



INFOPOLITIC

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IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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2. **FOREIGN POLICY.** Victor Ponta makes a visit to the Republic of Moldova.
3. **POLITICS.** The PSD aims for 35% of the votes in the EP elections.
4. **ECONOMY.** The Government lowers the VAT for bread products.
5. **FOREIGN POLICY.** The Romanian Government strongly condemns the actions of the Syrian Government.
6. **ECONOMY.** The Government supports the SME sector



THE USL SETS OUT ITS POLITICAL PRIORITIES

The leadership structures of PSD and USL met at the Romanian seaside in order to determine the political coordinates of this following autumn. This occasion gathered PSD Women's Organization, the National Executive Committee, the parliamentary groups of the PSD, while the two co-chairmen, Victor Ponta and Crin Antonescu, have participated in a joint meeting with the united parliamentary groups of the USL, and in the event "Romania for the youth".

Prime Minister Victor Ponta commented on the party's political position. **"Our political situation is definitely one that we wanted,** namely: we won the local and parliamentary elections, we are in Government, we have, in the USL, the ministerial positions that work. In Parliament, most of us worked flawlessly and I thank all those who lead our parliamentary work," said Victor Ponta.

On the same background, the PSD leader showed there are important things to do in the fall at governmental, parliamentary, but also at the political level. "From my point of view, the way in which the works of the Commission for amending the Constitution was completed is indeed a needed reform of the political system, of the constitutional system. Moreover, this fall we will receive all the points of view from the Venice Commission, **from the international partners, so that next year, at any moment, we can go to referendum to change the constitution.**

VICTOR PONTA MAKES A VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Prime Minister Victor Ponta paid an official visit to the Republic of Moldova **to inaugurate, together with Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and the European Commissioner for Energy, Günther Oettinger, the construction of the Iasi - Ungheni gas pipeline**, which will connect Romania and Moldova. In addition, Prime Minister Victor Ponta congratulated the Moldovan citizens, on their Independence Day, which this year marks 22 years since independence from the Soviet Union.

At the inauguration ceremony of the Iasi-Ungheni gas pipeline, the journalists asked whether this investment will not bother the Kremlin, Victor Ponta replied that the Russian authorities will not mind. **"When we start a project, I do not think who will mind, I think about who benefits (...)** I do not think it will mind, there is no reason for anyone to mind (...) We are talking here about the right of every citizen of the Republic of Moldova and of Romania to have lower gas prices and about the economic interest," said Victor Ponta.

The Iasi-Ungheni pipeline aims to provide a higher level of energy security for the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern part of Romania, while diversifying the sources of gas supply. During the visit, the Prime Minister also said that **it is necessary to improve and diversify the scholarships for young people from Moldova who want to study in Romania.**

THE VAT FOR BREAD PRODUCTS STARTS ON 1 SEPTEMBER

Starting September 1st, bread and bakery specialties will have a 9% VAT, according to a joint Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of



Public Finance, published on August 28th in the Official Gazette. The regional directions of public finance, through their subordinate territorial structures, together with General Direction for Management of Large Taxpayers will take action for implementing the provisions of the order.

Along with the replenishment of the wages, increasing the minimum wage, pension indexation, illegally collected CASS returning and many more, reducing the VAT on bread is one of the measures promised in the election campaign that the USL Government is fulfilling. Since the first day of its implementation, the bread shelf prices have dropped considerably. Further, the reduction of the VAT on bakery products will result also in the decrease of tax evasion in the field.

THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS

The Romanian Government strongly condemns and without any hesitation the criminal acts in Syria and it is its duty to be entirely sympathetic with the states which requested and impose the respect of the international law, said Prime Minister Victor Ponta, after U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry announced that the U.S. know that the Syrian government used chemical weapons several times this year.

"Together with Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean, I was informed regarding the U.S. Secretary of State Kerry's statements on the situation in Syria. I just want to say that I took note of the evidence presented, the crimes committed against humanity in Syria by or with the knowing of Government authorities, that under these conditions the Romanian Government strongly condemns absolutely



without any hesitation such acts – I repeat, crimes against humanity committed against the civilian population, against a significant number of children, innocent people, and that the Romanian Government has to be entirely sympathetic with the states that requested and imposed the respect of the international law," said the PM.

According to Prime Minister Victor Ponta, it was imperative that, in front of obvious and unacceptable facts, the Government to have an unequivocal position of solidarity and coordination with the partners of our country. **"Regarding the decision or if you want further actions, again, we will be solidary, coordinated and together with our partners,"** said the chief of the Executive.

THE USL SUPPORTS THE SME SECTOR

The USL Government adopted a new law that comes in support of SMEs, considered the engine of the economy. According to an ordinance adopted by the Government during a meeting, **the tax audit for SMEs will be made only once in a period of three years, the normative act willing to transpose the strategic document "Small Business Act" for Europe** adopted by the European Commission in 2008 and revised in 2011 into Romanian legislation.

The document adopted by the European Commission sets forth ten principles to guide the conception and implementation, both at EU and at Member State level, of policies which stimulate the SMEs.

The enactment adapts the principles of the European act to Romanian realities through: establishing the obligatory ex-ante evaluation of the economic impact of legislation on SMEs, evaluation which shall be accompanied by proposals for alternative solutions, and by supporting the



development of the educational system to promote entrepreneurial culture and skills.

The ordinance also requires support and training for adults, in order to enhance the quality of human resources for SMEs, but also providing tax incentives to SMEs for the first fiscal year since registration in the Commercial Registry.

Supporting the financing needs of the SMEs through various investment tools, financial vehicles and national programs, but also limiting the introduction of new administrative burdens or reporting requirements for SMEs in order to ensure a business friendly environment is also mentioned in the act.