Commemoration ceremonies and related programs in Romania related to the anniversary 
of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 2014

19-21 January 2014 - President Traian Basescu was on official visit to Israel. On 20 
January 2014, in the Yad Vashem Memorial Museum, the following declaration was 
signed between the Presidential Administration and the Yad Vashem Institute:

Declaration
Bearing in mind that the Holocaust challenged the foundations of human civilization and 
recalling our responsibility to fight the evils of xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism,
Being fully aware of our obligations and responsibilities under international law 
including human rights and international humanitarian law,
Reaffirming Romania’s strong commitment to effectively implementing the 
recommendations of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania,
Being fully committed to doing our utmost for the prevention of recurring tendencies of 
racist, anti-Semitic, xenophobic, negative attitudes and behaviors, and to renewing our 
cooperation on education, research and remembrance of the Holocaust in order to build 
a more secure future for us all,
Reiterating that we must not wait for the number of victims of intolerance to reach 
extensive proportions in order to react,
Anticipating Romania’s assuming the Chairmanship of the International Holocaust 
Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016,

To this end we reaffirm and declare,

Our mutual commitment to optimally utilizing all existing tools and to developing 
practical mechanisms to monitor xenophobic threats and to implementing the 
recommendations of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania.
Our commitment to educating the youth and the wider public against menaces of all kinds 
of discrimination through formal and informal educational structures; to disseminating 
knowledge of these matters to those involved in government, non-governmental 
organizations, and the media; as well as to encouraging measures to mobilize civil 
society for Holocaust remembrance and education.
Our pledge to cooperate in our search for effective measures against discrimination with 
all members of the family of nations, in the relevant global and regional organizations as 
well as with non-governmental organizations, the media and with business and academic 
communities.
Our dedication to raising awareness among the newest political generations and civil servants in the national and local administration with respect to their responsibility to fight all forms of discrimination, especially those rooted in the reverberating Holocaust tragedy.

Our strong commitment to monitor and respond to the rise of Holocaust denial and combating the trivialization or relativization of the Holocaust, while encouraging political and public opinion leaders to stand up against such phenomena.

Our encouragement of a coherent and more effective approach to ensuring and extending access to relevant archives.

Our commitment to extending the education about the Holocaust in the curricula of our public education system and to encouraging the funding for the training of teachers and the development or procurement of the resources and materials required for such education.

Our commitment to including human rights education in the curricula of our educational system, believing strongly that international human rights law reflects important lessons from history, and that respect for human rights is essential to confronting and preventing all forms of racial, religious or ethnic discrimination, including anti-Semitism, Anti-Roma and anti-Sinti sentiment.

Romania’s pledge to continue commemoration of its National Day of Romanian Holocaust, October 9th, including preservation of national memorials and other sites of memory and martyrdom. Romania’s commitment to Holocaust remembrance is inspired by its existing Holocaust Museum Monument, a crucial indicator and a recognition of this reverberating tragedy, acknowledging the responsibility of the perpetrators and ensuring concern and compassion for the survivors.

Our support for building upon the present consensus at the level of authorities and civil society in Romania in setting up the project of a Museum presenting the history of Jewish heritage in Romania and of the Holocaust.

Our resolve to continue cooperation with “Ellie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of Holocaust in Romania and other relevant Romanian or international institutes in order to gain broad support of appropriate remembrance efforts to record and preserve for posterity the testimony of the crimes committed and the humanitarian acts to the memory and warning for generations to come;

Our joint support for the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), in anticipation of Romania’s assuming the Chairmanship of the IHRA in 2016, emphasizing Israel’s pledge to assist that Chairmanship’s priorities to the IHRA: working with the media, consolidation of Holocaust education in member countries and beyond, promotion of academic research of Holocaust history and its aftermath.

Signed today, 20th of January 2014, in Jerusalem, in two copies, in English
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be issuing a press release with the following text:

On the 27th of January we bring homage to the memory of the Holocaust victims all over the world and we underline the significant efforts that Romania has made in the last interval of time in terms of assuming the past, condemning Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism.

