under criminal investigation for links with extremist organizations and for financial irregularities.
- The Rector of SNSPA, Remus Pricopie, files an objection against the registration of Călin Georgescu's candidacy with the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC), arguing that it violates the eligibility conditions set forth in the constitutional provisions of Article 1, paragraphs (3) and (5), Article 82, paragraph (2) and articles 148 and 149.

March 08

- The Constitutional Court rejects as inadmissible the challenges filed against Călin Georgescu's candidacy, as they did not meet the procedural requirements stipulated by law: the candidacy had to be validated by the Central Electoral Bureau before being contested at the CCR. The rulings are final and are to be communicated to the BEC.

March 09

- Crin Antonescu resigns from the National Liberal Party (PNL) and submits his candidacy for the presidential elections to BEC, along with the lists containing 1.7 million signatures.
- BEC invalidates Călin Georgescu's candidacy, with 10 votes against validation and 4 in favor (from the AUR, POT, S.O.S., and USR representatives). BEC argues that he failed to uphold democracy, which is founded on fair, honest and impartial elections. The decision is based on the CCR rulings regarding the annulment of

the December 2024 presidential election and the rejection of Diana Șoșoacă's candidacy. Following the BEC's decision, a violent protest takes place outside its headquarters, organized by Călin Georgescu's supporters.

March 10

- Following the protest in front of the BEC headquarters, George Simion states that he does not take responsibility for any upcoming demonstrations, citing the emotional reactions of citizens. Therefore, for the safety of his party, he declares that he will not organize any rallies in support of Călin Georgescu in the near future. In a video posted on social media, George Simion declares that the BEC's decision "is a coup d'état" and that those responsible should be "flayed in the public square".
- Victor Ponta states that CCR should not invalidate Călin Georgescu's candidacy and that the entire electoral process must take place in a democratic manner.

March 11

- Călin Georgescu reacts to the CCR's decision rejecting his presidential candidacy, stating that he has fulfilled his mission and that "the system does not accept anyone from outside it". He urges his supporters to choose what they believe is right and criticizes both the European Union and France.
- The leader of AUR, George Simion, announces that he does not intend to run in the presidential election in May and reaffirms his support for Călin Georgescu, stating that all decisions are made in consultation with him. Contrary to these statements, George Becali claims that AUR will have a sovereigntist candidate in the elections and believes that George Simion will run.

March 12

- In the context of Victor Ponta's candidacy in the presidential elections, the PSD president, Marcel Ciolacu, announces that he will propose Victor Ponta's expulsion from the party. Ponta responds by stating that he is no longer a PSD member and does not understand how he could be expelled.

- AUR announces a parliamentary strike following the invalidation of Călin Georgescu's candidacy by the CCR, with the AUR president, George Simion, emphasizing that there must be a genuine so-called sovereigntist candidate in the May presidential election.
- George Simion, president of AUR, and Anamaria Gavrilă, president of POT, officially announce their candidacies for the presidential elections, stating that, if both candidacies are accepted, one of them will withdraw in favor of the other.

March 13

- Diana Șoșoacă, president of the S.O.S. Romania party, submits her presidential candidacy and presents herself as the only representative with a so-called sovereigntist positioning in Romania.
- Elena Lasconi, president of USR, submits her candidacy for the presidential elections, along with the necessary lists containing 300,000 signatures.

March 14

- The Romanian Government reverses its decision to dismiss pensioners working in critical public sectors, such as healthcare and education, due to a severe staffing shortage. An initial ordinance prohibited extending their contracts, but, following pressure from specialists, the authorities have allowed these employees to remain in their positions until the end of the year. The decision targets sectors where the lack of personnel would have seriously affected the functioning of institutions.
- Lavinia Șandru submits her candidacy for the presidential elections, along with the necessary lists containing 268,000 signatures. Șandru is backed by the Social Liberal Humanist Party (PUSL) and pledges to fight for a "real Romania."
- Marcel Ciolacu agrees to a governing partnership with USR only if Elena Lasconi withdraws from the presidential race to support Crin Antonescu's candidacy. However, he stresses that the parliamentary elections were won by the PSD. In this context, when asked about the potential appointment of Ilie Bolojan as Prime Minister, the Social Democrat leader states that such a decision is possible, but, in that scenario, PSD would leave the governing coalition.

