



August 2007

Tel.: +40-21-208 6030

Fax: +40-21-230 7620

BKR-EA@minbuza.nl

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bucharest publishes a monthly economic newsletter, distributed by e-mail. The material published in this newsletter is compiled by the staff in the Economic and Agriculture sections on the basis of publicly available information, from various sources (Rompres news bulletins, National Institute for Statistics, Nine O'Clock, Capital, Ziarul Financiar, Business Review) and reflects the developments of the month. It does not represent the opinion of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or any other official body. No responsibility for factual accuracy can be taken. Those interested in receiving the newsletter are requested to contact the above listed telephone and/or fax numbers or the e-mail address. Comments and suggestions are appreciated.

EUR / USD exchange rates against RON

Average August 2007 exchange rates were:

1 EUR = 3.2237 RON

1 USD = 2.3671 RON

Source: National Bank of Romania (www.bnr.ro)

Contents

MACROECONOMICS	3
0.86% INFLATION IN AUGUST 2007.....	3
NET AVERAGE SALARY IN JULY 2007.....	3
GDP IN QUARTER II 2007 AND SEMESTER I 2007	3
TRADE.....	3
EUR 1.76 BILLION TRADE DEFICIT IN JULY 2007.....	3
LEGISLATION / TAXATION.....	3
CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING EXCISE DUTIES	3
NEW PROCEDURES REGARDING VAT EXEMPTIONS FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND MILITARY FORCES	4
EU MEMBERSHIP	4
ROMANIA GETS 2% ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM EC.....	4
PRIVATISATION.....	4
THREE POWER PLANTS MIGHT BE PRIVATIZED IN 2008.....	4
ENERGY.....	4
TRANSELECTRICA PUTS UP MODERNIZING WORKS BIDS FOR 14 STATIONS	4
CERNAVODA'S UNIT 2 SUPPLIES FIRST MWH TO NATIONAL ENERGY SYSTEM.....	5
IMPORT, EXPORT OF GREEN CERTIFICATES TO BE POSSIBLE AS OF 2010.....	5
ROMANIA NEEDS TO INVEST EUR 2.7 BILLION BY 2015 IN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION	5

ENVIRONMENT	6
GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR DANUBE DELTA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	6
AGRICULTURE & FOOD	6
GOVERNMENT APPROVES STATE AID TO OVERCOME DROUGHT EFFECTS.....	6
DAIRY INDUSTRY TO REACH EUR 1 BILLION IN 2008.....	6
PROGRESS IN THE APPROVAL PROCEDURE OF THE 2007-2013 NATIONAL PLAN FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT	7
MAJOR OUTBREAKS OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ROMANIA	7
TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE	7
FOREIGN RAILWAY OPERATORS ABLE TO ENTER THE ROMANIAN MARKET	7
FOREIGN INVESTMENT	7
FOREIGN INVESTMENT AT THE END OF JULY 2007	7
DUTCH PRESENCE IN ROMANIA	8
DEN BRAVEN POSTS EUR 9.7 MILLION TURNOVERS IN H1	8
ING: ROMANIA IS A STRATEGIC MARKET	8
ING CLIMBS TO 7TH PLACE IN RETAIL BANKING	8
MEDSYSTEM TREBLES INTERAMERICAN HEALTH INSURANCE.....	8
COLDSTOREDESIGN.COM ENTERS THE LOCAL MARKET	9
EVENTS & USEFUL WEB LINKS	9
VISIT OF THE NETHERLAND MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	9
BIOMASS WORKSHOP.....	9

Macroeconomics

0.86% inflation in August 2007

According to the data published by the National Statistics Institute the inflation was of 0.86% in August 2007.

Net average salary in July 2007

According to the data published by the National Statistics Institute, July 2007 net average salary was of RON 1,040, increasing by 1.7% as against the previous month.

GDP in Quarter II 2007 and Semester I 2007

The estimated Gross Domestic Product in quarter II 2007 was RON 86,746.3 million. In real terms, it was 5.6% higher than that in the same quarter of 2006. In semester I 2007, the GDP was RON 155,244.9 million lei, 5.8% higher than in the first semester of 2006.

Trade

EUR 1.76 billion trade deficit in July 2007

The data published by the National Statistics Institute shows that Romanian FOB exports were in value of EUR 2.629 billion in July 2007, up by 18.3% as compared to the same period of 2006, while the CIF imports reached EUR 4.403 billion, up by 27.5% as against July 2006. As a result, the trade deficit was in July 2007 of EUR 1.77 billion.

In total, Romania's trade deficit rose to EUR 11.530 billion in the period January - July, up with EUR 4.451 billion reported in the same period last year.

Between January - July 2007, the value of the intracommunitarian (EU 27) goods exchanges was of EUR 12.098 billion for outgoings and EUR 20.242 billion for incomings, representing over 72% of total Romanian exports, and 71% of total imports.

