

REVIEWS LEGAL INDUSTRY

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Anca Ciaus

from American Pan Europe

explains how legal teams can turn complex EU import rules into a major competitive advantage

Felicia Vulpe

from Ad Auto Total SRL

outlines why corporate lawyers are the ideal connectors to turn ESG theory into everyday operations

ROMANIA

INHOUSE TANDEM

Ritzio Entertainment Group from Romania joins **Gaia Silva Gaede Brazil** and **Skrine Malaysia** to discuss self-exclusion policies, highlighting regulatory challenges in each country

InHouse Practice

Therme Bucuresti
Popa Orhideea Larisa

highlights how human-centered leadership is reshaping the business world and driving the multi-billion-dollar wellness industry

Public Law

Romania's SAFE Programme: Legal Framework, Governance and Implementation Developments

EU Legal Basis and Programme Context

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument was established under Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, which recognizes urgency in defense and creates a financial mechanism to strengthen defense capabilities and industrial capacity across Europe. Romania requested financial assistance in November 2025, after which the EU made available a loan facility of up to EUR 16.68 billion, including pre-financing, under the Regulation.

National Legal Framework and Financial Structure

National implementation is governed by Government Emergency Ordinance No. 62/2025, approved by law in January 2026 and amended by GEO No. 21/2026, in force from March 30, 2026. The Ministry of Finance concludes the loan and operational agreements with the European Commission, manages financial flows and pre-financing, and ensures reporting and control mechanisms.

Institutional Governance and Decision-Making

Implementation is coordinated by an interinstitutional working group led by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, ensuring coordination with EU institutions and participating states.

The Ministry of National Defense defines operational requirements and technical specifications, while the Ministry of Economy sets localization and industrial cooperation criteria. The Chancellery issues cooperation requirements for each project. Strategic decisions are adopted by the Supreme Council of National Defense (CSAT), while parliamentary approval is required for specific procurement projects in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

Procurement Framework and Eligibility Conditions

SAFE procurement is governed by GEO No. 62/2025 and the general defense procurement framework, including GEO No. 114/2011.

Briefly, relevant applicable rules include:

1. Contracting authorities may use negotiated procedures without prior publication, justified by urgency.
2. Joint procurement with at least one participating state is generally required, subject to a limited derogation for single-state procurement that expired on May 30, 2026.
3. At least 65% of the final product value must originate from participating states.
4. SAFE-eligible subcontractors are vetted under strict national criteria, including Law No. 232/2016 on the national defense industry.

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Implementation Sequence and Current Status

Implementation follows a structured sequence under defense and procurement legislation: defining operational requirements, CSAT approval, parliamentary approval, procurement launch, and contract conclusion.

According to official statements by the minister of defense, Romania's SAFE program includes 21 procurement projects integrated into the national defense industry investment plan.

In April 2026, parliamentary committees approved 15 projects proposed by the Ministry of National Defence, allowing procurement procedures to begin under the applicable legislation. Following approval, procedures were launched, mainly through negotiation, leading to several contracts and framework agreements for land systems, naval capabilities, air defense systems, unmanned platforms, and ammunition.

Industrial Cooperation and Localisation Mechanisms

The SAFE framework includes industrial cooperation mechanisms further developed by GEO No. 21/2026.

A key element is the cooperation agreement, which sets economic and industrial obligations linked to procurement contracts and verifies compliance before product acceptance. The framework also supports localisation of production and national industry involvement through manufacturing, component production, or supply-chain participation, in line with national criteria.

Conclusion

Romania's implementation of SAFE reflects the interaction between EU financial mechanisms and national rules on defense procurement and industrial policy. Developments in 2026 show a shift from regulation to implementation, marked by project approvals, procurement procedures, and contracts under GEO No. 62/2025 and later amendments. Industrial cooperation requirements add another layer to procurement, linking acquisitions to wider economic objectives in the defense sector.

Practice Area News

The Romanian **National Agency for Public Procurement (ANAP)** announced several **institutional and operational reforms**:

- **Expansion of *ex-ante* checks** of procurement procedures in SEAP (from 6% to 8%) to prevent errors and improve competition.
- **Reorganization of ANAP** to reduce inefficiencies and strengthen strategic capacity.

Development of tools and initiatives:

- **AI integration discussions.**
- **E-learning platform** for procurement officials.
- Revision of ***ex-ante* control checklists** to accelerate investments.

In the Firm

Popovici Nițu Stoica & Asociații Pledged Once Again Its Full Support to Stradivarius International Tour

The 2026 Stradivarius International Tour, "**THE MUSES**", now in its 19th edition, will take place from June 13 to July 18, 2026, and will include 20 classical music concerts held in both traditional and innovative venues across urban and rural settings.

More details [HERE](#).

Florian Nițu, Managing Partner at PNSA – Sole Romanian Lawyer in the Race for the Title of "CEE Partner of the Year" at the "Legal 500 Central and Eastern Europe Awards 2026"

Florian Nițu is the only lawyer in Romania in the race for the title of "CEE Partner of the Year" at the "Legal 500 Central and Eastern Europe Awards 2026", not only in a better year but also after two decades of consistency in excellence.

More details [HERE](#).

Beyond Compliance:

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- ✓ Strategy
- ✓ Vision

INHOUSE

