



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
9-13 July 2018, New York
Conference Room 4

Review of SDG Implementation: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive,
safe, resilient and sustainable

Statement by
Mr. Bogdan Toader
President of the Prahova Council County

- 11 July 2018 -

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a real pleasure for me to be here today to share our management and urban policies experience and the development of our programs, which are based on coherent and effective strategies and which are aimed to improve the life quality of our citizens.

At the same time I would like to talk to you about the responsibility that we have to reach the aspirations of our community. Our local governments should become gravity centers for the economy of our county and even veritable incubators for ideas and innovation. In order to implement our measures to stimulate and support the economic activity, we are working in partnerships-based relationships with other institutions and organizations in the county.

In term of regional development policies, our Government's vision, expressed by the Governance Program is, -- that all its administrative structures have to take care of citizens' needs and create the best conditions for ensuring and improving infrastructure for water-sewerage, management of waste, schools, hospitals, roads, etc. in all cities. We have to improve the urban space planning, to involve the private sector in our projects and to ensure the increase of investments in order to create a connective infrastructure for the public transport.

Because the city has a very important role in the surrounding region, I believe that in our regional management and coordination we have to develop sustainable plans with the cities in a core of plans, and to stimulate cooperation between cities.

In this regard, we consider that the cooperation between public and private sector is very important and also increasing the involvement of civil society in the life of the city and to contribute together to the economic development of the cities.

Development policies must follow the direction of society's evolution, we need to identify modern urban mobility solutions that improve air quality and reduce pollution by mitigating the environmental impact.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I represent a community which has oriented its development priorities on the principles of sustainable development.

Because of the large oil reserves, Prahova's capital city, Ploiesti, was worldwide known as the *capital of black gold*.

The first oil refinery in the world was established in Ploiesti – the capital City of Prahova County – in 1857. This oil refinery was built especially to supply the city of Bucharest, the capital of Romania, with gas for public lighting.

The oil processing industry continued to develop in our county. Back then, in the interwar period, there were 15 refineries around the city of Ploiesti.

After 1990, many refineries were closed, workers were fired, and after 2007, when Romania became member of the European Union, we have rethought our long and medium term strategies and we have reconsidered the industry.

I want to emphasize that last year we organized, together with the Aspen Institute Romania, the Forum on Energy Capacities - Aspen Energy Summit 2017, an event that marked the anniversary theme "160 years since the establishment of the first refinery in the world in Ploiesti", an opportunity to underline the role that Prahova County has played as a symbol of the oil industry over time, both internally and externally, having in present the human and material potential to innovate and develop new technologies.

In this respect, one of the successful practices is represented by the Industrial Parks from Prahova county. We have here Ploiesti Industrial Park, which is the largest public industrial park in Romania and also West Industrial Park Ploiesti, considered to be the largest private industrial park in Southeastern Europe. They both also focus on the social component and provide thousands of jobs.

With an area of more than 500 hectares, located outside of Ploiesti, these industrial Parks contain many spaces for production, storages, with an infrastructure connections with all regions of Romania and abroad. Ploiesti city is also an important university center that is internationally known. Another example of good practice in sustainable development would be the "*Integrated waste management system*" project, which was funded by European Union, worth more than 40 million Dollars. At this moment the construction of "The Mechanical-Biological Treatment Plant of Biodegradable Waste" is completed, which is the final stage of the project. The plant is the biggest and one of the few of its kind in the country and will really bring benefits to the people: reducing the amount of biodegradable waste at storage, soil pollution, and unpleasant emissions in the atmosphere.

I'm really proud to share with you that this project was awarded the 1st prize in the contest "Sustainable Cities" by the French Embassy in Romania. The award is a recognition of the county administration continuous efforts to implement an efficient waste management.

We will continue to develop our synergic projects and very dedicated regional policies, in order to achieve our final goal - to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Thank you for your attention.