

**Subject: Press declarations on RMGC’s imminent receipt of an environmental avis by Romania’s ministry for the Environment and Forests**

**To:** Mr László Borbély,  
Minister for the Environment and Forests  
and  
Members of the Ministry for the Environment and Forests’  
Terms of Reference Committee (TOR)

**Cc:** Sibiu Regional Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Minister,

Dear Members of the Terms of Reference Committee,

In light of recent declarations<sup>1</sup> made to the press by Mr Vasile Todea, Executive Director of the Alba Iulia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on an imminent granting of an environmental avis by Romania’s ministry for the Environment and Forests for the S.C. Roşia Montană Gold Corporation S.A. (RMGC) mine proposal, we are herewith highlighting the following:

According to Romania’s List of Historic Monuments (LMI 2010), published in the Official Gazette on 01.10.2010,<sup>2</sup> **Roşia Montană’s entire Cărnic Massif enjoys the statute of a historic monument.**<sup>3</sup> This means that all patrimonial components of this monument are protected: the entire system of mining exploitation dating from the Roman, to Medieval and Modern times.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ziarulunirea.ro/2011/02/acord-de-medi-u-pentru-proiectul-rm-gc/>

<sup>2</sup> Order by Romania’s Ministry for Culture and National Patrimony Nr. 2.361 of 12.07.2010 to modify Annex 1 of Romania’s Ministry for Culture and National Patrimony’s Order Nr. 2.314/2004 regarding the approval of the List of Historic Monuments, Official Gazette, Annex Nr. 1, part I, Nr. 670 / bis / 01.10.2010.

<sup>3</sup> “Galleries of the Cărnic Massif, Roşia Montană, Roşia Montană Commune, Cărnic Massif (dating from – Roman, Medieval and Modern Epochs)”, cod AB-I-s-A-20329”, OMCPN 2361/12.07.2010. The listing of the Cărnic Massif ‘site’ as a Group A monument gives it according to Law 422/2001 “a national and universal importance”.

<sup>4</sup> The Roman vestiges that have presently been unearthed at Rosia Montana are 7 kilometers long. Their majority have been unearthed within the Carnic Massif. Mining exploitations that were carried out in subsequent periods measure 80 kilometres.

This means that the exploitation of the Cărnic Massif via open cast mining is illegal. This also means that the permitting of RMGC's mine proposal in the form in which it has been submitted to Romania's ministry for the Environment and Forests is illegal. In addition to the fact that such permit would be flagrantly illegal we would like to underline that RMGC's mine proposal entails the destruction of this monument because it wants to exploit this mountain via the open cast mining method and thus turn the Cărnic Massif - the historic monument - into an open cast mine.

**In the event that RMGC is granted an environmental avis by Romania's Ministry for the Environment and Forests; thus authorising the exploitation of the Cărnic Massif - a historic monument - both, Romania's Law on Historic Monuments<sup>5</sup> and Romania's Mining Law<sup>6</sup> will be violated.**

As a consequence we request you to enforce the above-mentioned laws by:

**Immediately and unreservedly reject the request to obtain an environmental avis for the Roșia Montană mine proposal submitted by RMGC to you ministry and to return all the relevant documentation to the project owner.**

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Monica Mărgineanu Cârstoiu,  
President ARA  
Scientific Researcher I,  
„Vasile Pârvan Institute for Archaeology”, Bucharest

Dr. Ștefan Bălici,  
Vicepresident ARA  
Lector, Catedra for Conservation and Restoration  
„Ion Mincu” University for Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest

Drd. Virgil Apostol,  
General Secretary ARA  
Architect IA, Romania's National History Museum, Bucharest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kosmic".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bălici".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Apostol".

<sup>5</sup> Law 422 / 2001, art. 10, alin. 4 - “permits that result in the elimination, partial destruction or damage of historic monuments and their protection zones shall be prohibited”, Law 422 / 2001, art. 11, par. 2 “Demolition or partial or total destruction, desecration and degradation of historic monuments is prohibited and is punishable by law.”

<sup>6</sup> Law 85 / 2003, art. 11, alin. 1. - “the carrying out of mining activities on land on which are located historic monuments [...], as well as permitting mining activities on such lands is strictly prohibited.”