

## Romania: The Minister of Culture calls on Prime Minister Ciolos to submit a document on the inclusion of Rosia Montana to the UNESCO list

The Romanian Minister of Culture Corina Suteu, in her Facebook post called on Prime Minister Ciolos to take the initiative to make the region around Rosia Montana a UNESCO world heritage site.

The former Minister of Culture Vlad Alexandrescu has recently said that the government will postpone the submission of the procedure since it could jeopardize the position of Romania in a dispute with the company Gabriel Resources, a majority shareholder of RMGC, which is the developer of a suspended mining project Rosia Montana. The arbitration proceedings are currently pending before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank in Washington.

Gabriel Resources has estimated that the inclusion of Rosia Montana site on UNESCO list would limit the ability of amicable dispute resolution with Romania.

The Romanian delegation submitted the document related to the inclusion of Rosia Montana on the UNESCO cultural heritage list on December 9, 2016, i.e. 11 months after inclusion of Rosia Montana on the UNESCO indicative list. However, the final document should be endorsed by the prime minister, which is the last step before its inclusion on the UNESCO agenda.

On July 21, 2015 Gabriel Resources announced that it has filed a request for arbitration against Romania, because, as stated, violations of bilateral treaties on mutual protection of investments. The company is asking for the compensation, claiming it had invested more than USD 700 million in the project.