



## RESOLUTION

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### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF RFE/RL BROADCASTING IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE TO ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA**

**OCTOBER 8, 2015**

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) was created in 1950 by the National Committee for a Free Europe with the mission to promote democratic values and institutions by broadcasting unbiased and factual information and ideas to audiences behind the communist “Iron Curtain,” and transmitted its first program in the Romanian language to Romania and Moldova on July 14, 1950;

WHEREAS, for much of the Cold War era, RFE/RL’s Romanian Service “Radio Europa Libera” was by far the most listened-to international radio broadcaster in Romania, with more than half of all Romanians tuning-in to its programs every week throughout the 1970’s and 1980’s;

WHEREAS, communist Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu considered the RFE/RL Romanian programs “his worst nightmares,” and sought aggressively to attack both the broadcasts and the journalists involved in creating them, including sponsoring the 1981 bombing of RFE/RL’s headquarters in Munich, West Germany by the international terrorist “Carlos the Jackal;”

WHEREAS, post-Soviet Romanian President Emil Constantinescu in 1997 described RFE/RL’s Communist-era role as “more important than the armies and the most sophisticated missiles. The ‘missiles’ that destroyed Communism were launched from Radio Free Europe, and this was Washington’s most important investment during the Cold War;”

WHEREAS, in 2006, Romanian President Traian Basescu paid homage to Romanian Service journalists who, he said, “fought with altruism and passion for the knowledge and utterance of the truth... Their unforgettable Free Europe broadcasts were the moral conscience of Romanians.”

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2008, RFE/RL ended its broadcasting to Romania, maintaining its Romanian-language broadcasts to the former-Soviet Republic of Moldova and its breakaway Transdniester region;

WHEREAS, today, the Moldovan Service builds upon RFE/RL’s rich Romanian-language broadcast tradition as the most popular international broadcaster in Moldova, providing accurate reporting and analysis and a forum for public debate that expands understanding of local, regional, and global events among its radio, television, and online audiences;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan Service’s reporting is constantly cited by local media, and Service journalists are regularly cited as among the most influential people in the country;

WHEREAS, the Moldovan Service is leading the way in responding to Russia’s “information war” as it affects Moldova and Russian-dominated Transdniester, by doubling the amount of programming directed at the breakaway region and creating new, daily video and audio programming in both the Romanian and Russian languages for broadcast on public media channels and private affiliate stations; and

WHEREAS the Moldovan Service is one of RFE/RL’s most innovative broadcast services, creating cross-platform content such as its “History of New Europe” project, designed to educate Moldovans about the costs and benefits of European Union membership; “Politigraf,” a program empowering Moldovan citizens by fact-checking the claims made by their leaders; and “Here Is Free Europe,” a one-month bus tour to all parts of Moldova designed to support grass-roots democracy, strengthen local communities and build confidence in the possibility of achieving change in each individual and in society as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors --

1. Celebrates and commemorates the 65th anniversary of Romanian-language broadcasting by RFE/RL;
2. Congratulates RFE/RL’s Moldovan Service for its continuing commitment to supporting the people of Moldova as they continue the painful transition from communist authoritarianism to building a vibrant, prosperous, and inclusive European nation; and
3. Applauds and thanks current and former journalists, support staff members and freelance contributors of RFE/RL’s Romanian and Moldovan services for their dedication to providing credible, trustworthy, compelling, and professional journalism to all Moldovans seeking access to free and open media.