

BULLETIN
No. 684, November the 5th, 2006

The Ministry of Administration and Interior released the Romanian citizen's guideline for travelling in the European Union

Taking into consideration the necessity of keeping the Romanian citizens informed on the requirements which, once into the European Union, they will have to meet when travelling abroad, and also considering the necessity of their obeying the legislation of the destination states, **the Ministry of Administration and Interior released "The Romanian citizen's guideline for travelling in the European Union"**, a brochure including useful information for all those people who want to travel within the territory of a EU Member State.

"The right to freely travel is by far the most important right that we have gained by joining the European Union", states the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, in his foreword at the beginning of this guide, transmitted to all the readers of this brochure, underlining at the same time that all the efforts of our institution will further continue, so as to accomplish *"the Schengen goal"*.

A total of 10,000 copies of this guide were printed so far, and they will be available at the subordinate units of M.A.I. At the same time, for a better visibility and accessibility (in Romania and abroad), this guide will be placed on the official website of the ministry (www.mai.gov.ro).

All the persons interested will be able to find in this guide details on the right to freely travel within the territory of a EU member state, the travel documents, and on what the stay right implies (up-to-3-month/ more-than-3-month/ permanent residence).

At the same time, one can find here the requirements for the under-aged youngsters, Romanian citizens, who travel abroad, and the situations generating confinement of the right to freely travel/ to stay on public policy/ security/ health grounds.

For avoiding any misunderstandings on the necessity to respect the legal stay on the territory of a EU member state, this guide provides the risks that the Romanian citizens take if they breach the current regulations, and the punishment implied by this infringement.

The Romanian citizens travelling abroad by car can also find here details about the **EU regulations on the vehicle insurance, road safety and driving license regime**.

In its end, this brochure also provides some advice and useful tips, so that Romanians – when travelling abroad and looking for the authorities' support – they could address to them operatively, and find timely solutions to their problems.

BULLETIN
No. 569, the 4th of September 2006

**IN GERMANY, THE MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR - VASILE
BLAGA WILL PRESENT THE STAGE OF OUR COUNTRY'S PREPAREDNESS
FOR THE EU ACCESSION, AS REGARDS THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS ISSUES**

Between the 5th and the 7th of September, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, will pay an official visit to Germany, and the Romanian official will take this opportunity to present before the Home Affairs Commission from the German Federal Parliament – Bundestag, the stage of our country's preparedness for the EU accession, in the internal affairs field.

The Romania minister's visit is made upon the invitation of the President of the Home Affairs Commission from the German Federal Parliament, Mr. Sebastian Edathy, and it is aimed at a direct and objective confirmation of the intention to continue the undertakings necessary for fulfilling the conditions in view of joining the European Union on the 1st of January 2007.

This event has a special significance to us, considering that Germany is currently ratifying the Romania's and Bulgaria's EU Accession Treaty, as well as the fact that this meeting will be attended by members of the Home Affairs Commission, as representatives of the German parliamentary parties.

During this visit, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, will have a series of official meetings, among which that with the spokesperson of the Christian Social Union on Foreign Policy, European Affairs, Defense, Human Rights and Development Co-operation – Thomas Silberhorn –, which will discuss the issue of the Romanian authorities' progress achieved in the field of the bilateral co-operation between Romania and Germany, as well as the stage of our country's preparedness for joining the EU.

The part that Romania will play in the European Union, from the internal affairs point of view, will be intensely debated at the headquarters of the European Commission Representation in Berlin, at the Round Table on "*The EU Security and Enlargement Policy*". The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, as well as the Parliamentary Secretary of State within the Home Affairs Federal Ministry, Mr. Peter Altmaier, will attend this meeting, held in the presence of over 100 participants.

Minister Vasile Blaga will also have a meeting with the Vice-president of the German Bundestag, Ms. Susanne Kastner, a good opportunity to restate some aspects of interest for the German MPs, on the specific domain of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

BULLETIN
No. 680 - November the 2nd, 2006

15 representatives of the public local authorities will be part of the EU Committee of the Regions

Starting with the 1st of January 2007, 15 representatives of the public local authorities – the presidents of six County Councils and the mayors of nine towns in Romania (including Bucharest) – will actively participate in the works of the EU Committee of the Regions and will promote the national interest of Romania, as well as the interests of the Romanian local communities within the framework of this European organism.

