



[\(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/homepage/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/homepage/)

- [Shqip \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)
- [Bosanski \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/ba/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/ba/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)
- [Hrvatski \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/hr/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/hr/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)
- [English \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)
- [Македонски \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/mk/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/mk/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)
- [Srpski \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/sr_Latn/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/sr_Latn/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06/)

- [Home \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/homepage/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/homepage/)
- [Recent \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/recent/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/recent/)
- [Info Centre \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/info/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/info/)
- [Region \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/region/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/region/)
- [Archive \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/archive/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/archive/)
- Countries
 - [Albania \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Albania/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Albania/)
 - [BiH \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina/)
 - [Bulgaria \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Bulgaria/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Bulgaria/)
 - [Croatia \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Croatia/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Croatia/)
 - [Greece \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Greece/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Greece/)
 - [Kosovo \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Kosovo/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Kosovo/)
 - [Macedonia \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Macedonia/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Macedonia/)
 - [Moldova \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Moldova/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Moldova/)
 - [Montenegro \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Montenegro/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Montenegro/)
 - [Romania \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Romania/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Romania/)
 - [Serbia \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Serbia/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Country/Serbia/)
 - [Turkey \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/country/Turkey/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/country/Turkey/)
- Topics
 - [Politics \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Politics/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Politics/)
 - [Extremism \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/War_Conflict/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/War_Conflict/)
 - [Justice and law enforcement \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Law_Crime/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Law_Crime/)
 - [Foreign relations \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/ForRel/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/ForRel/)
 - [Economic development \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Business_Finance/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Business_Finance/)
 - [Integration \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Integration/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Integration/)
 - [Society \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Human_Interest/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/keyword/Topic/Human_Interest/)

- [Links \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/infoLinks/setimes/resource_centre/links/links?linktopic=1\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/infoLinks/setimes/resource_centre/links/links?linktopic=1)
- [Contribute \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/contribute/setimes/footer/contribute/contribute\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/contribute/setimes/footer/contribute/contribute)
- [Disclaimer \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/disclaimer/disclaimer\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/disclaimer/disclaimer)
- [About Us \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/about/about\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/about/about)
- [Contact Us \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/doc-feedback/setimes/footer/feedback/feedback\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/doc-feedback/setimes/footer/feedback/feedback)
- [Subscribe \(javascript:void\(open\('/cocoons/setimes/form1/en_GB/subscribe/','Email','toolbar=no,width=630,height=638'\)\)\)](http://cocoons/setimes/form1/en_GB/subscribe/)
- [Podcast \(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/podcast_index/default\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/podcast_index/default)
 - [\(/cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/misc/headlines\)](http://cocoons/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/misc/headlines)
- [RSS](http://cocoons/setimes/mobile/en_GB/homepage/)
- [Mobile \(/cocoons/setimes/mobile/en_GB/homepage/\)](http://cocoons/setimes/mobile/en_GB/homepage/)

Experts: New law may hinder anti-corruption efforts in Romania

01/05/2014

New amendments to Romania's law on public administration are causing concern among some anti-corruption groups.

By Paul Ciocoiu for Southeast European Times in Bucharest -- 05/01/14

Recommend 12 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.



Romanian lawmakers passed a series of amendments to the public administration law that some say will make it more difficult to enforce corruption laws. [Gabriel Petrescu/SETimes]

Members of civil society in Romania are cautioning against recently passed amendments to a public administration law that they say will make it harder to enforce the country's corruption laws.

The amendments allow mayors and county council heads to expand the group of subordinates to whom they can delegate official responsibilities, including signing contracts.

Elected officials in Romania are banned from involving their companies in contracts with the state and such conflicts of interests are regularly discovered by experts of the National Integrity Agency (ANI), the independent body that checks officials' assets.

Government watchdogs said they fear office-holders will attempt to circumvent corruption laws by agreeing to contracts with their own companies and having their subordinates sign the deals.

Furthermore, the law restricts prosecutors of the National Anti-Corruption Department (DNA) from investigating the subordinates of mayors and local officials. They can only be investigated by local authorities, not politically neutral DNA investigators.

Laura Stefan, an anti-corruption specialist at ExpertForum, said the new measures will limit the work of anti-corruption institutions.

"We are witnessing a transfer of responsibility from real decision makers to their straw men in the town halls," Stefan told *SETimes*. "The immediate effect is that, as concerns conflicts of interests, ANI can no longer check contracts signed by mayors with their companies because, at least formally, there is no conflict of interest there."

Related Articles

[Audio story: Istanbul. The place to be \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2011/02/11/audio_story-04\)](#)

11/02/2011

[History comes alive in Sibeni \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2011/10/13/audio_story-05\)](#)

13/10/2011

[The Balkans revisits its past \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2012/06/14/audio_story-04\)](#)

14/06/2012

[Permaculture takes root in Southeast Europe \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2013/02/21/audio_story-05\)](#)

21/02/2013

[Fearful Syrian refugees flooding Bulgaria \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2013/09/05/audio_story-03\)](#)

05/09/2013

[Europe celebrates international Roma Day \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/04/17/audio_story-06\)](#)

17/04/2014

"Therefore, a large part of these files will consequently slip the competencies of these two institutions, let alone the abuse of office charge, a typical accusation brought against mayors and county council heads, which will no longer be committed since they do not sign documents anymore," she added.

The amendments came amid an anti-corruption offensive against the so-called "local barons," influential mayors and heads of county councils, who were charged with abuse of office, influence peddling and fiscal evasion. Since the beginning of the year, eight of 41 heads of county councils have been detained, arrested or placed under criminal investigation for acts of corruption.

