



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0144 (2018) | 15 June 2018

# UK-Romanian relations

Westminster Hall

Tuesday 19 June 2018

9:30-11:00am

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### Contents

1.	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
2.	<b>Press Articles</b>	<b>4</b>
3.	<b>Press releases</b>	<b>5</b>
4.	<b>PQs</b>	<b>8</b>
5.	<b>Other Parliamentary material</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Debates	13
5.2	Early Day Motions	13
6.	<b>Romanian Embassy briefing</b>	<b>14</b>

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

The UK established its first diplomatic mission in Bucharest in 1803. Formal diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1880. There were also close links through the Royal family in this period - Queen Maria of Romania was British by birth and a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Romanian-UK engagement can be traced back much further. According to a 2015 article written by the then Romanian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Ion Jinga, there is evidence that the Romans used Dacian-troops from modern-day Romania in the construction of Hadrian's Wall.<sup>1</sup>

Romania fought on the side of the Entente powers in the First World War, and continued to enjoy close relations with the UK until the Second World War which Romania initially entered on side of the Axis powers. The relationship between the UK and Romania became more distant during the Cold War.

However, since 1990, relations were much improved. The UK was one of the main supporters of Romania's accession to NATO and the EU.

A Strategic Partnership between Romania and the United Kingdom was launched in 2003, and furthered after Romania's accession to the European Union in 2007. Relations were further developed by the 2011 [Joint Statement on Enhancing the Strategic Partnership](#) between the two countries.

In February 2018, after meeting with the UK ambassador to Romania, Paul Brummell, Romania's Vice Prime Minister, Ana Birchall, wrote that the relationship between Romania and the UK has "a solid foundation and numerous development opportunities for the future," and that after Brexit, Romania and the United Kingdom would have to "develop a broader vision" in order to bring up-to-date their strategic partnership.<sup>2</sup>

Cultural exchanges between Romania and the UK are supported by institutions such as the [Romanian Cultural Institute](#) in London and the [British Council](#) in Romania, where the Council has been working since 1938, and currently has offices in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Iasi.

The Prince of Wales launched '[The Prince of Wales's Foundation Romania](#)' (Fundatia Printul de Wales)' in 2015. This is an educational charity which aims to support heritage preservation, agriculture and sustainable development in Romania.<sup>3</sup>

The most recent figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate that there are 411,000 Romanians living in the UK – representing the second largest non-British national group in the UK.<sup>4</sup>

Statistics for British people living in Romania are based on less complete data.<sup>5</sup> The ONS estimated in 2017, using figures from 2011, that 521 British citizens live in Romania.

The migrant workforce from Romania has a significant role in the UK economy. More than one in six people working on housebuilding sites across Britain come from other EU countries, rising to half of site workers in London. A survey of 37,000 housebuilding workers across Britain shows 17.7% are from the EU. More than half of those come from Romania.<sup>6</sup> Around 95% of the 29,000 seasonal labourers who pick fruit in the UK are from the EU, with most coming from Bulgaria and Romania.<sup>7</sup>

7,200 Romanian students were enrolled in programmes at UK universities in 2015-16, according to [Universities UK](#). There are a further 370 students studying for UK degrees in Romania through transnational education (TNE) provision.

In 2016, the UK exported £1.8 billion of goods and services to Romania. Imports were £2.6 billion. The UK therefore had a trade deficit of around £800 million. The deficit was mainly due to trade in goods. Trade in services was broadly in balance. Romania is the 18th largest market for UK exports in the EU and 19th largest in terms of imports.

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<sup>4</sup> ONS, Table 2.3, [Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality](#), Jan-Dec 2017, released 24 May 2018

<sup>5</sup> See ONS Table 1, [What information is there on British migrants living in Europe?: Jan 2017](#), and the notes in Appendix 1 for how statistics on Romania are compiled.

