

## UKRAINE-ROMANIA INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' CONSORTIUM

*the initiative of Strategic and Security Studies Group*

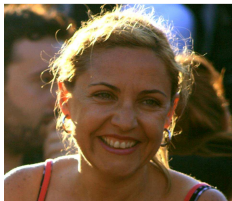


### **URIEC – Newsletter #4**

*On December 21, 2014 Klaus Iohannis will be inaugurated as a new president of Romania. What should Ukraine expect from the new president of the neighboring state? Will there be any correction to the foreign policy of Romania? Who is going to be among the key advisors of the new president?*

*«Strategic and Security Studies Group» put these questions to the experts of Ukraine-Romania International Experts Consortium.*

***Liliana Popescu, President of the Civic Education and Academic Development Project Foundation, Bucharest:***



**New minister of foreign affairs:** The newly appointed minister of foreign affairs, Bogdan Aurescu, is a career diplomat. He held the position of deputy minister in the previous government. He used to be close to former Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. Aurescu is the diplomat who was in charge on the Romanian side with the International Court case concerning the maritime delimitation in the Black Sea, involving Romania and Ukraine.

He expressed on various occasions support for the European orientation of Ukraine and believes that Romania can contribute to Ukraine's European path through good neighborly relations.

Bogdan Aurescu is a solid minister of foreign affairs, reliable, professional. He has a long record of interest in the area of regional politics, with an accent on the Republic of Moldova. Aurescu has been concerned with the rights of Romanian ethnics living abroad, and one can find a variety of his declarations on this issue.

**The team of the new president:** As far as the newly elected President, Klaus Iohannis, he will take over the position of President on the 21st of December and so far he announced only the name of the spokesperson, Ms Tatiana Niculescu Bran, who is a writer by profession. Right now, the elected President is on a private visit to the USA. There are all kinds of speculations with respect to the team of advisers he is going to appoint but no official names. Alina Mungiu Pippidi was among the names circulated in the press and among analysts. She is currently working as professor at Hertie School of Governance in Germany and is leading the well-known NGO Societatea Academica din Romania. This NGO was and is very active in the area of anti-corruption, unfolding various unlawful aspects of Romanian political life and not only (the project Clean Romania is outstanding in this sense). Mungiu Pippidi strongly supported Iohannis during the electoral campaign.

Also, among the advisers one may find the name of the former director of the Institute for the Investigations of Communism's Crimes (IICCMER), Andrei Muraru. The name of the former Prime Minister, Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, was also mentioned in the press for the position of head of the Presidential Administration. But all these potential names and appointments are a matter of speculation.

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I believe that the direction of Romania's foreign policy will not change and will continue to be solidly European and Euro-Atlantic oriented. From this viewpoint, Ukraine may count on a steady neighbor, acting responsibly as EU and NATO member.

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