
BUCHAREST, A TEST FOR THE PARTY OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

On September 28th and 29th, the Party of European Socialists (PES) holds its Congress in Bucharest. After the recent referendum on the impeachment of the President of Romania, the Constitutional Court has postponed for six weeks the examination of the validity of the ballot. The Socialists of the 27 EU countries are in urgent need for order to reign again in Bucharest.

In Bucharest, the results of the July 29, 2012 referendum on the impeachment of the President are suspended due to the abstentions that followed the call for a boycott of the ballot made by the Democrat Liberals, but also due to the challenging of the electoral lists by the Social Democrats and the Liberals. The Romanian Constitutional Court has asked on August 1st a first delay in order to examine the various appeals and the doubts cast by the Ministry of Interior after the elections with regard to the accuracy of the electoral lists. The following day, it refused to decide before the full verification of the electoral lists, postponing its ruling to September 12th. However, yesterday, August 3rd, the Constitutional Court decided to press forward its decision for August 31st 2012. Why the hesitations and changes of calendar?

On September 28th and 29th, the Party of European Socialists (PES) [holds its Congress in Bucharest](#). These congresses are organized [every two and a half years](#), once during the year of the elections for the European Parliament, and once at mid-term. The Congress in Bucharest next September is for [selecting a new leader](#) and prepare the 2014 elections. The congress will also adopt a process presented by the socialists as [more democratic and transparent](#) for the selection of their candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission in 2014. The socialists [hope to succeed to Barroso](#) benefiting from the failure of the European right wings to find a way out of the crisis for Europe. ***It is capital for socialists from every country that the Bucharest Congress is a success.***

European socialists urgently need [order to be imposed in Bucharest](#) while talking of “[strong moral conduct](#)”. It is critical for the Social Democrat Party in the host country to lose neither power nor face before the Congress. They need the Constitutional Court to be able to remove all doubts as to the integrity of the ballot, while managing to validate the destitution of the centre right wing President even though the participation rate to the ballot was not sufficient.

The PES also needs the former Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, convicted on June 18th to two years in prison for corruption, not to cause trouble before the Congress. From his cell, the former Prime Minister keeps analyzing the political events [on his blog](#). It seems indispensable for the European socialists that Adrian Nastase be granted pardon before the beginning of the Bucharest Congress. The suspended President, Traian Basescu, was certainly not willing to pardon a Nemesis he had defeated in the 2004 presidential elections.

However, this impeachment, this challenging of the ballot and this possible pardon, divert the socialists from the severe crisis facing Romania. The PES is focused on the success of its Congress, even if Romania has to sink back twenty years.

It is a genuine test for the PES that is beginning a campaign to conquer the European Commission and to ensure a majority in the European Parliament: facing the crisis, do the European socialists prefer changes to the electoral lists or changes to the economic policy?