

## **Right of reply by Romania**

### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

#### **Working Session 4: Rule of Law I**

Mr. Moderator,

Romania exercises the right of reply with regards to the intervention of the distinguished US representative, delivered during the Working Session 4, Rule of Law I at HDIM, 2018.

Regarding the situation of the rule of law and the modifications envisaged to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, we would like to point out the following:

The Romanian Government has the political will necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the rule of law, by guaranteeing respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, in order to ensure the development of democracy and the combating of negative phenomena such as corruption.

Concerns regarding the rule of law were addressed during the recent visit of the Council of Europe Venice Commission to Romania done in June this year. On this occasion the experts of the Commission had a series of meetings with the relevant institutions such as the Superior Council of Magistracy, the Constitutional Court of Romania, the President of Romania and the Parliament.

As it was stated in these various meetings, Romania gives utmost importance to ensuring the independence of the judiciary system and to continuing the activities related to combating corruption while ensuring full respect for the procedural guarantees stated in the European Convention of Human Rights, as these are essential elements of protecting the rule of law.

As to modifications envisaged for the Criminal Code and Criminal Proceedings Code, it was clarified that these follow the transposition into national law of two European Directives, as well as putting the provisions of the two Codes in agreement with the Venice Commission recommendations.

The cooperation with the Venice Commission as well as with other international organizations that have expressed concerns has continued and will continue.

Romania reaffirms its commitment towards protecting the rule of law, independence of the judiciary and to combating corruption as fundamental elements of a functional democracy.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator