

Press Statement by the President of Romania,

Mr. Klaus Iohannis

Good afternoon!

Today I have attended Romanian Intelligence Service's 2016 activity review meeting and I want to share with you my remarks made on the occasion.

Firstly, I have stressed SRI's significant role in ensuring national security.

I have expressed my confidence in SRI's ability to protect us against current and future risks. As essential pillar of the national security system, SRI's activity, carried out to standards similar to those in consolidated democracies, enjoys respect from partners, as well as legal customers and society.

I have welcomed last year's achievements in its main missions, and Service's significant contribution to substantiating strategic decision, countering cyber attacks and fighting organized crime, as well as preventing terrorist threats.

Romania and Romanians enjoy a secure climate thanks to SRI's sustained efforts and successful preventive actions, accomplished through enhanced institutional cooperation, as well as good collaboration with foreign partners.

I have emphasized especially the institution's concern to set up a partnership with civil society, as citizens are those who directly benefit from a stable and secure climate.

I have also praised SRI's efforts to develop technical and operational capabilities needed to cope with the challenges of information era.

Last but not least, I have noted that SRI's reputation remained untarnished in 2016 as a trustworthy foreign partner, contributing actively and consistently to supporting national foreign policy interests.

Further on I expect at least the same level of contribution to supplying the necessary knowledge to substantiate decisions aimed at promoting Romania's interests.

I have urged SRI to show balance and unconditional equidistance in conducting its operations, as well as an improved partnership with the civil society, with the ordinary citizen whose security it is required to ensure.

The increase in knowledge and anticipation of development trends in current asymmetric or hybrid threats is absolutely necessary, an issue I have pointed out during today's activity review meeting.

I also took this opportunity to reiterate the need to provide Romanian state institutions and implicitly SRI with some tools, including legislative instruments, adapted to both domestic and foreign realities, necessary for national security, which would ensure the appropriate framework for intelligence activities. These instruments are long in coming, although regional and international developments call for enhanced flexibility and mobility.

I would like to end by publicly expressing my appreciation for SRI's continuous efforts to strengthen its capacity to manage national security and Euro-Atlantic integration challenges. I congratulate SRI staff for their good results, achievements that often remain unknown, quite natural as far as an intelligence service is concerned.