- George Simion, leader of AUR, submits his candidacy for the presidential election with lists containing over 600,000 signatures.
- Gigi Becali leaves AUR, considering it unacceptable for the sovereigntist movement to support a woman, Anamaria Gavrilă, president of POT, for the presidency. Following his departure from AUR, the businessman George Becali announces that he will establish a new sovereigntist party.

March 15

- Anamaria Gavrilă, leader of POT, submits her candidacy for the presidential elections, along with the lists containing 400,000 signatures.
- BEC rejects Diana Șoșoacă's candidacy for the presidential elections, after she was also barred from running in the November 2024 race. The official reasoning behind the BEC's decision states that, "through her consistent rhetoric, Diana Iovanovici-Șoșoacă calls for the overthrow of the democratic foundations of the state and the violation of constitutional order."
- Two independent candidacies for the presidential race are submitted: Remus Pricopie (Rector of SNSPA) and Daniel Funeriu (Minister of Education between December 2009 and February 2012). Remus Pricopie filed his candidacy without submitting any signatures, despite the requirement of raising at least 200,000 signatures to validate a presidential bid. This action was carried out as a form of protest for what he considers to be an excessively high threshold. Additionally, Silviu Predoiu (supported by the National Action League Party), former head of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE), and Sebastian Constantin Popescu (supported by the New Romania Party) also submitted their candidacies for the presidential elections.

March 16

- The government establishes the National Agency for Drug and Addiction Policies and Coordination (ANPCDA), replacing the former National Anti-Drug Agency. The new institution falls under the direct authority of the Prime Minister's Chancellery and focuses on prevention and treatment. Rareș Petru Achiriloaie is appointed as the president of this new agency.

- Diana Șoșoacă challenges at the CCR the BEC's decision to reject her candidacy.

March 17

- The interim president, Ilie Bolojan, meets with the heads of the institutions responsible for organizing the presidential elections in May, emphasizing the need for effective communication among state institutions to avoid confusion that could undermine citizens' trust in state institutions.
- The Constitutional Court (CCR) validates the candidacies of George Simion (AUR) and Anamaria Gavrilă (POT) for the presidential elections, rejecting all challenges against them. However, the rejection of the candidacy of Diana Șoșoacă (S.O.S.) remains in place. The CCR also reviews the case of independent candidate Ion John Banu-Muscel, allowing him to run.
- Crin Antonescu, the joint candidate of PSD-PNL-UDMR, agrees to reduce the number of MPs to 300.
- AtlasIntel publishes a poll regarding the May presidential elections. According to the opinion poll, in the first round, the candidate from AUR, George Simion, would receive the most votes, with 30.4% of voting intentions, followed by the Mayor General of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, with 26%, while the joint candidate of PSD-PNL-UDMR, Crin Antonescu, would receive 17.9%. Another poll conducted by AtlasIntel, where the POT president, Anamaria Gavrilă, replaces George Simion, shows that she would receive 30.2% of the votes, followed by Nicușor Dan with 25.3% and Crin Antonescu with 17.7%. These surveys were conducted from March 13 to 15, 2025, using a random digital recruitment method on a sample of 2,381 respondents, with a margin of error of $\pm 2\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

March 18

- REPER asks USR members to withdraw their support for Elena Lasconi and to back Nicușor Dan in the presidential election, stating that "personal egos" must be set aside in order to achieve a stable democracy.

- The Presidential Administration declassifies the expenses for President Iohannis's flights. During his two terms, a total of 193 flights were taken, amounting to 113 million lei. All flights were conducted using private planes.

March 19

- Anamaria Gavrilă, president of POT, withdraws from the race for the May 2025 presidential election and announces her support for George Simion, president of AUR.
- After the rejection of Călin Georgescu's candidacy, AUR and POT members go on strike in parliament. They sign the attendance register, but do not participate in parliamentary activities.