<sup>6</sup> [‘Housebuilders issue Brexit plea as poll shows UK reliance on EU workers; Home Builders Federation says one in six builders are from EU and calls for permit system for skilled workers to build more homes and ease housing crisis’](#), *The Guardian*, 5 December 2017

<sup>7</sup> [‘Brexit: British strawberry prices set to soar by 50% as fruit farms face ‘cataclysmic’ fate without EU workers’](#), *The Independent*, 22 June 2017

## 2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

### [Andrew James Noble, the new UK ambassador to Romania](#)

Business Review

Anca Alexe

14 June 2018

### [British Prince to Meet Romanian President](#)

Balkan Insight

Marcus Tanner

30 May 2018

### [Romanian is second most common non-British nationality in UK](#)

The Guardian

Jamie Grierson

24 May 2018

### [An English 'prince' in a Romanian feud: Is the next King of Romania an English schoolboy?](#)

Daily Express

Dominic Utton

18 December 2017

### [Government tells Romanian national in immigration detention to leave UK or 'end up on the streets'](#)

The Independent

Caroline Mortimer

29 October 2017

### [History and Present: 135 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Romania and the UK](#)

Huffington Post

Dr Ion Jinga (former Romanian Ambassador to the UK)

16 April 2015

### 3. Press releases

#### [Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Romania in August 2018](#)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**2 February 2018**

Mr Andrew Noble LVO has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Romania in succession to Mr Paul Brummell CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr Noble will take up his appointment in August 2018.

#### [Foreign Secretary to visit Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia](#)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

**25 September 2017**

The Foreign Secretary has landed in Prague at the start of a 2-day, 3-country European trip.

Boris Johnson will meet with Czech Foreign Minister Zaorálek in Prague, and Romanian Foreign Minister Melescanu in Bucharest today [25 September], and with Slovakian Prime Minister Fico and Deputy Foreign Minister Korčok in Bratislava tomorrow [26 September].

These visits will also highlight the shared values and interests the UK has with all three countries, in addition to being close EU partners.

The deep and special relationship that we seek with the EU will ensure close co-operation continues on security and defence policy, countering Russian influence and our shared desire to increase trade between our countries.

Following on from the [Prime Minister's speech in Florence](#) on 22 September, the Foreign Secretary will discuss with counterparts how the UK leaving the EU will provide even more opportunity for the UK to deepen the bilateral relationship it has with its friends.

Ahead of his visit, the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson said:

I am looking forward to visiting the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia and to meeting with our friends and allies to discuss how we can co-operate ever more effectively after the UK leaves the EU.

I will also be making clear that the UK and EU's security is inseparable.

After the Prime Minister's speech in Florence, these visits provide me with an opportunity to re-iterate directly to our friends that Britain has always – and will always – stand with its allies in defence of our shared values, security, and our prosperity.

### **UK and Romania strengthen defence relationship**

**Ministry of Defence**

**19 May 2016**

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon today praised his Romanian counterpart Mihnea Motoc over the country's recent increase in defence spending as a percentage of GDP, urging Mr Motoc to continue this trend to meet the NATO 2% target. They met in London as part of programme of deepening relations that will see around 150 Army personnel exercising alongside their Romanian allies this month.

Exercise Sarmis, held this month in Romania, will see around 150 personnel from 3 Rifles working alongside their Romanian and US counterparts as part of the UK's contribution to NATO's Assurance Measures. This is just the latest joint training with a number of exercises over the past few years and follows a visit by the Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nicholas Houghton to Romania in April.

There are also currently around 75 UK personnel in Romania contributing to Exercise Steadfast Cobalt which runs from April to June, validating the NATO Response Force 17 command and control elements. This represents a sustained increase in UK-Romanian bilateral defence engagement.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said:

The 2 per cent target is vital for the security of all NATO countries. That's why we've committed to it and why we want all members to do the same.

Romania is a key NATO ally. I welcome its increase in defence spending and look forward to deepening our defence relationship.

In maritime collaboration, a Royal Navy diving team will be contributing to Exercise Sea Breeze in the Black Sea. In July, operating alongside Romanian forces, the multi-national training exercise will strengthen interoperability and improve maritime security. The Royal Navy is also looking at plans to send a Type 45 destroyer to visit a Romanian port early in 2017. The last visit from the Royal Navy to Romania was in November 2015 when HMS Duncan visited Constanta.

