



Chronology of the “Save Rosia Montana” campaign from 2002 until present

Over the past 4 years multiple events occurred in aid of the Save Rosia Montana campaign. Many of these are remarkable and show the dynamism of the movement as well as the determination of Romania’s civil society to put a halt to this destructive development. The vibrancy of the campaign can be seen by the creative nature of the forces contributing. Whilst these come from all strands of life they also document the campaign’s groundedness. ‘Save Rosia Montana’ opposes Gabriel’s proposal (RMGC) on social, environmental, cultural and economic grounds. Gabriel’s cyanide leach open cast gold mine proposal poses major risks to the natural environment, the population, the cultural patrimony and will not contribute to sustainable development and wealth creation. Whilst campaigning against this destructive development, ‘Save Rosia Montana’ is equally developing sustainable alternatives to mining for the region (see www.fanfest.ro, www.drumulaurului.ro, www.buciumanii.ro).

Alburnus Maior is a non-governmental organization headquartered in Rosia Montana. It represents the interests of over 300 subsistence farming families from Rosia Montana and 100 families from neighbouring Bucium. Since the campaign’s inception; institutions, artists, civil society organisations, farmers, students, professors, people young and old and from all over Romania and beyond joined this struggle. These incredible forces are what turned a local initiative into a national and international campaign to ‘Save Rosia Montana!’

Some of the most significant events of the “Save Rosia Montana” Campaign:

July 28 2002 - Terra Milleniul III; a Bucharest-based partner-NGO and Alburnus Maior organize a public meeting in Rosia Montana. The event is attended by 350 locals and 34 representatives of mainly Romanian environmental NGOs. This action culminates with the drafting and endorsement of the so-called ‘Rosia Montana Declaration’ by the NGOs. The declaration was the first of its kind in Romania after 1989.

August 2002 - Daniel Daianu, Romania’s former Minister of Finance and 82 professors of the Bucharest-based Academy for Economic Sciences (ASE) write to President Iliescu affirming that the Rosia Montana mine proposal is an economic failure and an ecological time bomb. (ASE has since reaffirmed its position several times.)

October 2002 - The International Finance Corporation, the World Bank’s private lending arm, rejects Gabriel’s funding application quoting social and environmental concerns.

October 28 2002 - Caroline Jackson, President of the European Parliaments’ Commission for the Environment confirms that Rosia Montana is a serious problem concerning Romania’s EU accession. The EU parliament has since been monitoring the situation at Rosia Montana and has since sent two missions to Rosia Montana. One in November 2002 and one in October 2003.

December 5 2002 - During its General Assembly ICOMOS (International Committee for the Conservation of Monuments and Sites) endorses a resolution on Gabriel’s proposal; expressing serious about the project’s impact upon the Alburnus Maior mining settlement (Rosia Montana). ICOMOS has since reaffirmed its position several times.

December 6 2002 - Greenpeace’s first demonstration in Romania urges the government to pull the plug on Gabriel’s proposal.

March 4 2003 -The Romanian Academy - the country’s highest scientific body – releases an official call to the Romanian authorities to put a halt to Gabriel’s mine development; this after presenting its research

conclusions in the fields of environment, geology, history, economy and archaeology. The Romanian Academy since reaffirmed its position on **July 16 2004** and **February 27 2006**.

April 25 2003 - Over 1000 scholars and scholarly institutions from the international community of archaeologists, historians and other classicists voice their protest against the destruction of Rosia Montana's archaeological treasures by Gabriel's mine proposal.

June 16 2003 - Members of Alburnus Maior together with locals from the affected communities; roughly 200 people altogether gather in Bucharest to express their demands and vision regarding the sustainable development of their communities. Representatives of numerous NGOs join this celebratory manifestation. Eugen David transmits on their behalf a message to Gabriel's shareholders; this given that the action takes place one prior to Gabriel's AGM. The event is widely covered by the media.

August 31 2003 - According to an independent study carried out on the regional level 20% of the questioned consider that Gabriel's proposal will have a beneficiary economic contribution and 67% wish for a referendum to decide upon the mining proposal.

September 16, 2003 - Greenpeace activists from Hungary, Austria and Romania protest against the passivity of the Hungarian diplomacy regarding Gabriel's proposal.

September 28 2003 - Approx. 500 locals from Rosia Montana and the area gather in the town Cimpeni situated close to Rosia Montana to participate in an action organised by Alburnus Maior. The event culminates with a positive vote by those attending to send a message to the government requesting for the region to be developed in a truly sustainable manner that would under no circumstances ever accept such risky and dangerous project as proposed by Gabriel.

October 6 2003 - Sees the start of the first 'Solidarity March for Rosia Montana'. 100 participants reach Rosia Montana on the 11th October where they organise a public meeting in the old square to declare their solidarity for the locals refusing to leave and their opposition against Gabriel's proposal.

November 7-9 2003 - The European Federation of Green Parties adopts during their Annual Meeting a powerful resolution against Gabriel's mine proposal.