March 20

- The government is considering measures to unlock PNRR funds, as 5 billion euros out of the 9.2 billion received remain unused. Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu wants to personally check the ongoing investments, such as the ones for highways and hospitals. Several funding tranches are blocked due to delays in reforms regarding the special pensions and the appointment of leadership for state-owned energy companies.
- BEC confirms the list of candidates for the presidential elections: Nicușor Dan (independent), Crin Antonescu (Romania Forward Electoral Alliance / Alianța Electorală România Înainte), Victor Ponta (independent), Elena Lasconi (USR), Cristian Terheș (PNCR), Lavinia Șandru (PUSL), George Simion (AUR), John-Ion Banu-Muscel (independent), Silviu Predoiu (National Action League Party), Daniel Funeriu (independent), and Sebastian Popescu (New Romania Party).
- Crin Antonescu criticized Nicușor Dan, stating that although he was re-elected as the mayor of Bucharest for a second term, "he has not been to work for many months."
- Elena Lasconi reiterates that she will not withdraw from the presidential race.
- Nicușor Dan declares that the USR should join the governing coalition.

March 21

- As part of the government's strategy to downsize the public administration sector, the Government approves an emergency ordinance reducing the number of state secretaries in ministries to 56, approximately 20 fewer than the current number. Additionally, the Government allocates over 400 million euros for the Start-Up Nation program, aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs.
- George Simion declares that he is "the successor of Călin Georgescu" in the presidential elections and that he is entering the race at the request of Călin Georgescu.

March 23

- According to a presidential election poll conducted by CURS, AUR leader George Simion would rank first in voting intentions with 29% of the votes. He would be followed by Crin Antonescu with 22% and Nicușor Dan with 18%. The poll was conducted on a sample of 1,203 eligible voters, with a maximum margin of error of $\pm 2.8\%$ at a 95% confidence level.
- Nicușor Dan warns that Romania is facing an unprecedented debt and spending crisis, with public debt exceeding 964 billion lei (54.6% of GDP). Dan considers the current fiscal policy to be unsustainable and dangerous for the economy. He proposes measures to reduce spending, combat corruption, and implement fiscal reforms that support economic growth.

March 24

- Elena Lasconi states that the TikTok app should be shut down during the period leading up to the presidential elections in order to prevent disinformation.
- Avangarde publishes an opinion poll regarding the presidential elections. According to this poll, the frontrunner is George Simion, the candidate supported by AUR and POT, with 30% of voting intentions, followed by the governing coalition's candidate, Crin Antonescu, in second place with 23%, and the mayor of Bucharest, Nicușor Dan, in third place with 21%. The opinion poll was conducted from March 19 to 23, 2025, using the CATI method on a

sample of 1,300 respondents, with a margin of error of $\pm 2.3\%$ at a 95% confidence level. The pollsters state that the survey was self-funded.

- Crin Antonescu states that he supports the principle of the flat tax.
- When asked which of former Romanian president he would choose as an advisor at the Cotroceni Palace if he were to win the presidential elections, Nicușor Dan replied that he would choose Klaus Iohannis.
- AUR MPs submit a legislative proposal to amend the law governing the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court (CCR), arguing that the modification aims to eliminate potential electoral fraud.

March 25

- Seventy-five civil society organizations are calling for the urgent dismissal of Energy Minister Sebastian Burduja through an open letter addressed to Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu. The organizations claim that the minister urged state-owned energy companies to demand excessive damages in lawsuits against NGOs, in an attempt to discourage any form of civic opposition. Among the 75 organizations are Greenpeace, Declic, Expert Forum, and the Centre for Independent Journalism.
- USR Constanța is launching a signature collection campaign to initiate the dismissal of the mayor of Constanța, Vergil Chițac (PNL), claiming that his leadership has brought the city to the brink of bankruptcy.
- The PSD-PNL-PUSL majority in the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest announces that it will not vote on the city hall's 2025 budget until the mayor, Nicușor Dan, allocates funds to settle current debts and presents a plan for administrative reform and the streamlining of personnel expenses.
- Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu has ordered the Prime Minister's Control Body to carry out inspections in all 16 ministries and their subordinate institutions to assess the implementation of reorganization and debureaucratization measures.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announces a review of Romania's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu responds by stating that he is convinced this

decision is “strictly technical, part of a global reassessment process of risks to U.S. security.”

