



Romania in the UN Security Council  
2004-2005

## NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Permanent Mission of Romania to UNOG

### Romanian positions on issues under debate in the UN Security Council

12.01.2004	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts
19.01.2004	Small arms
20.01.2004	Children in armed conflicts
23.01.2004	The situation in Western Africa
26.01.2004	The role of the United Nations in the process of post-conflict national reconciliation
27.01.2004	The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
27.01.2004	Georgia
27.01.2004	The extension of the UN mission's mandate in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
30.01.2004	The extension of the UN mission's mandate in Georgia (UNOMIG)

**At the public meeting of the Security Council dedicated to “threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”**, held on **12 January 2004**, Ambassador Motoc, Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN, underlined that regional cooperation has had an important role in fighting terrorism. The most substantial contribution in that field is brought by the European Union. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had developed in 2001, with Romania as Chair, a prompt response to the context created by of 9/11 events and brought its specific contribution to the international fight against terrorism. The South European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre for combating transborder crime, hosted by Bucharest, is using a unique mechanism of data sharing and cooperation between national police and customs authorities.

**On January 19, 2004, at the open debate of the Security Council on small arms**, the Romanian representative commended the Secretary General for his comprehensive and useful report and expressed Romania's support for the recommendations contained therein. He underlined that the problems caused by small arms are not limited to disarmament only, as they bear upon development, democracy, human rights and human security. The negative effects of the SALW use both in developing and developed countries affect civilian population. This somber reality makes the topic under discussion today a global one. Illicit trafficking and flows of SALW are sources of instability and human suffering, feeding organized crime and terrorism, and may undermine peace initiatives. Proliferation of these weapons exacerbates conflict, sparks refugee flows, undermines the rule of law and spawns a culture of violence and impunity. It can also end up in destabilizing accumulations, and sponsoring of civil wars, thus

creating public disorder, displacement of population and blocking economic and social development.

**On 20 January 2004, during the open debate of the Security Council concerning children in armed conflicts**, the permanent representative of Romania welcomed the report made by Mr. Olara Otunnu, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the children in armed conflicts and his devoted activity in the area. He underscored that recruitment of children as soldiers in different zones affected by conflicts is a reality of the contemporary world and he praised the decision of the UN Security Council to confront with this issue.

At the **open debate of the Security Council on 23 January**, which was occasioned by the **presentation of the regular report of the UN Secretary General on the present situation in Western Africa**, the Romanian representative said that the progress recorded in several countries in Western Africa is rather encouraging. The international community, the UN institutions and agencies should use the positive developments in the peace and reconciliation processes in these countries in order to encourage more positive outcomes, through the increase of assistance and support. Romania supports the regional and sub-regional approaches in the areas where, most of the times, there are common and interconnected problems. Finding lasting and efficient solutions mostly depends on integrated endeavors and coherent efforts.

Without national reconciliation, there will be no social peace and economic development, the Romanian Representative to the UN, Ambassador Motoc, declared **during the Security Council debates on the role of the United Nations in the process of post-conflict national reconciliation, held on 26 January 2004**. Post-conflict national reconciliation is one of the themes of global relevance on the agenda of the Security Council that was approached during the first month of Romania's mandate of nonpermanent member of the Security Council. Romania considers that the interdependence between the political dialog, social solidarity and the perspectives of economic development lies upon the process of national reconciliation, especially in the societies affected by long civil wars. Referring to concrete cases, Romania supports a real reconciliation between the Albanian and Serb populations in the province of Kosovo.

During the **Security Council's consultations on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on 27 January 2004**, Romania was in favor of an extension of the UNIFIL mandate for a further period of six months, as recommended in the Report. The Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Mihnea Motoc, expressed his concerns about the overall way in which tensions in the Middle East, terrorism and humanitarian situation could exacerbate tensions in South Lebanon and underlined that more efforts are required to achieve sustainable peace in the region, based on relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Romanian permanent representative declared, at the **Special session of the Security Council regarding Georgia, on 27 January 2004**, that a good course of the economic reforms in Georgia would positively influence the peace process and the national reconciliation. The stability and prosperity perspectives around the Black Sea are main concerns to all the peoples of the region and can decisively contribute

to solving the conflict. Romania encourages all parties involved to take advantage of the positive momentum created by the opportunity that arises with the democratic election of a new government in Tbilisi. Since January 2004, Romania participates, in New York in the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary General for Georgia, together with the Russian Federation, Germany, France, Great Britain and the USA.

On the **30 January 2004, during the Security Council debate on the situation in Georgia**, Romania was in favor of the extension of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia, till July 2004. Romania underlined the significance of the new political changes for the future of Georgia and welcomes all efforts done with the view of solving the conflict in Abkhaz region

Romania favored a three-month extension of the **UN mission's mandate in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**, as recommended by the Secretary General and his Special representative, Mr. James Baker. During **the consultations at the Security Council on 27 January 2004**, Romania encouraged all parties involved in Western Sahara to use this extension for finding new ideas and means for cooperation, in order to reach a fair solution, based on the Baker Peace Plan, which is both durable and accepted by all parties.

Available on the internet at: <http://missions.itu.int/~romania>

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