These were and will continue to be commitments strictly followed by the Romanian authorities. The unveiling, in 2009, in Bucharest of the Holocaust memorial represents an important indicator of the steps Romania has undergone towards recognizing the Holocaust tragedy, acknowledging the responsibility of the perpetrators and ensuring the protection of the survivors.

In October 2013, Romania has presented, at the IHRA (International Holocaust and Remembrance Alliance) Plenary reunion in Toronto, its intention to take over the Chairmanship of this organisation in 2016. The general priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship include the consolidation of Holocaust education in participating states, the promotion of academic research on Holocaust history and of the cooperation between participating states in this field, the promotion of values such as combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism through media partnership.

During the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Israel in December 2013, these commitments were reaffirmed along with the reiteration of the role of future cooperation with the national Institute for the Study of the Holocaust „Elie Wiesel”, other internal (Ministry of Education) or international institutions (Yad Vashem Institute) on Holocaust remembrance and on the developing of educational projects in this field as well as in the field of combating anti-Semitism and discrimination.

We welcome the progress made in the recent years and the development by numerous academic centres of a multitude of programmes of study on the Holocaust, and we are grateful to the Israeli community originating from Romania that has supported and made these developments possible.

These are essential components of the Romanian spiritual patrimony, whose preservation and continuity would not be possible without the historical and cultural support of the Romanian Jewish community.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will launch, on the 28th of January 2014, Constantin Karadja’s book “The diplomatic and consular manual”, followed by the opening of the exhibition of diplomatic documents entitled “Constantin I. Karadja in the history of Romanian diplomacy”.

The diplomat Constantin I. Karadja( 1889-1950) was Romania’s candidate to the Council of Europe Raoul Wallenberg prize in 2013, awarded to personalities that have made a significant contribution to the rescue of Jews from Budapest, in 1944-1945, and was shortlisted for the prize. Romania has submitted the candidacy of to be awarded this distinction in memoriam.
While acting as Romanian consul in Berlin and director of the Consular Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Romanian diplomat contributed to the return to Romania of 600 Jews from France and 51,537 Jews from Hungary, between 1931-1941 and 1941-1944, and thus precluded them from being deported to the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania will organize, on the 22nd of January 2014, an ample event in commemoration of the pogrom carried out by the legionnaires in Bucharest on 21st – 23rd January 1941. The program includes the laying of wreaths in the Jewish cemetery in Bucharest and a seminar.
The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania will organize a series of events on the 27th of January:
2. The exhibition “How was the Jewish Holocaust possible in Romania?”; 15 painters who participated in the workshop co-organized by Yad Vashem together with the Elie Wiesel Institute in 2013 will exhibit their works in the Bucharest Center of Visual Arts for 2 weeks;

3. On the 16th – 24th of January the Institute will organize in partnership with the Bucharest National University of Arts a workshop on “The memory of the Holocaust in Romania”. Forty first year university students will participate in this workshop that comprises seminars and meetings with researchers and historians in this field and Holocaust survivors as well as a creation training (photo below)
The French Cultural Institute in Bucharest will organize a « Semaine de la Mémoire » which will include a lecture on « The Role of Ambassador Jacques Truelle and Georges Dementhon, the Principal of the French High-school in Bucharest, in the Defense of the Romanian Jewish Rights During the Holocaust » delivered by Prof. Dr. Carol Iancu (« Paul Valery » Monetpellier 3 University, France), introduced by Dr. Aurel Vainer, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, and a Jewish Classical Music concert held by Sarah Iancu and David Bismuth.

The Tikvah Association (www.tikvah.ro) in Oradea will organize, on the 27th of January 2014, 18:00 o’clock, an event in partnership with the Museum of the “Country of the Cris Rivers” and the mayor’s office of Oradea, within a project financed by the IHRA and the
Canadian Embassy in Bucharest. The event is also supported by the Jewish Community in Oradea and the Jewish Center in Oradea. The program of this event includes the launch of an itinerant photo exhibition put together by the Tikvah Association under the title “The memoires of an album”. This commemorative event also benefits from the contribution of several schools in Oradea – the “Mihai Eminescu” National College, grade 11 D, the “Emanoil Gojdu” National College, grade 11 G, the “Adi Endre” Highschool, grade 7B. The Canadian Ambassador to Bucharest will be present at the opening of this exhibition.