November 9 2003 - Members of Alburnus Maior and 15 NGOs from Romania and abroad hold a one-night vigil in front of the Orthodox Church's headquarters in Bucharest. Roughly 250 attended the event which was the first of its kind after the Revolution. The vigil's aim was to ask the Orthodox Church to take an official position regarding Gabriel's proposal and the fate of the church properties at Rosia Montana.

November 11 2003 - The Orthodox Church's Highest Council releases a powerful official statement against Gabriel's proposal and its properties at Rosia Montana, which according to the statement are not for sale to Gabriel.

November 11 2003 - Alburnus Maior and three partner NGOs organise a demonstration in front of the Canadian Embassy in Bucharest.

December 8 2003 - An EU Parliamentary Delegation visits Rosia Montana and holds a meeting with members of Alburnus Maior. Roughly 200 locals and 20 national and international NGO representatives attend the meeting. During their visit the EU parliamentarians release strong statements regarding Gabriel's proposal: relocation/resettlement should not start without the project owner having obtained all authorisations for the proposal and that the Romanian government needs to decide between environmental protection and job creation.

December 10, 2003 - Alburnus Maior receives the 'Civil Society Gala' price for Romania's most active NGO in the field of public participation and civic behaviour.

January 15 2004 - The Ministry for Culture and the Cults releases an archaeological discharge certificate for Rosia Montana's Carnic Massif. Alburnus Maior takes the ministry to court over this decision.

March 28 2004 - The Environmental Protection Agency at Alba Iulia after receiving a warning by the Ministry for the Environment, who in return had been warned by Alburnus Maior, puts a halt to the EIA procedure for RMGC's 2004 drilling campaign.

June 28 2004 - Gabriel Resources takes Alburnus Maior to court over to cease www.rosiamontana.org , thus violating the APC Internet Rights Charter on: the right to communicate, the liberty of not being censored, the liberty to be involved in public protests and online debates.

June 30 2004 - At Gabriel Resources' Annual General Shareholders' Meeting representatives of the Alliance of Romanian Canadians (ARC), several Canadian NGOs – such as Mining Watch, Halifax Initiative and international Greenpeace meet shareholders with a banner reading «Rosia Montana is Not for Sale »

June 12 & 13 2004 - During the visit of a Council of Europe delegation in Rosia Montana, Alburnus Maior submits a petition detailing how the European Landscape Convention has been violated by local, regional and national authorities' decisions regarding Gabriel's proposal. The association's president Eugen David equally submits a petition signed by 300 locals asking for the *in situ* preservation of Rosia Montana's immobile archaeological treasures.

July 17 2004 - At 8:30am a team of four Romanian mountaineers reached the peak of Europe's highest mountain (4807m) situated on the Franco-Italian border and display a 'Save Rosia Montana' banner to express their support for the campaign.

July 28 2004 - RMGC is fined for violating a construction authorization which allowed for drillings in the so-called Bucium area. The company was fined 75million Lei (~\$ 2300) by the Alba Iulia County Council for drilling and building access roads in unauthorized places situated in an area of Bucium known as Rodu-Frasin.

July 23 – August 3 2004 - Greenpeace CEE organizes a 'Save Rosia Montana' info tour in major towns around the country to inform the population about Gabriel's proposal and its true impact. A petition to the country's Prime Minister Adrian Nastase against Gabriel's proposal is signed by 270 000 people.

August 23-29 2004 - The second Solidarity March from the town of Cluj-Napoca along the Aries Valley to Rosia Montana takes place. 200 people from Romania and abroad participate.

August 29 2004 - The first 'FanFest' protest concert takes place at Rosia Montana. 4000 people attend the event.

October 8 2004 - Alburnus Maior in association with eleven Romanian and international NGOs release **Anticipating Surprise: Assessing Risk** , an investors guide to Gabriel Resources Rosia Montana mine proposal (TSX:GBU). The report highlights the speculative and unsustainable nature of this development

November 16 2004 - Greenpeace activists from Romania, Austria, Germany and Hungary protest against the planned mining activities in Rosia Montana. The activists block the entrances at Victoria Palace, the office of Romania's Prime Minister Adrian Nastase.

January 6 2005 - Alburnus Maior submits a detailed contestation to the environmental authorities; shedding to light important omissions and irregularities in the Project Presentation Report (PPR) submitted by Rosia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) to launch the EIA procedure

January 20 2005 - The Alba-Iulia Court of Appeal suspends the discharge certificate for the Carnic/Cirnic Massif. The decision was taken following a request an injunction submitted by Alburnus Maior'.

January 31 2005 - The European Parliament adopts a resolution on Romania's progress towards EU Accession. According to Art. 41, parliament "expresses its deep concern about the long transitional periods agreed regarding the environment chapter, particularly as regards the Rosia Montana mine development, which poses a serious environmental threat to the whole region."

Mach 5 2005 - Following the Espoo Convention stipulations, the Hungarian Ministry for the Environment and Water management submits 60 requirements to its Romanian counterpart as part of the EIA procedure for the Rosia Montana gold mining project; as proposed by Gabriel Resources.

March 25 2005 - The Sacred Sites International Foundation announces its 2005 Most Endangered Sacred Sites List and nominates the Carnic Massif at Rosia Montana.

