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PRESS RELEASE

Regarding the participation of the President of Permanent Electoral Authority, Ana Maria Pătru, at the Conference “Smart DIASPORA 2020+ How to improve the strategic potential of Romanian diaspora”

On Tuesday, September 15, 2015, the President of Permanent Electoral Authority, Ms. Ana Maria Pătru, attended the Conference “*Smart DIASPORA 2020+ How to improve the strategic potential of Romanian diaspora*”, event organized by CAESAR Foundation and The League of Romanian Students from Abroad, with the support of the Presidential Administration.

The objective of this conference was to restore de value of Romanian diaspora in the foreground of the public agenda and, in particular, to involve experts that can outline projects and public policies proposals on two strands: “Civic and politic diaspora: How to improve the Romanian influence abroad” and “Repatriation: What keeps the Romanian experts from returning home”.

In her intervention, the President of the Permanent Electoral Authority, Ana Maria Pătru, welcomed the initiative of The League of Romanian Students from Abroad, supported by the Presidential Administration.

“I am delighted to be here with you today, youth, the elite of Romanian intellect that, no matter what part of the world you are, you all think in a Romanian way, for Romania. PEA has the mission to consolidate Romanian democracy by organizing free, fair, transparent and participative elections, and our principles are integrity, responsibility and professionalism. We have common objectives and principles. This is the main reason why we are all here, face to face, to talk about Romania, about its democratic future, about how we can collaborate for the benefit of our country, in order for Romania to become a model of good practices in electoral field and not only” said the President of PEA at this event.

The President of the Permanent Electoral Authority mentioned that the institution that she leads makes efforts to strengthen its role of integrator as information and electoral procedures and to consolidate its partnerships with all stakeholders participating in the electoral process, having a special role in communication with civil and academic society.

“We are aiming to identify common themes and to develop projects that will improve the management of electoral process, to adjust it to European and international electoral standards” said Ms. Ana Maria Pătru.

The President of PEA saluted the determination of those NGOs that want to contribute with their own expertise to improve the electoral legislation, so that all Romanians could benefit from clearer and more consistent laws, and trust in the correct conduct of elections.

Ana Maria Pătru reiterated that unlimited access of Romanian living abroad to polls is one of the main objective of PEA in 2016, adding that the Romanian Parliament adopted a series of laws that represented the first steps of the electoral reform, among them Law No. 208/2015 regarding the elections of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, as well as the organization and functioning of the Permanent Electoral Authority.

In her intervention, the President of PEA talked about the importance of enrolling of Romanians living abroad in the Electoral Register with their address of residence, so that they can vote at the polling stations in the same manner as in Romania, on permanent electoral lists.

“A major challenge for PEA is to extend the Electoral Register, by enlisting Romanian voters living abroad so that, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to establish enough polling stations with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” told Ms. Ana Maria Pătru.

“It is very important to undertake all necessary measures so that Romanians living abroad can be informed about the importance of their enrolling in the Electoral register and this is the only way new polling stations will be established for them. An active implication of all stakeholders (PEA, MFA, diplomatic missions, NGOs, voters), a good communication, as well as the support of mass-media are fundamental for the success of this project” said the President of the Permanent Electoral Authority, Ms. Ana Maria Pătru.

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