The nominees have participated, even since the autumn of 2005, in the reunions of the Committee of the Regions, as observers. Over this period, the Romanian representatives in the Committee of the Regions got used to the work procedures and to the decision-making process within the EU units.

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As a member state of the European Union, Romania has the right to assign its representatives in the EU organisms, among which the Committee of the Regions – a consultative organism which includes representatives of the regional and local public authorities from the member states.

According to art.263 of the European Communities Treaty, these representatives have to be in office within the regional or local authorities or to take a political position in front of an assembly of the member states.

For assigning the 15 full members and the 15 deputy members that Romania has the right to have, the Ministry of Administration and Interior drew up the Assignment Procedure in 2005.

The document was drawn up in co-operation with the associative units of the local public authorities: the National Union of the Romanian County Councils (NURCC), the Association of the Romanian Municipalities (ARM), the Association of the Romanian Towns (ART) and the Association of the Romanian Communes (ARC), and was approved by the Government of Romania.

According to the procedure established, every associative unit of the local public authorities assigns candidates in conformity with their own functioning statutes.

The 15 full members and the 15 deputy members are distributed as follows:

- NURCC – 6 full members and 6 deputy members
- ARM, ART and ARC – 3 full-member and 3 deputy members each

The Ministry of Administration and Interior has presented in front of the Government of Romania, even since July 2005, the nominal list with the representatives of the Committees of the Regions assigned by the associative units of the public local authorities, namely the presidents of the County Councils from Timis, Prahova, Olt, Ilfov, Covasna, Teleorman and the mayors of the following towns: Bucharest, Baia Mare (Maramures County), Ploiești (Prahova County), Lehliu-Gară (Calarasi County), Mizil (Prahova County), Intorsura Buzaului (Covasna County), Vulcana-Băi (DB), Boldur (Timis County), Gorgota (Prahova County).

Nr. 679, November the 1st, 2006

SPECIFICATION ON THE ARTICLE IN “THE SUN”

The Ministry of Administration and Interior appreciates that the accounts included in “The Sun” – the edition on Wednesday, the 1st of November 2006, on the crimes in which Romanian citizens in Great Britain are involved, are quite excessive, taking into consideration that in 2006, BCN Interpol submitted 67 verification applications to the National Bureau Interpol - Bucharest. Thus, during this period of time, there were recorded 38 legal cases in which Romanian citizens were involved, identified as offenders (forgery – 3 cases, robbery – 2 cases, burglary – 1, concealment – 1), only one of them being extradited from Great Britain, on charge of grand larceny.

The number of the Romanian citizens returned from Great Britain for having committed different types of crimes on the British territory decreased significantly over the past years. The statistics existing at the level of the Romanian Border Police reveal that, compared to the year 2004 - when 1,577 Romanian citizens were sent back from Great Britain, this number systematically decreased to 1,341 in 2005, and to 673 in 2006 (by 31st of September).

For countering the migration phenomenon, including the one related to the illegal emigration of the Romanian citizens abroad, the Ministry of Administration and Interior – by the means of its responsible units – is taking firm actions for countering this phenomenon.

The issue of countering the Romanian citizens’ illegal migration to Great Britain is mainly tackled by the Reflex Project – Romania, set up in 2002 between Romania and Great Britain, within the Romanian Police General Inspectorate, represented by a common inter-institutional working group.

This project is aimed at improving the data and intelligence exchange, in view of increasing the effectiveness of the fight against illegal migration and human trafficking Romanian people are involved, as regards our relation with Great Britain.

From the very beginning, this working group made efforts in view of: collecting, developing and analyzing the information related to criminal networks; providing analytic and tactical support to the operational teams; setting up and maintaining the data bases related to illegal migration; developing inter-institutional co-operation on intelligence exchange; drawing up strategic analyses to be provided to the leadership in view of an appropriate resource distribution.