Back in June 2015 RAF Typhoons from 29 Squadron participated in the Bucharest Air Show and Romania regularly provides support to the RAF including overflight permissions and stop-offs.

### **Chief of the Defence Staff strengthens UK – Romania Defence ties**

**Ministry of Defence**

**23 January 2017**

Chief of the Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach has reaffirmed the UK's Defence relationship with Romania.

He today welcomed to London General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Chief of the General Staff of the Romanian Armed Forces, to discuss mutual interests and strengthen Defence ties. This follows Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon's [announcement](#) last year that the UK will send RAF Typhoon aircraft to Romania in support of the NATO Southern Air Policing mission.

General Ciucă and the Chief of the Defence Staff discussed the UK and Romania's partnership as members of NATO, UK deployments to Romania this year, and possible trade opportunities.

Chief of the Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach said:

The UK shares an important Defence relationship with Romania, both bilaterally, and as part of our membership of NATO.

I was pleased to welcome General Ciucă to the UK, and continue to recognise the key role Romania plays within the Alliance, including their commitment to increase defence spending to meet the 2% of GDP target this year.

To enable the UK's contribution to NATO Southern Air Policing, RAF Typhoons from RAF Coningsby will be based at Mihail Kogălniceanu Airbase for up to four months in 2017, the Defence Secretary said at the end of last year.

Additionally, as part of multinational NATO exercises, British land forces will deploy to Romania for various exercises this summer, demonstrating the Alliance's commitments on the south-eastern flank. Defence Engagement in 2017 will also include a Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyer visit to a Romanian port.

Chief of the Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach added:

Our deployments this year by land, in the air, and at sea, underline the UK's commitment to working within NATO alongside our Romanian friends.

The UK-Romania relationship was further strengthened by a visit last year by then Romanian Minister of National Defence Mihnea Motoc, who was hosted by the Defence Secretary.

During his visit General Ciucă is also due to visit the Northwood Headquarters, where he will meet senior UK military personnel from the Joint Forces Command and speak to Romanian officers based at the NATO Allied Maritime Command.

## 4. PQs

### [Deportation: Romania](#)

10 May 2018 | HL7273

**Asked by: Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the UK could be in breach of its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights by deporting individuals who will be held in prisons in Romania.

**Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford**

**| Department: Home Office**

In making a decision to deport a person, the Home Office is required to take into account a range of factors including whether removal could be contrary to the Human Rights Act. If the individual will be imprisoned and prison conditions are such that they would be considered a violation of their human rights, they will not be deported.

The Home Office does not disclose country specific information regarding deportation of foreign national offenders.

### [European Arrest Warrants: Romania](#)

10 May 2018 | HL7272

**Asked by: Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether prison conditions in Romania are taken into account when responding to European Arrest Warrants.

**Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford**

**| Department: Home Office**

The decision whether to surrender a requested person in response to a European Arrest Warrant is a matter for the courts. Judges are required to take into account a range of factors set out in the Extradition Act as well as whether the requested person was convicted in absentia, human rights or whether a person's mental and physical capacity should prevent extradition. These statutory requirements apply to European Arrest Warrants from all EU Member States.

### [Romania: Prison Accommodation](#)

10 May 2018 | HL7271

**Asked by: Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of prison conditions in Romania.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**

**| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is aware of the standard of prison conditions in Romania. We have publicly questioned Romania

at the Human Rights Council, most recently in January, about its work to improve detention conditions, and our embassy in Bucharest is in regular contact with the Romanian government on this topic.

### **Romania: NATO**

**30 Jan 2017 | 908458**

#### **Asked by: Robert Courts**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, When he plans for RAF Typhoons to deploy to Romania as part of NATO's southern air policing operations.

#### **Answering member: Mike Penning | Department: Ministry of Defence**

UK Typhoon from 3 Squadron, RAF Coningsby, will contribute to NATO's Southern Air Policing mission this summer. We are working with NATO, Romania, and other key Allies, including Italy and Turkey, to design and deliver our deployment.

