

*Permanent Mission of Romania
to the Office of the United Nations and the
International Organisations in Switzerland*



*Mission permanente de la Roumanie
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et les Organisations Internationales en Suisse*

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*Commission on Human Rights
Sixty-First Session
16 March 2005
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT*

**Statement
by
Mrs. Carmen Liliana Burlacu,
Director General for OSCE, Council of Europe and Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de me joindre à ceux qui vous ont adressé leurs vives félicitations, pour votre brillante élection à la fonction de Président de cette 61-ème Session de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme et de vous souhaiter plein succès dans son importante tâche, et de vous assurer de tout l'appui de la délégation roumaine.

Il me tient aussi à coeur de remercier tous les États qui ont appuyé, l'année passée, la Roumanie pour obtenir un nouveau mandat de membre de plein droit de la Commission des Droits de l'Homme.

Monsieur le Président,

Tout d'abord je voudrais réitérer le fait que la Roumanie s'associe à la déclaration faite par le Luxembourg pour le compte de l'Union Européenne et que notre délégation appuiera toutes les initiatives présentées au nom de l'Union Européenne. Par conséquent, mes observations seront très brèves.

Cette année, la Roumanie fête, non pas seulement la 60^{ème} anniversaire des Nations Unies, mais aussi les 50 ans depuis qu'elle est devenue membre de l'Organisation. C'est un moment de satisfaction et également une occasion d'introspection vis-à-vis de cette longue relation. C'est un moment où la Roumanie, pendant qu'elle se rapproche d'avantage de l'adhésion à l'Union Européenne, réaffirme son dévouement envers les valeurs et les principes des Nations Unies et sa volonté de renforcer sa contribution au travail de l'Organisation et aux transformations institutionnelles de celle-ci.

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Nous espérons que cette année doublement anniversaire marquera l'accomplissement d'un progrès significatif dans l'adaptation de l'ONU aux nouveaux défis, inclusivement par la canalisation des valeurs démocratiques, notamment les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales, dans tous les domaines d'activité de l'Organisation.

Dans ce contexte, nous nous réjouissons de l'initiative de réforme du Secrétaire Général intitulée « Action II » qui constitue une plate-forme pertinente pour le renforcement de la contribution des mécanismes et structures des Nations Unies à la consolidation des systèmes nationaux de protection des droits de l'Homme.

Monsieur le Président,

Nous nous réjouissons également des avancées des valeurs de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme comme priorités dans les décisions politiques et les plans d'actions des autres organisations et mécanismes régionaux, sous-régionaux et autres, dans la promotion et la consolidation de la démocratie. C'est le message principal que la Commission a voulu transmettre par la résolution 2004/30, adoptée à sa session précédente, dans la promotion de laquelle la Roumanie a eu un rôle actif. Je tiens à remarquer tout particulièrement les efforts des pays ayant le français en partage qui, par la Déclaration de Bamako, ont consacré comme des objectifs prioritaires l'appui à l'instauration et au développement de la démocratie et le soutien à l'Etat de droit et aux droits de l'homme.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last 15 years, Romania has been striving to fulfill the international standards in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our endeavours aimed at ensuring a dignified life for all Romanian citizens, while creating the conditions for the integration of our country in the European Union.

We are proud of the progress achieved so far in some very sensitive areas, among which I will mention only the promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, reforming the legislative and institutional system of child care and creating a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

Nevertheless, we are fully aware that much remains to be done and I can assure you that Romanian authorities shall never cease their efforts in accomplishing the highest attainable standards in the field of human rights protection.

For the immediate future, our action shall concentrate on implementing the existing legislative framework, completing the reform of the judicial system, fighting corruption, eradicating poverty and continuing the social integration of vulnerable groups, especially Roma ethnics.

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Mr. Chairman,

Romania reiterates its willingness to strengthen the cooperation and dialogue with all human rights mechanisms and procedures. Romania launched a standing invitation to thematic procedures and is always ready to cooperate, whenever necessary, with other envoys of the Commission on Human Rights.

In this context, allow me to express my country's appreciation for the activity of the two special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Commission who visited Romania in 2004 - Mr. Paul Hunt, special rapporteur on the right of every person to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical health and Mr. Juan-Miguel Petit, special rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

I would like to assure you of my Government's full commitment for the implementation of the recommendations and proposals made in the reports and of our entire availability to future visits to Romania of the special rapporteurs on human rights.

At this juncture, I would like to express the gratitude of the Government of Romania to the president of the sixtieth session of the Commission, Ambassador Mike Smith, for the appointment of Honourable Adrian Severin, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus. We hope that the vast experience of the Special Rapporteur in the international arena will contribute to a better perspective on Belarus within the United Nations system.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania is fully aware of the critical importance human rights have in insuring regional stability and prosperity. Therefore, the focus of the Romanian diplomacy is oriented towards sharing the experience and lessons learned in the democratic transition towards the stabilization of the neighboring regions and their functional connection to a united Europe.

Our region has, for too long, been affected by wars and various other forms of tensions. Under these circumstances, Romania can only support, alongside the entire Europe, the democratic consolidation, economic development and a long-lasting stabilization of the countries in the region.

In this context, Romania stands ready to contribute to the stability and development of all countries in the enlarged Black Sea region, so as to turn this strategic area into a co-operation and security area.

One of the last initiatives, coordinated by Romania, has been the International Mission of Experts to Georgia, carried out, between 14 -16 February 2005, under the auspices of the Community of Democracies (CD), in order to provide democratic assistance to agencies of the Georgian institutions and to civil society organizations.



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