

**Press Release
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The President of Romania's Deputy Chamber: Give the Cyanide Ban a Chance!

6 October, 2008

The president of Romania's Deputy Chamber, Mr Bogdan Olteanu, has requested that the bill to ban cyanide in mining is to be submitted for vote in plenary. He has given the Deputy Chamber's Industry Commission an ultimatum of one week to submit its report on the bill. The 'Cyanide Free Romania Coalition' welcomes this move; particularly given that 67% of the country's electorate wants their deputy to vote for a cyanide ban in mining.

Mr Olteanu's decision comes as a result of a request¹ submitted on 26 September 2008 by Senators Peter Eckstein-Kovacs and Georghe Funar; the two initiators of the bill. They asked for the bill to be submitted for vote in plenary as soon as possible given that it has been blocked by the Industry Chamber of the Deputy Commission which was due to submit a report on the bill roughly half a year ago.

On 1 October 2008 Mr. Bogdan Olteanu declared that: "I asked the leaders of the Industry Commission to elaborate the report on the bill ... within one week. If they don't submit the report within the deadline then we will put the bill without the report on the deputy Chambers' agenda."²

The bill to ban cyanide in mining was initiated in February 2007 by the Senators Peter Eckstein Kovacs and Gheorghe Funar. This gave birth to a civil society movement which united under the „Cyanide Free Romania! Coalition”. According to a nation-wide poll³ commissioned by the Coalition, 67% of the electorate wants its deputy to vote for the bill to ban cyanide in mining. The poll was carried out by the Institute for Marketing and Polls (IMAS) in March 2008. The bill enjoys the support of the government, numerous politicians and a significant number of personalities such as Bartolomeu Anania, Ionel Haiduc etc.⁴

„Cyanide mining is an outdated and risky method to extract gold. Just remember the Baia Mare and Baia Borsa disasters of 2000. Now is the time to eliminate this threat and to move forwards by acting responsibly for our present and future generations. We are delighted that Mr Olteanu takes into consideration issues such as environmental health and public opinion,” says Dan Mercea, president of the Independent Centre for the Development of Environmental Resources.

„Mr Olteanu's decision gives us hope that the bill to ban cyanide is given the chance it deserves. We look forward to see it debated by our deputies in parliament in a few days. We are convinced that the bill will pass; after all a deputy's duty is to act according to public opinion,” concludes Anamaria Bogdan, spokesperson of the „Cyanide Free Romania! Coalition”.

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1 http://www.rosiamontana.ro/img_upload/a0bbb7e04b2fbd96fb1096ae1548da32/26092008_prop_leg_minelor.pdf

2 Sursa: Ziarul Financiar <http://www.zf.ro/politica/olteanu-vrea-dezbaterea-de-urgenta-a-legilor-lustratiei-si-cianurilor-3252664/>

3 [http://www.faracianura.ro/index.shtml?x=2853&cmd\[97\]=c-1-0ddccbbb66ade42214624fc253ced3e3&cmd\[98\]=x-98-2313](http://www.faracianura.ro/index.shtml?x=2853&cmd[97]=c-1-0ddccbbb66ade42214624fc253ced3e3&cmd[98]=x-98-2313)

4 [http://www.faracianura.ro/stiri.shtml?x=2574&cmd\[97\]=c-1-0ddccbbb66ade42214624fc253ced3e3&cmd\[98\]=x-98-2574](http://www.faracianura.ro/stiri.shtml?x=2574&cmd[97]=c-1-0ddccbbb66ade42214624fc253ced3e3&cmd[98]=x-98-2574)