### **Extradition: Romania**

**17 Jan 2017 | 59838**

#### **Asked by: David T. C. Davies**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests she has received from the Romanian government for the extradition of UK residents under the European Arrest Warrant since 13 July 2016.

#### **Answering member: Brandon Lewis | Department: Home Office**

Each year the National Crime Agency publishes statistics on the number of European Arrest Warrants (EAW) received by the UK.

These figures include a breakdown of the number of EAWs received from each country by nationality of the person requested and offence. These figures are published at:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/european-arrest-warrant-statistics>

### **Romania: Press Freedom**

**17 Jan 2017 | 59826**

#### **Asked by: David T. C. Davies**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Romanian government on press freedom in that country.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Foreign Secretary and I have had no discussions on this issue with the new Romanian government, which has been in office for just two weeks.

**Romania: Travellers**

**06 May 2016 | 35784**

**Asked by: Kate Green**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Romanian government on the treatment of the Roma community in that country.

**Answering member: David Lidington | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We closely follow the treatment of the Roma Community in Romania. The UK condemns discrimination in all its forms and has on numerous occasions discussed this issue with the Romanian government. The UK was represented at the Romanian Government's Inter-Ministerial Committee responsible for monitoring the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion on 21 March. On 12 April the British Ambassador to Romania issued a public statement regarding discrimination against the Roma community, following acts of vandalism at the National Centre for Roma Culture's tent at the University Square. We continue to urge the Romanian government to take all necessary measures to ensure that all its citizens can fully enjoy their rights.

**Romania: Corruption**

**22 Jul 2015 | 7317**

**Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the government of Romania on tackling corruption in the business sector of that country.

**Answering member: David Lidington | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK closely monitors the implementation of Romania's National Anticorruption Strategy which covers tackling corruption in the business sector. The UK has provided financial assistance to the Centre for Legal Resources to research ethics and compliance in the Romanian business sector, some of the results of which were subsequently included in Romania's National Anticorruption Strategy.

In April 2015 the British and American Chambers of Commerce in Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Justice organised a conference on business integrity, bringing together Government, businesses, non-governmental organisations and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development representatives to discuss the most effective ways to improve integrity of businesses in Romania.

During his visit to Romania in January 2015, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), met President Klaus Iohannis and set out the important work Romania needed to take on tackling corruption, improving predictability of legislation and the positive impact this would have on Romania's business environment.

### **Romania: Corruption**

**08 Jul 2015 | 5406**

#### **Asked by: Paul Flynn**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with Romanian counterparts on tackling corruption in that country.

#### **Answering member: David Lidington | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

During his visit to Romania in January 2015, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), met President Klaus Iohannis and set out the positive impact that the Romanian government could have on the business environment by further tackling corruption and improving the predictability of impact of legislation.

The British Government will continue to carefully monitor the development of the rule of law and the fight against corruption including by encouraging Romania's ongoing efforts towards meeting the benchmarks of the EU's Cooperation and Verification mechanism. We continue to expect Romania, as with all other EU Member States, to respect and abide by its obligations to comply fully with the laws and values of the Union, including judicial independence.

### **Romania: NATO**

**07 Jul 2015 | 5407**

#### **Asked by: Paul Flynn**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with counterparts in NATO countries on the new NATO Force Integration Unit to be built in Romania.

#### **Answering member: David Lidington | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I frequently have calls with my NATO counterparts and discuss a range of issues including NATO. We are in regular contact with Romania and NATO Allies on the implementation of NATO's Readiness Action Plan (RAP) agreed at the Wales Summit last September, which includes the development of the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU) in six eastern Allies. In March 2015, the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Mr Fallon), visited Romania, calling on the President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister to discuss these issues. NATO Defence Ministers met in Brussels on 24-25 June to assess

progress since Wales. It was agreed that overall there continued to be good progress on RAP implementation and that the six NFIUs would be fully manned by the end of the year. The UK is playing a leading role in this effort. Romania's NFIU will support planning, conduct host nation liaison and facilitate the rapid deployment of the new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. The UK will support the NFIU through the provision of a Staff Officer.