March 26

- The European Commission partially suspends payments to Romania due to failure to meet certain milestones in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), including those related to the abolition of special pensions. As a result, Romania loses 2 billion euros from the PNRR.
- The Bucharest Tribunal accepts the request made by the State Secretariat for the Recognition of the Merits of Fighters Against the Communist Regime to revoke the revolutionary certificate previously granted to former president Ion Iliescu.
- A protest organized by AUR takes place in front of the AEP (Permanent Electoral Authority) and in Victoriei Square, where supporters of Călin Georgescu demand that the annulled "second round be held again."
- Victor Ponta declares that he wants a "patriotic, as national as possible" government and that he will never accept the Minister of Finance, a member of the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT), to be a member of the UDMR, a political formation representing the Hungarian minority in Romania. Currently, Tanczos Barna (UDMR) is the Minister of Finance.
- Belgian prosecutors are investigating whether a Chinese company made illegal payments in exchange for high-level support for the company's interests in an official letter sent to the European Commission in 2021. According to the Belgian prosecutors, the main author of the letter received 15,000 euros, while each co-signer received 1,500 euros. The investigation targets eight Members of the European Parliament, including three Romanian MEPs: Cristian Bușoi (PNL/EPP), Daniel Buda (PNL/EPP), and Tudor Ciuhodaru (former PSD/S&D). Daniel Buda later commented on signing the letter, mentioning that he was focused on ensuring that disadvantaged rural areas have access to the internet.

March 27

- The PNL mayor of Rădăuți is expelled from the party after announcing his support for Nicușor Dan in the presidential elections, rather than for Crin Antonescu.

March 28

- A CSAT (Supreme Council of National Defense) meeting takes place. Two important decisions are made: defense spending will be gradually increased without creating budgetary imbalances, and a new corvette-type ship will be purchased.
- Marcel Ciolacu states that he will never govern with AUR.
- Romania will produce military drones, explosives, and NATO ammunition. The Carfil factory in Brașov, in partnership with Periscope Aviation, will assemble the "Cuda" and the "Sirin" drones. Rheinmetall is investing 400 million euros in a powder factory, and the Făgăraș Powder Factory will begin the production of TNT.

March 29

- Daniel Băluță, the Mayor of Sector 4 and member of PSD, announces that he will run for the position of General Mayor of Bucharest in the next local elections and labels the current General Mayor, Nicușor Dan, as an "imposter."
- A rally in support of candidate Crin Antonescu takes place in Cluj-Napoca, with over 20,000 people participating.
- Independent candidate Nicușor Dan states that 800,000 euros have been raised from donations for the pre-campaign period and the electoral campaign.

March 30

- Elena Lasconi blames Marcel Ciolacu for the suspension of U.S. visas for Romanians.

March 31

- USR requests the dismissal of Mihail Neamțu, a deputy from the AUR party, from his position as Head of the Cultural Committee, at a meeting of the Permanent Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies,

citing his inappropriate statements on various social and political issues. Ionuț Moșteanu, the leader of the USR group in the Chamber of Deputies, declares that he strongly opposes both the position held by Mihail Neamțu and his public reactions, especially after a video clip emerged in the public space showing Neamțu using aggressive language.

- The Social Democratic Party (PSD) requests Nicușor Dan to reveal the identities of the individuals who have donated more than 40,500 LEI to his electoral campaign. PSD emphasizes that, according to the law, the candidate is obligated to make this information public and that transparency is essential.
- The leader of the S.O.S. România deputies, Dumitru Coarnă, resigns from the parliamentary group. The position of group leader is taken over by Ionel Goidescu.
- Nicușor Dan presents a presidential election poll that ranks George Simion in first place with 35%, followed by Victor Ponta in second place with 21.1%. The ranking shows Nicușor Dan in third place with 20.8%, Crin Antonescu in fourth place with 16.4%, and Elena Lasconi in fifth place with 4.3%.
- The Senate rejects the simple motion titled "The Minister of Energy – A Leader without Direction, between Green Promises and Grey Realities," initiated by AUR against Sebastian Burduja (PNL), with 66 votes "against" and 54 votes "for."
- Elena Lasconi declares that if she becomes president, she will never nominate a prime minister that is proposed by the PSD.