



ROMANIA * THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

May 10, 2002

The Honorable Donald Lo EV ANS Secretary of Commerce
Attn: Import Administration Central Records Unit, Room 1870 14th Street at Constitution Ave, NW Washington, DC
20230

Re:

Request for Revocation of Romania's Non-Market Economy Status

Dear Mr. Secretary ,

Recalling the pleasure of meeting you on October 3] of last year, I wouJd Jike to take the opportunity to address you on an issue of great importance for Romania.

Since 1989 Romania has embarked on a steady road towards achieving a viable market economy. Measures have been taken to speed up the process of privatization of the former state owned companies. Our efforts have paid divjdivs, as the private sector share of GDP was around 70% in 2001 .

Special attention has been devoted to of Romania's macroeconomic stability. This entailed full liberalization of the exchange rate and the foreign exchange markets, and the setting up of mechanisms allowing for the determination of wage rates through free bargaining between labor and management. The Romanian government's ongoing effort aimed at creating a stable, transparent, and predictable legal framework has also led to the improvement of the business climate, which is now characterized by a friendly economic environment with numerous incentives for foreign investors.

14, Aleea Modrogan, Bucharest-1, Romania, tel.: (401)-230.21.60, fax: (401)-230.74.89
e-mail: mae@mae.ro

Bearing in mind our progress in achieving a market economy, our government is requesting the U.S. Department of Commerce to revoke Romania's status as a non-market economy ("NME") country for the purposes of the U.S. antidumping laws, and designate Romania as a market economy.

Given the structural and legislative changes that have taken place in Romania over the last 12-year period, continuing to regard Romania as a NME country would only perpetuate the negative image such NME status implies over the Romanian companies involved in U .S. antidumping investigations.

We note that the U.S. government has granted market economy status to other countries in transition towards the market economy, such as Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Kazakhstan. We strongly believe that Romania deserves the same treatment as these other countries.

Thus, on behalf of the Government of Romania, we hereby request that the U .S. Department of Commerce revoke Romania's non-market economy either as a free standing investigation or, if considered so, on the occasion of the administrative review for Romania's exports of *Certain Small Diameter Carbon and Alloy Seamless Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe from Romania, Case No. A -485-805*, scheduled for May 24, 2002.

Looking forward to your reply,

Sincerely Yours,

convey to you my distinguished consideration.

Mircea GEOANA
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania ~.~

14, Aleea Modrogan, Bucharest-1, Romania, tel.: (401)-230.21.60, fax: (401)-230.74.89
e-mail: mae@mae.ro