### [Romania](#)

**11 Feb 2015 | HL4502**

**Asked by: Baroness Suttie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent meetings they have had with the government of Romania to discuss human rights and judicial reform; and whether the Adamescu case has been raised during any such discussions.

**Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns**

**| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

During the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond)'s visit to Romania on 14 January he discussed human rights matters with Prime Minister Ponta and he discussed judicial reform with both Prime Minister Ponta and President Iohannis. On the specific case my noble Friend refers to a ruling that has recently been made. I understand that there may be legal options for appeal but with respect to the Romanian legal system, we are not able to comment further on this case.

## 5. Other Parliamentary material

### 5.1 Debates

#### [Immigration \(Bulgaria and Romania\)](#)

19 Dec 2013 | House of Commons | 572 cc340-2WH

#### [Immigration \(Bulgaria and Romania\)](#)

22 Apr 2013 | House of Commons | 561 cc187-232WH

### 5.2 Early Day Motions

#### [HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ROMANIA](#)

EDM 218 (session 2017-19)

18 July 2017

Jim Shannon

That this House notes that Romania is the largest human trafficking conduit, with the UK being the biggest recipient of the women ensnared in this despicable trade; condemns the human trafficking of women from Romania; calls for better cooperation between the Romanian and UK governments to stop this vile practice; and further calls upon the Government to ensure that the UK is no longer a part of this terrible cycle of human suffering.

#### [DR ION JINGA, DEPARTING AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA](#)

EDM 291 (session 2015-16)

13 July 2015

Keith Vaz

That this House commends the work of the outgoing Ambassador of Romania to the UK, Dr Ion Jinga, who has played a significant part in developing relations between the two countries; recognises Dr Jinga's deep historical understanding of the Romanian-British relationship, and the effective and skilled manner in which he has represented his country and the Romanian community in the UK; notes Dr Jinga's impressive diplomatic and intellectual record; and wishes Dr Jinga well in his future roles.

#### [MR SPEAKER'S HISTORIC ADDRESS TO THE ROMANIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES](#)

EDM 197 (session 2013-14)

5 June 2013

Keith Vaz

That this House welcomes the historic visit by Mr Speaker to Romania; notes that he received a full ceremonial welcome and had the rare honour of addressing the Romanian parliament; and acknowledges the importance of visits made by the Speaker of the House of Commons in building relationships with other countries and bringing parliamentarians closer together.

## 6. Romanian Embassy briefing

**[Bilateral relations](#): General information on the UK-Romanian relationship, as featured on the website of the Embassy of Romania in London**

### Brief history

Diplomatic relations between Romania and the United Kingdom were established on the 20th of February, 1880 - two years after the 1877-1878 Independence war against the Ottoman Porte - when Great Britain, Germany and France recognised the independence and sovereignty of Romania.

The very same day, Romanian-British diplomatic relations were established at Legation level. The General Consul of Great Britain to Bucharest, William Arthur White, was the first among the representatives of the three Great Powers to present his credentials as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Bucharest. Accordingly, Nicolae Callimachi-Catargiu, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Romanian Envoy to Paris, was sent to London as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United Principalities of Moldova and Walachia. He presented his credentials to Queen Victoria on the 19th of July 1880.

The event had been prepared well in advance. Following the diplomatic mission of the renowned Romanian poet, playwright and politician Vasile Alecsandri to London and Paris, successfully getting the recognition of the United Principalities by Great Britain and France, Diplomatic Agencies of the United Principalities were established in London and Paris in 1860.

Over the years, many prestigious Romanian diplomats have been posted in London. Among them, Mircea Eliade - mainly known to the world as a historian of religion, fiction writer, philosopher and professor at the University of Chicago - was appointed in 1940, aged 33, as press and cultural attaché at the Romanian Legation in the United Kingdom.

UK has become a close partner and one of the main supporters of Romania's accession to NATO and the European Union, after the anti-communist revolution in 1989.

### Political Relations

Starting with 1990, a new era in the UK-Romanian relations began: the UK became a close partner and one of the main supporters of Romania's accession to NATO and the EU.

The Strategic Partnership between Romania and the United Kingdom, launched in 2003, has been further strengthened and expanded after Romania's accession to the European Union in 2007. The excellent level of the Romanian-British relations, as well as that of our cooperation, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora has also been reconfirmed by the adoption of the 2011 Joint Statement on Enhancing the Strategic Partnership between Romania and the United Kingdom.

The Romanian-British Strategic Partnership is based on shared values, principles and interests, while the bilateral cooperation covers a broad, complex range of areas.

Particular attention is given to the economic interaction, both bilaterally – the upward trend of the past years in bilateral trade and also in as far as the level of British investments in Romania is concerned has been maintained and even accelerated, while the frequency and quality of contacts between the members of the business community in Romania and the United Kingdom have also increased – and within the European Union, where the two states are acting together to fulfill an ambitious set of objectives, including the completion of the digital single market and the removal of barriers to the free digital trade within the Union, as well as the insurance of the energy security of the continent whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Romania and the United Kingdom have launched in January 2014, as agreed by their foreign ministers in October 2013, the Bilateral Dialogue on Energy, aimed, inter alia, at contributing to the development of a solid, competitive and sustainable European Energy System.

As members of NATO, Romania and the United Kingdom are also closely cooperating in the security area.

The commitment to enhance cooperation in all the areas mentioned above and in other domains of mutual interest was reconfirmed in October 2013, through the Joint Declaration adopted by the Romanian and British foreign ministers. The two officials have also confirmed their resolve to uphold the principle of free movement of persons in the EU, while recognizing the contribution that most Romanians in the United Kingdom bring to the development of the British economy.

The new stage in the increasingly dynamic Romanian-British relations is also marked by an intense and substantive political dialogue translated into frequent visits of Romanian and British officials in London and Bucharest, respectively.

#### **Visits to London:**

- President of Romania – January and October 2005, June 2011
- Prime Minister – December 2007, November 2013
- Minister of Foreign Affairs – March 2005, February and October 2006, April 2009, January 2010, March 2011, October 2013, September 2014, March 2015
- Minister of Defence – 2007
- Secretary of State – Ministry of Defence – June 2013
- Minister of Justice – 2006, 2008, 2011
- Secretary of State – Ministry of Justice – February 2013
- Minister of Interior – April 2007
- Presidential adviser for national security – 2009, 2010
- Presidential adviser for legal affairs - 2009

#### **Visits to Bucharest:**

- Prime Minister – May 1999
- Deputy Prime Minister – January 2007

- Foreign Secretary – September 2007
- Minister for Europe – February 2006, February 2007, September 2010, 2013
- Home Secretary – April 2006
- Justice Secretary – September 2010

Members of the British Royal Family paid several visits to Romania. The more recent one is the visit of HRH Prince Charles in May 2015 that entailed meeting with the President of Romania, Klaus Werner Iohannis.

## Parliamentary Relations

The years since the establishment of the bilateral strategic partnership (2003) have witnessed a progressive strengthening of Parliamentary contacts between UK and Romania. In addition to the many unofficial visits and meetings between representatives of the two Parliaments in the context of various international events, a series of official Parliamentary delegations have traveled to Romania and to the UK, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the bilateral ties and of Romanian-British cooperation in the EU, NATO and other international organizations.

