



Parlamentul Romaniei

Camera Deputatilor

COMISIA PENTRU MEDIU ȘI ECHILIBRU ECOLOGIC

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to address the esteemed participants of the "Baku Decides" Youth Climate Negotiations. This pivotal event, hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, marks a significant step in our shared journey to combat climate change. The commitment to institutionalize the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (YCC) role at COP28 highlights the importance of youth in shaping our environmental future.

"Baku Decides," as Azerbaijan's inaugural global climate initiative, is a commendable platform that amplifies young voices in climate action. This aligns with the recent advancements in Azerbaijan-Europe relations, particularly the Green Energy Corridor, transforming Azerbaijan into a key destination for renewable energy investments. This collaboration underlines the need for interconnectivity and shared learning, as we strive to innovate and achieve the ambitious goals set at COP28, including the significant reduction of global temperatures.

In my tenure as the former Minister of Energy of Romania, I have seen firsthand the complexities of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Romania's efforts to reach net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050 is a journey we are navigating with determination and innovation.

Romanian youth have shown exceptional innovation and engagement in climate-related initiatives. During my tenure, I supported the hosting of the prestigious Solar Decathlon Europe 2023 in Bucharest, showcasing the creativity of Romanian participants who have consistently excelled in global editions of this competition. This aligns with COP28's innovation focus, as evidenced by a notable youth-led project that innovatively integrates hydrogen technology to enhance efficiency across various sectors of the oil industry. This project exemplifies the forward-thinking approaches of Romanian youth in addressing complex environmental challenges.

I am particularly interested in the innovative solutions that you, as the youth, propose for the effective implementation of international agreements like the Green Energy Corridor, for example. Your fresh perspectives, your unique insights are crucial for bolstering global energy security and propelling us towards a sustainable future. International collaborations, though challenging, historically lead to improvements. The stability and continuity of these collaborations are fundamental to every international agreement, ensuring our actions today align with the expectations and needs of future generations.

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I encourage each of you to actively participate, share your insights, and contribute to the dialogue on climate action. The world is watching and hoping, as you, the youth, lead the way in forging a sustainable path for us all.

Wishing you a fruitful and impactful forum,

Virgil – Daniel Popescu,

Member of Romanian Parliament

President of Committee on Environment and Climate Change from Romanian Parliament

**Former Minister of Energy (December 2020 – Jun 2023)*

**Former Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (Nov 2019 – Dec 2020)*