



UNDP and the Romanian Government in high-level policy debate on Romania's NATO and EU accession

The Romanian Government and the United Nations Development Programme jointly organized a Roundtable on "Romania after Prague and Copenhagen – Opportunities and Challenges in the Economic and Social Areas".

The Roundtable was co-chaired by Mr. Adrian Nastase, Prime Minister of Romania, together with Mr. Kalman Mizsei, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS.

The aim of the Roundtable was to assess the economic and social opportunities and challenges, which face Romania after the invitation to join NATO at the Prague Summit last November, and the EU endorsement in Copenhagen of 2007 as a target date for Romania's accession.

In his opening statement, Prime Minister Nastase focused on the inter-relationships between Romania's domestic reform agenda and the on-going changes in the Euro-



From left to right: Jonathan Scheele (Head of EC Delegation), Mugur Isarescu (Governor of Central Bank), Mihai Tanasescu (Finance Minister), Soknan Han Jung (UNDP Resident Representative), Julian Astbury (NATO International Secretariat), Istvan Gyarmati (Hungary, former Under-Secretary of Defense and Chief Adviser to the Foreign Minister on Security Policy), Kalman Mizsei (UNDP Regional Director), Adrian Nastase (Prime Minister), Mircea Geoana (Foreign Minister), Bronislaw Geremek (Poland, former Minister of Foreign Affairs), Hans-Bernhard Weissert (EU Council General Secretariat).



UNDP and Romanian Government in strategic policy dialogue. Around the table: Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, his Foreign Affairs Advisor Sabin Pop, UNDP Resident Representative Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Regional Director Kalman Mizsei.

Atlantic relations in the context of the Iraq crisis. "It is essential for us to understand the new international environment in order to be successful in our integration efforts, and we are grateful to UNDP for facilitating this debate", stated Mr. Nastase. UNDP Regional Director, Kalman Mizsei highlighted the strategic partnership that has developed between UNDP and the Romanian Government, and said that "Romania has an important role to play in the region and UNDP supports it".

Keynote speakers at the Roundtable included Professor Bronislaw Geremek, the former Polish Foreign Minister, Dr. Istvan Gyarmati, Senior Vice President of the East West Institute and former Deputy State Secretary for defence from Hungary, both of whom played a key role in their countries' NATO accession and European integration process, and guest speakers from NATO and the EU. They were joined by senior Romanian officials, Ambassadors and representatives of civil society and international organizations.

Particular focus was on the exchange of experience and lessons learned with Central European countries who joined NATO in its first wave of enlargement, and who are set to become EU members in 2004. The meeting served to highlight possible ways for Romania to capitalize on the momentum of NATO and EU accession processes to advance economic and social reforms and increase opportunities for its citizens.