### 2014

- Visit by a delegation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis
- Visit by a delegation of the Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group from the British Parliament
- Visit by a delegation of the Joint Committee for Parliamentary Oversight of the Romanian Intelligence Service
- Visit by a delegation of the Romanian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

### 2013

- Visit by Mr. John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons
- Visit by a delegation of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, led by Mr. Keith Vaz, Chairman.
- Visit by a delegation of the Romanian Parliament's Committee for the Romanian communities abroad

### 2011

- Visit by Mr. Valeriu Zgonea, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies
- Visit by Mr. Greg Hands, Chairman of the Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group from the British Parliament.
- Visit by the Chairman of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr. Keith Vaz

### 2010

- Visit by a delegation of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Romanian Senate led by Mr. Titus Corlatean MP, Chairman

### 2009

- Visit by a delegation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking, led by Mr. Anthony Sateen MP

**2008**

- Visit by a delegation from the Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group, led by Mr. Mark Hendrick MP, Chairman

**2006**

- Visit by a delegation of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee led by Mr. Mike Gapes MP, Chairman

**2005**

- Visit by Lord Bowness, Chairman of the House of Lords Sub-Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defense and Development Policy.
- Visit by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on European Union Enlargement led by Lord Dubs, Chairman.

More information about Romanian-UK Parliamentary relations are available from:

### **The Romania-United Kingdom Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Romanian Parliament**

The Romania-United Kingdom Parliamentary Friendship Group was established to promote the dialogue and cooperation between Romania and the UK across all areas of common interest.

Chair: Valeriu Zgonea (Social Democrat Party)  
 Vice-Chair: Cristian Petru Bodea (National Liberal Party)  
 Secretary: Valentin Calcan (Social Democrat Party)  
 Contact: Cabinet of the Chair V Zgonea  
 Tel + 40 21 414 19 88; email: [zgonea@cdep.ro](mailto:zgonea@cdep.ro)

### **Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group in the UK Parliament**

The Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group was formed to promote the development of the good relations between the United Kingdom and Romania.

Chair: Lord Davies of Stamford (Labour Party)  
 Vice-Chair: Lord Bowness MP (Conservative Party)  
 Secretary: Lord Woolmer of Leeds (Labour Party)  
 Contact: Paul Flynn MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tel: +44 20 7219 3478

## **Economic Relations**

The strategic and privileged relations between Romania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are now benefitting from outstanding political and economic cooperation.

The Romanian – British relations are stronger than ever. During the years that have passed we witnessed continuous development and enhancement of relations between institutions, but also between individuals, the British-Romanian relationship being based first of all on a similarity of understanding of the world and of certain values.

The bilateral cooperation is moving forward on a fast track, boosting the two-way trade, business and investment. UK is already the 10th

biggest investor in Romania. On average, 17 companies with British capital are registered every month, and Romania now has a total of around 5,200 UK companies.

UK is a major economic and trading partner of Romania, ranking 5th in the top Romanian export destinations and 14th in the top import sources. The bilateral trade reached in 2015 the highest level in our history: EUR 3.95 billion, an increase of 14% against 2014.

The British companies should look more closely at the opportunities in Romania: its strong macro-economic fundamentals, its large and still under-served domestic market, its highly qualified and competitively priced workforce, its advantageous geographic position with reach in the Balkans and Black Sea regions. And of course it is part of the EU Single Market and a three-hour flight from the UK, making it an accessible domestic market, with 20million consumers, for small and medium sized companies and the larger ones as well.

## Cultural relations

### **Bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and research**

The legal framework in force includes:

- Protocol on collaboration between Romania's Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation and the Services for Open Learning in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Bucharest, 21 Jan. 2009), valid until 31 August 2012;
- The programme of the Government of Romania and of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture, for 2010 – 2014 (Bucharest 15 Nov. 2010).

### **Bilateral contacts**

Official visits to London

- Minister of National Education - April 2013, October 2014
- Minister of Education, Research and Youth - 2007, 2008
- Secretary of State, Ministry of National Education - January 2013, January 2014

Official visits to Bucharest

- Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills - September 2011

### **Cultural Centres**

In London – the Romanian Cultural Institute ([www.icr-london.co.uk/](http://www.icr-london.co.uk/)).

In Bucharest – the British Cultural Centre - British Council ([www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)).

The functioning of cultural centres is regulated by the Agreement between Government of Romania and of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on establishing cultural centres and their functioning, concluded in Bucharest on 22 February 1991.

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