The National Statistics Institute identified the following causes of the different dynamics of the trade flows in 2007, i.e. the more rapid growth of the imports compared to exports:

- For exports:

- the downward trend of the exported mineral oil (by roughly 40% compared to the quantity registered in the same period of 2006).

- the downward trend of the inward processing (lohn) continues, especially for textile products and footwear.

- For imports, mainly of intra-community goods:

- the elimination of the customs formalities and of the customs duties, especially for goods temporarily introduced into customs warehouses and duty-free areas (cars, electric machines, devices and equipments, etc).

- the new system of registering the exchange of goods, Intrastat, through which the goods are registered when crossing the national border and not when put on the market.

Legislation / taxation

Clarifications regarding excise duties

The Ministry of Economy and Finance has published Order no. 771/2007. The order contains clarifications of the methodology instructions under "Excise duties and other special taxes".

The main provisions are:

- Companies that purchase energy products under the excise duty suspension regime ("EDSR") must hold a registered trader status in addition to the end-user authorisation;

- Companies operating, under EDSR, performing intra-community acquisitions of energy products may be granted registered trader status if so requested by the EU supplier, even if the products are not excisable in Romania;

- Companies that purchase exempt energy products under the EDSR must have the registered trader status;

Only tax warehouse keepers authorised to produce ethylic alcohol as raw materials must have the Administrative Accompanying Document endorsed by the tax authorities from the place of dispatch;

- Mixing bio-fuels with traditional fuels is only permitted in tax warehouses for storage purposes, under tax supervision;

The deposit of a guarantee is no longer required for companies seeking end-user authorisation for energy products exempt from excise duties. Consequently, the end users of such products can now reclaim deposited guarantees;

- Companies that own duty free shops should request their excise duty number.

New procedures regarding VAT exemptions for diplomatic missions, international organisations and military forces

The Ministry of Economy and Finance has issued Order no. 616/29.VI.2007 approving the norms for VAT exemptions for the supply of goods and services to:

- diplomatic missions;
- consular offices;
- agencies of international and intergovernmental organisations;
- USA military forces;
- NATO member state military forces ("entities").

See: *Official Gazette of Romania no. 568 / 17.08.2007*

With thanks to PriceWaterhouseCoopers Romania – Tax Department

EU membership

Romania gets 2% advance payment from EC

The European Commission has approved the transfer to Romania of a 2% advance payment from the structural funds, which is about EUR 320-330 million according to preliminary estimates, said Development and Housing Minister Laszlo Borbely. "On August 8 we received the approval from Brussels. Moreover, for the projects we have already submitted we have the possibility of accessing an advance payment of 15%," said the minister. *Source: Business Media Group - BR Daily.*

Privatisation

Three power plants might be privatized in 2008

Turceni, Rovinari and Craiova power plants might be privatized in 2008, with procedures likely to start in the second half of 2008, vice president of the State Assets Realization Authority (AVAS) Constantin Botez said. The privatization will be initiated after the Government has approved the power strategy, as only then the consultants can prepare the privatization strategy given that important amounts are necessary for the environment investments, Botez said at a seminar. The three plants ensure 30% of Romania's total production of electricity. Without investments in environment, that exceed EUR 2 billion, the plants might be closed down by 2012. The three plants, together with Electrica Muntenia Nord, Electrica Transilvania Nord and Electrica Transilvania Sud are the last power plants to be privatized in the upcoming period. International companies already present on the Romanian market, such as CEZ, that holds Electrica Oltenia and ENEL, which holds Electrica Muntenia Sud, Electrica Banat and Electrica Dobrogea, showed interest in the privatization.

Energy

Transelectrica puts up modernizing works bids for 14 stations

The national electricity transport operator Transelectrica wants to put out for bidding modernizing works on 14 high voltage stations, which cost between EUR 4.3 million and EUR 8.75 million. Offers can be submitted by October 8 and the contract will have a two-year duration. Transelectrica will finance the works itself, and the payment will be made through banking transfer. By 2020, the company has scheduled to make investments up to EUR 2 billion, said Transelectrica capital market manager Razvan Purdila. *Source: Business Media Group - BR Daily.*

Cernavoda's Unit 2 supplies first MWh to national energy system

Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant's Unit 2 was connected to the national energy system for the first time at 5:21 p.m. on August 13, as part of tests ahead of commissioning, and it supplied the first Megawatt/hour to the network, National Company Nuclearelectrica SA said in a release to Rompres. The first connection to the energy system was made at 25% of the reactor's 700 MWh nominal power. At the next phase, the reactor's power is to be gradually raised to 50%, 75% and 100%, with the programme of activities approved by the National Commission on the Control of Nuclear Activities (CNCAN) to be implemented at each of the percentages. The commercial commissioning of Unit 2 scheduled for the end of this September and the resulting increase in the nuclear energy share to 17-18% of the Romanian energy output will have immediate effects on the energy system's stability and on keeping the electricity tariffs for the population unchanged. Unit 2 has been built on the basis of a contract on works management signed by Romania with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd and ANSALDO-Italia in 2003. The CANDU 6 reactor that equips Unit 2 is the second of this kind at the Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant; Unit 1 has been operating successfully since being commissioned in 1996.

