
Press release

The Romanian press fulfilled its watch-dog of the democracy mission.

Transparency International Romania, Advocacy Academy, The Romanian Academic Society, Pro Democracy Association, and the Media Monitoring Agency - Academia Catavencu salute the three ministers' of the Nastase Cabinet decision of handing their resignations in the wake of the corruption scandals in which they were exposed.

The fact that the Prime Minister Adrian Nastase accepted the resignations of the three officials is also noticeable.

A precedent is created in Romania: the governors are being politically accountable for actions lacked of morality, transparency, and integrity. The resignation institution functions in the consolidated democracies as a mechanism through which the governors are individually sanctioned for the lack of the credibility with which the public opinion invested them.

The resignation of the minister Serban Mihailescu is an admittance of the principle of governing that the superiors are accountable for the subordinates' acts.

The resignation of the minister Mircea Beuran is an admittance of the ethically superior standards (including in the professional life), that the governors must respect.

The resignation of the minister Hildegard Puwak is an admittance of the fact that both the officials/public dignitaries have the duty of not personally benefit of the advantages their position might bring, as well as their closed ones.

The mass-media deserves all the appreciations of the Romanian citizens.

The mass-media effort had the decisive effect in these cases.

The press exposed the high officials' failure to respect the good governing practices and then constantly sustained these subjects in the public's attention.

The Romanian press, though under various political and economical pressures, managed to fulfill its civic mission of "watch-dog" of the democracy.

The future evolutions in the governing act and in the political scene will shows us all if the three resignations are a step forward to the instauration of the good democratic governing practices and to a strengthening of the national system for public integrity.

This type of political decisions can make a contribution to the increase of the Romania's score in the next Corruption Perception Index, in 2004.

Transparency International Romania

Advocacy Academy

Romanian Academic Society

Pro Democracy Association

Media Monitoring Agency - Academia Catavencu