
SEA, SEX AND SILENCE

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A promise of golden holiday in Romania near the Black Sea, impassive to the crisis.

We are scholars, we quote our sources, please quote Mediapart.fr

In early July, instead of going on holiday, some fifty European academics have written a tribune warning about the crisis in Romania. After the refusal of a newspaper that said “*this is just a trivial battle of leaders*”, this tribune was published in the July 24 edition of *Le Monde*: “[Let’s stop ignoring the democratic crisis in Romania](#)”.

Information and/or misinformation?

The same night, a colleague sent me this almost unbelievable message:

“Following the publication of your article in Le Monde, I was contacted by a friend who works at APCO Worldwide, a firm handling among other things public relations for Victor Ponta’s Social Liberal Government in Romania. Since the latter considers that the positions taken by European experts, politicians, journalists and academics seem to support the opposition, APCO Worldwide is planning a few days trip to Romania for European experts, politicians, journalists and academics. Obviously, I thought that a trip allowing to judge according to solid proof and on site would be interesting and would provide the means to form an opinion and support positions. Could you tell me urgently who would be the members of the group that you think may be contacted by APCO Worldwide for making such a journey?”

How could I have known if I could have enjoyed paid vacations in good company by the sea?



Going against the instinct of a scientist, I preferred neither to know, nor guess who were the “European experts, politicians, journalists and academics” who may have received the same message. Many of us in Europe have given up our holidays in order to try to spread in France and abroad regular analyses that were debated, thorough, open and free. This is a line of conduct and not a precautionary principle: those who may have decided to take a vacation on the shores of the Black Sea probably did not end up in the gulag.

The mayor of Constanta Radu Mazare, PSD under his beret, knows how to instil positive thoughts: during the referendum on July 29, he walked on the beaches with models who took forgetful swimmers by the hand in order to take them to the polls.



In July, [Le Monde](#) was accused by Victor Ponta’s Social Liberal Government of being bribed for its editorials and tribunes, [El Pais](#) had shown that certain Romanian politicians were lying in the face of their partners in Brussels and the [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#) showed that the same people were connected to several disappearances of magistrates. Then, in August, radio silence...

Panic over the electoral lists

On the evening of August 4, though, the former Minister of the Interior, Ioan Rus, has admitted [[clandestine recordings](#) were released Friday, August 10]:

“I know it is an important political gesture... but both of us have counted and recounted and I’m not signing [the electoral lists] with one single person less [in order to try to show the quorum was achieved during the [July 29 referendum](#)]. It is important, that’s true, but I certainly don’t want to spend my old days in prison” [He resigned on Monday, August 6 in the morning].

On Friday, August 10, The Romanian General Prosecutor’s Office sent a [note to the Parliament](#) asking for its assent for the opening of criminal proceedings against the former Minister of the Administration Victor Paul Dobre on charges of aggravated abuse of power against the public interest for having declared *after* the referendum that the Department could not verify the [accuracy of electoral lists](#) [he was not renewed during the [cabinet reshuffle](#) on Monday, August 6 at noon].

The fight over the electoral lists is of “[paramount importance](#)” since the Constitutional Court has [postponed](#) to August 31, 2012 its decision to validate the referendum to impeach the President of the Republic, based on the minimum level of [participation](#) (50% of enrolled). And the same lists were used for municipal and local [elections in June](#), which were won with a large majority by the Social Liberal Alliance.



On [Romanian television](#), this blog, the so called “*French press*”, had however [stated and reiterated](#) the [European issues](#) related to this referendum, to the [electoral lists](#) and to the Romanian politicians [facing justice](#). And a scoop from [Mediapart](#) that was released two days **before** the resignation of Ion Rus and the cabinet reshuffle on Monday, August 6 at noon.

Pendant ce temps, en France les journalistes préfèrent la [désinformation](#).

Meanwhile, the UK journalists prefer [misinformation](#).

Inzwischen bevorzugen deutsche Journalisten [Fehlinformationen](#).

Mientras tanto, los periodistas en España prefieren la [desinformación](#).

Keep tanning! While listening to [The Voice of Russia](#) speaking to Romanians.