

ROMANIA



**THE MESSAGE**  
**of Mr. Traian BĂSESCU, President of Romania,**  
**to the participants to the Regional Forum on**  
**“Communication of Heritage: A new Vision of Southeastern Europe”**  
*Opatija: Republic of Croatia*  
*2006 June 1-2*

The strategy to be adopted on the occasion of this Forum on identification, preservation, sustainable use and promotion of cultural corridors in the Southeast of Europe corresponds entirely to the cultural policy promoted by Romania, therefore I express my confidence that the objectives of this strategy will be not only agreed upon by the states present here, but also enforced as soon as possible.

Romania is willing to take part in this common effort of reflection on the future of the Cultural heritage in the region. This common effort will be evaluated on the occasion of the following Regional Forum of the Head of states from Southeastern Europe, that will take place at Sibiu, Romania, in the first half of May 2007.

In this context, I have the honor to invite you to take part in the next Regional Forum Romania is organizing in Sibiu, entitled “*Cultural diversity - a bridge between Cultural Heritage and the Culture of Future*”. This Forum is going to unfold with the occasion of the first “European Capital of Culture” from the Southeastern Europe.

With the designation in 2007 of Sibiu as an European Capital of Culture, Romania inaugurates a new mechanism for the development of this program, in the very year of its accession to the European Union.

From this point of view, Sibiu intends to turn its multicultural, multiethnic and multiconfessional aspects into European values, to be promoted at regional, national and worldwide level.

Throughout the year 2007, the city of Sibiu will host cultural events, festivals, concerts, theatre performances under the aegis “*Emotion in motion*”. These events will take place on the city streets and squares, as well as in the marvelous layout of the fortified Saxon churches surrounding Sibiu.

The events developed in the framework of the Program “*Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007*”, embrace the objectives supported by UNESCO and intend to promote cultural cooperation, to strengthen inter-confessional harmony, to encourage and develop linguistic diversity.

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, defines this value as common heritage of humanity. Following this premise, cultural diversity will be approached in the ambit of the Forum as a source for cultural exchanges, innovation and creativity, a development parameter and a promoter for mutual understanding.

The culture of the future can only be built by strengthening the cultural heritage of each country and by promoting international cooperation. The balanced and sustainable development of the South-Eastern European cultural heritage contributes to the regional economical and social cohesion.

The historical links, the axis for cultural dialogue and exchange of opinions, knowledge and abilities, all these are favorable for the establishment of a cultural network, enriched on the basis of the richness of cultural diversity in the region.

The key topics for Sibiu 2007 Forum will be the following:

- Multiculturalism - an engine for development and regional peace
- Cultural heritage and cultural diversity in Southeastern Europe - global accessibility
- Strategies for a better knowledge and communication of the cultural heritage (awareness campaigns, educational programs, specific promotional strategies)
- Cultural heritage — a source of creation for the culture of future
- Regional cultural networks - means of communication for the proper use of the European cultural heritage
- The preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage through integrated projects
- Cultural corridors, cultural routes and the promotion of the regional cultural heritage.

Due to the special significance of 2007 for Romania - the accession to European Union and the designation of Sibiu as an European Capital of Culture - I believe that the organization of the following Regional Forum in Sibiu will find its international natural place within all the European and international cultural events, taking place in our country.

Hoping that your working agenda will allow you to accept this invitation, me and all Romanians are waiting for you in Sibiu, in 2007.

**Traian BĂSESCU**

**President of Romania**