Monica Macovei, member of the European Parliament and former justice minister of Romania, said there is "probably" a direct connection between the new measures and the anti-corruption offensive aimed at the local officials.

"These barons are in power, they have political friends in the parliament and they change the laws when it comes to them," Macovei told *SETimes*. "But any person has to be accountable before the penal law for their deeds, especially leaders of public institutions which manage public funds."

[Transcript \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/podcast/2014/05/01/podcast-transcript\)](#) | [Podcast \(/cococon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/podcast_index/default\)](#)

This content was commissioned for SETimes.com.

[Recommend](#) 12 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

Vote

Like(s) (0)

Dislike(s) (0)

- [Email to a friend \(\)](#)
- [Print Version \(/cococon/setimes/print/en_GB/features/setimes/audio_story/2014/05/01/audio_story-06\)](#)



[Share / Save](#)

We welcome your comments on SETimes's articles.

It is our hope that you will use this forum to interact with other readers across Southeast Europe. In order to keep this experience interesting, we ask you to follow the rules outlined in the comments policy. By submitting comments, you are consenting to these rules. While SETimes.com encourages discussion on all subjects, including sensitive ones, the

comments posted are solely the views of those submitting them. SETimes.com does not necessarily endorse or agree with the ideas, views, or opinions voiced in these comments. SETimes.com welcomes constructive discussion but discourages the use of copy-pasted materials, unaccompanied links and one-line slogans. This is a moderated forum. **Comments deemed abusive, offensive, or those containing profanity may not be published.**

[SETimes's Comments Policy \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/special/comment_disclaimer/disclaimer\)](#)

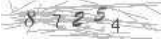
[View Comments](#) | [Register](#) | [Login](#)

Name: Anonymous [Have your comments posted immediately!](#)

Comment: 1800 characters remaining (1800 max)

[Formatting Help](#)

Please enter digits



593436 Facebook fans

Like Surubaru Neculai Cristian, Teodor Tita and 2,663 others like this.

Visit us (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/SETimes/43184095884>)



• (<http://twitter.com/setimes>)



• (<http://www.youtube.com/user/setimes>)



• (http://cocoonssetimes/rss/en_GB/setimes.rss)



(http://ukraine.setimes.com/en_GB)

Reportage

[Serbia, BiH journalists collaborate to show human side of conflicts](#)

(cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2014/04/28/reportage-01)

(cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2014/04/28/reportage-01)



Journalists' associations in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina launched a project to promote co-existence and understanding in the region.

(http://turkey.setimes.com/en_GB)



• [Special Report: Corruption in Southeast Europe](#)

(cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/special_corruption/setimes/special/corruption/meta)



(cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/special_corruption/setimes/special/corruption/meta)

Most Popular

- [Popular \(#contentColumn1RecentTabstab1\)](#)
- [Commented \(#contentColumn1RecentTabstab2\)](#)
- [Rate d \(#contentColumn1RecentTabstab3\)](#)

[Police focus on stopping illegal drugs in Macedonia, Serbia](#)

(cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/29/feature-01)

29/04/2014

[Girls are 'cannon fodder' for Islamic extremists fighting in Syria, experts say](#) (cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/30/feature-03)

30/04/2014

[EU working with Balkans to improve food production](#) (cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/05/01/feature-01)

01/05/2014

[Under Vucic, Serbia to focus on EU and reforms](#) (cocoonssetimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/24/feature-01)

24/04/2014

[Kremlin interference in Ukraine raises food prices in the Balkans \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2014/05/05/reportage-01\)](#)

05/05/2014

[\(16\) Reforms push Greece to economic recovery \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/28/feature-01\)](#)

28/04/2014

[\(8\) Macedonia promotes education for Roma population \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/21/feature-01\)](#)

21/04/2014

[\(7\) BiH gets its first professional government \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/23/feature-01\)](#)

23/04/2014

[\(6\) Kosovo takes action against illegal construction \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/25/feature-01\)](#)

25/04/2014

[\(6\) Croatia backing Balkan European agenda \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/05/02/feature-01\)](#)

02/05/2014

[511 Kosovo takes action against illegal construction \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/25/feature-01\)](#)

25/04/2014

[510 Under Vucic, Serbia to focus on EU and reforms \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/24/feature-01\)](#)

24/04/2014

[39 Reforms push Greece to economic recovery \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/28/feature-01\)](#)

28/04/2014

[27 Police focus on stopping illegal drugs in Macedonia, Serbia \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/04/29/feature-01\)](#)

29/04/2014

[35 Croatia backing Balkan European agenda \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2014/05/02/feature-01\)](#)

02/05/2014

Photo Essay

[Pernik Masquerade Games revive traditions \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/photo_essay/setimes/photo_essay/2014/03/31/photo_essay\)](#)
[\(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/photo_essay/setimes/photo_essay/2014/03/31/photo_essay\)](#)



Poll

Officials in Serbia said the government plans several years of reforms to improve the economy and prepare for EU membership. Do you think the effort will be successful?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

[View results \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/homepage/default?pollresult=yes&answer=no&id=2014-04-28\)](#) [Add comments \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/poll_comments/setimes/polls/2014/2014-04-28\)](#)

- [Disclaimer \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/disclaimer/disclaimer\)](#)
- [About Us \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/about/about\)](#)
- [Contact Us \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/doc-feedback/setimes/footer/feedback/feedback\)](#)
- [Subscribe \(javascript:void\(open\('/cocoon/setimes/form1/en_GB/subscribe/','Email','toolbar=no,width=630,height=638'\)\)\)](#)
 - [\(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/document/setimes/footer/misc/headlines\)](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Podcast \(/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/podcast_index/default\)](#)