During 2002 – 2005, at central level, the Project “Reflex” Romania contributed to the dismantling of **21 criminal groups, over 130 persons being arrested.**

In March 2005, based on the successes recorded at central level, other 14 Reflex Compartments were set up at the level of all **Organized Crime Countering Squads**, after the same model.

The decision was reached by the “Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania and the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland, on supporting the Reflex Programme by March 2006 and extending it at national level”.

Between January and September 2006, the Reflex Compartments made a significant contribution to the drawing up of **114 information packages**, materialized in **117 legal cases**, which are being developed under the coordination of the DIICOT (Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism cases) prosecutors, in the context of the Project.

These information packages resulted in **convicting 286 persons** (272 Romanian and 14 foreign citizens) involved in organized crime activity - trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, 137 of them being taken in preventive custody.

For the first time in Romania, a successful video connection between Romania and Great Britain was realized, when Romanian witnesses could be heard live in a legal case developing in a British court, in a joint operation of Reflex Project and the British Police.

In April 2006, on the occasion of his visit at the headquarters of the REFLEX Project Romania, the British home affairs minister - Mr. Charles Clarke highly appreciated the Reflex activity and outcomes, and, by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania and the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, he expressed his availability to provide financial support for the extension of this Project until March 2007.

BULLETIN
No. 677 - November the 1st, 2006

Minister Vasile Blaga is participating in the Reunion of the Home Affairs Ministers from the South-Eastern Europe

Between the 2nd and the 4th of November 2006, the Ministry of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, will participate in the *Reunion of the Home Affairs Ministers from the South-Eastern Europe* that will take place in Antalya (Turkey).

The ministers participating in this event will sign an agreement regarding the co-operation in the field of countering terrorism, organised crime, trafficking in drugs, weapons and people, as well in countering money laundering and other major crimes.

“Romania must be a real support to Europe, it has to export stability in the entire region”, Vasile Blaga showed, emphasising the importance of the regional co-operation in view of ensuring a high level of security in the region.

The Minister of Administration and Interior also showed that, for Romania, the full EU membership received on January the 1st, 2007 will make it necessary to approach the challenges related to the trans-national crime with even more responsibility.

“Romania is now the safest country in this region and it has to remain so”, Vasile Blaga stated as well.

BULLETIN
No. 675 - October the 30th, 2006

THE ROMANIAN-GERMAN CO-OPERATION – INSTITUTIONALIZED BY THE “COMMON DECLARATION” OF THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR OF THE TWO COUNTRIES

“The leadership of the Ministry of Administration and Interior express their satisfaction on the ratification of the Treaty of Romania’s and Bulgaria’s Accession to the European Union by the Low Chamber of the German Parliament (Bundestag), on the 26th of October 2006, with an overwhelming majority of votes”, Mr. Alexandru Mircea, secretary of state of the M.A.I. has stated today – 30th of October 2006, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, during the signing ceremony for the “Common Declaration on the co-operation between the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania and the Ministry of Interior of the Baden-Württemberg Land”.

At the same time, the Romanian secretary of state also emphasized the fact that *“this vote finalizes the first parliamentary stage of the Treaty’s ratification by Germany, conveying an extremely clear message of support on behalf of our partner in the home affairs field during the process of Romania’s accession to the European Union”.*

In turn, Mr. Heribert Rech, the home minister of the Baden-Württemberg Land from the Federal Republic of Germany stated: *“We are glad that together, especially after Romania’s accession to the European Union, we’ll be able to face the common challenges, namely the security of the EU outer border and countering organized crime.”*

By signing this document, the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania and the Home Ministry of the Baden-Württemberg Land aim at enhancing and developing the existing co-operation based on trust in all the areas of the police tasks, as well as in some aspects relating to the protection against catastrophes and fires.

During the official talks, the two officials put forth a series of proposals related to the issues of improving the operational co-operation, setting some contacts and direct communication relations, and to some joint actions of initial and continuous training.