April 18 2005 - Stephanie Roth, Alburnus Maior's campaign co-ordinator is one of six recipients of the prestigious international Goldman Environmental Prize - the world's largest prize for grassroots environmentalists.

April 25 2005 - Alburnus Maior joins six community organizations at Newmont's AGM in Denver to urge the miner to reform and to keep fingers away from Rosia Montana.

June 19 2005 - 30 NGOs and several members of the European Parliament submit a contestation to Romania's minister for the Environment, the president of the EU parliament and the EU commission. Initiated by Alburnus Maior, the contestation details significant irregularities that appeared during the so called scoping stage of the EIA procedure.

June 21 2005 - The Alba-Iulia Court of Appeal annuls the archaeological discharge certificate No. 4/2004 issued by the Ministry of Culture and Cults for the Carnic Massif, Rosia Montana.

August 26-29 2005 - The second FanFest concert takes place at Rosia Montan. Extended to a three day event, it is attended by 8000 participants. For details visit <http://fanfest.rosiamontana.ro/2005/>

October 17 2005 - 17 Romanian musicians send an open letter to Traian Basescu, Romania's president stating their position on Gabriel's proposal.

November 17 2005 - The Court of Appeal at Alba-Iulia suspends the environmental permit for 39 drilling points at Rosia Montana. The decision is the result of a legal action initiated by Alburnus Maior.

December 1 2005 - On Romania's National Day activists of the 'Save Rosia Montana Campaign' protest against the tacit complicity of the Tariceanu government regarding the controversial Rosia Montana mine development.

December 3 2005 - National Geographic Channels International (NGCI) retrieves all advertisement for Gabriel Resources' Rosia Montana gold mining project. The decision was taken after Alburnus Maior informed NGCI about the true impact that Gabriel's project would, if ever realized, provoke.

December 6 2005 - 'Academia Catavencu', a famous Romanian political satire magazine, retrieves all advertisement for Gabriel Resources' Rosia Montana gold mining project. The decision was taken following vehement reaction from the part of Romanian civil society organizations.

February 9 2006 - Alburnus Maior launches *Undermining Rosia Montana?* an assessment of Romania's capacity to implement harmonized environmental legislation. The reports' publication was occasioned by the visit of members of the EU Commission's Directorate General for the Environment to Romania. With a total of twelve case studies, the report concludes that Romania's environmental authorities have neither the institutional capacity nor the will to implement harmonized environmental legislation.

February 9 2006 - 400 people attend a fundraising event organized by the Save Rosia Montana campaign in the town of Cluj-Napoca to see the 'New Eldorado' documentary film produced by Tibor Kocsis (see www.ujeldorado.hu) The event's proceedings are used for organising FanFest 2006.

February 11 2006 - Thirty activists from the 'Save Rosia Montana!' campaign gather at Romania's Ministry for the Environment; this just in time when members of the European Commission's Directorate for the Environment was finishing their observations regarding Romania's progress towards EU integration.

February 27 2006 - The Romanian Academy reaffirms its position against Gabriel's proposal

March 6 2006 - Romania's National Commission for Audiovisuals is warned to halt Gabriel's misleading publicity campaign and to sanction the TV channels disseminating the adverts.

March 15 2006 - 700 representatives of 240 Hungarian environmental organizations send an open letter to Romania's minister for the Environment in protest against the Rosia Montana gold mine proposal. This

comes at a time when members of the European Parliament are reiterating their concerns regarding the development of the controversial gold mine proposal.

March 20 2006 - 12.000 Save Rosia Montana protest posters are put up during the course of one night in major Romanian towns. The 'MindBomb for Rosia Montana!' poster protest aims to highlight the problem of environmental pollution and its relationship to the overwhelming corruption of the state and local authorities - a phenomenon that is eroding Romania's society from within.

April 11 2006 - During an NGO meeting with Stravros Dimas the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Sulfina Barbu, Romania's Minister for the Environment confirms that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure for the Rosia Montana cyanide-leach gold mining project has been suspended.

June 2 2006 - 30 activists from the Save Rosia Montana campaign protest at the opening ceremony of the Transylvanian International Film Festival (TIFF) against Gabriel Resources' sponsorship of the film festival.

June 11 2006 - Vanessa Redgrave who is awarded for Lifetime Achievement at the International Transylvanian Film Festival (TIFF) dedicates her prize to Alburnus Maior and the 'Save Rosia Montana!' campaign. The later two express their gratitude for the support by giving Mrs Redgrave one square meter of land at Rosia Montana.

July 13 2006 - Greenpeace stages a peaceful demonstration against Gabriel's proposal in front of Romania's ministry for the Environment. The action calls upon the ministry to stop the illegal EIA procedure and to re-start the process this time in line with all applicable Romanian and EU legislation.

July 14 2006 - Greenpeace donates one square meter of land at Rosia Montana to Hungary's Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány. According to Greenpeace, "Unless Hungary exercises strong political pressure on the Romanian government and demand compliance with international treaties, another potential cyanide disaster threatens our country."