Import, export of green certificates to be possible as of 2010

The local producers of clean energy will be able to export green certificates in view of trading them on the European market, under the regulations set by National Regulatory Authority in Energy (ANRE) and only with the meeting of the national targets, reads a Government's decision draft on the system of promoting the energy generation from renewable sources. Under the document, the electricity providers can achieve their mandatory quotas also through the import of these certificates from the European market, as of 2010, after Romania joins the European System of Green Certificates. Until reaching the national targets, the green certificates will be traded only on the relevant internal market. The solar electricity producers will receive three green certificates for each 1 MWh delivered in the grid, but the generators of electricity from renewable resources will receive only one green certificate for each 1 MWh delivered in the grid. Moreover, as of January 1, 2008, the producers of electricity in hydropower plants with an installed power smaller than 10 MW will receive a green certificate for each 2 MWh delivered in the grid. The system of promoting energy from renewable sources will be applied for a 12-year period for the electricity generated in new power plants. Moreover, the system will be applied for 6 years for the energy produced in imported second-hand wind plants, in the hydropower plants retooled after January 1, 2004, in the plants commissioned before January 1, 2004 and in non-retooled groups. At present, Transelectrica issues monthly certificates for the producers of energy from renewable sources, which sell them on the relevant market of the green certificates, the energy exchange. The generators who do not achieve the imposed annual mandatory quota pay double the price of the green certificates that are not bought versus the maximum trading value of the certificates, reads Bursa daily.

Romania needs to invest EUR 2.7 billion by 2015 in renewable energy generation

Romania needs to invest EUR 2.7 billion by 2015 in the generation of renewable energy; about EUR 300 million were invested with the same purpose since 2003, minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Attila Korodi told a press conference on August 2. 'According to the provisions of the Strategy for the use of renewable energy sources, the necessary investments in the interval 2003 - 2015 are estimated at EUR 2.7 billion, of which over two billion in direct investments,' said the minister. Korodi presented Romania's wind and solar power potential maps drawn up by the National Meteorology Administration (ANM). Wind power installations with a total capacity of 14,000 MW can be installed in Romania, which could feed almost 23,000 GWh/year into the power grid. According to preliminary assessments in the littoral area, the wind energy potential that can be harnessed in the short and medium term is of about 2,000 MW, with an average electricity amount of 4,500 GWh/year. The solar energy potential is given by the average amount of sun energy falling on horizontal surfaces, which in Romania is of about 1,100 kWh/m²-year. 'If we harnessed the country's solar potential at capacity, we could get the necessary energy for preparing 50% of household warm water or 15% of the current heating energy. Studies carried out in 2004 show that under the meteorological and insolation conditions specific to Romania, a sun collector working under normal safety conditions between March - October has an efficiency between 40 and 90%,' said Korodi. The hydro energy potential of the main Romanian rivers is 40,000 GWh/year and can be put to use through high-power (> 10 MW/hydro unit) or small power (< 10 MW/hydro unit) engineering works. Romania has a high biomass energy potential, that was accounting for almost 19% of the total consumption of primary resources in 2000. 'In the countryside, we could cover 89% of the necessary heating and food preparation energy only from vegetal waste,' said the minister. The reserve of geothermal energy that can be

currently harnessed in Romania is about 167,000 tons of oil equivalent. 'As a conclusion, I can tell you that Romania's green energy production potential is 65% biomass, 17% wind energy, 12% solar energy, 4% micro-hydro power plants and 2% voltaic plus geothermal energy,' said the MMDD official. Romania is one of the first EU countries to transpose into national legislation Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy.

Environment

Government to provide funding for Danube Delta infrastructure projects

Romania's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development will provide full funding for 10 investment projects for environmental infrastructures in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, to be carried out in 2007-2010. The projects are aimed at improving water quality within the reserve and set up an integrated waste management system in the localities of the Danube Delta. The Romanian Government has approved a decision concerning the funding of priority multi-annual environmental and water management programmes that include environmental projects for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The projects will be carried out pursuant to Government Ordinance 40/2006 approving and funding priority multi-annual environmental and water management programmes. According to Environmental Minister Attila Korodi, the funding for the projects is put at RON 14.259 million and it will be paid out from Government appropriations. Included among these projects are one for the recovery and expansion of the water supply system of Lunca, Lower Cemurlia commune; the recovery of the water supply systems in the Valea Nucarilor and Iazurile villages, Valea Bnucarilor commune; the establishment of a sewerage system and a water treatment station in Sfantu Gheorghe, Tulcea County, as well as the establishment of a sewerage system and a water plant in the villages of Nufaru and Malcoci, Nufarul commune.

Agriculture & food

Government approves state aid to overcome drought effects

The Romanian Government has approved the amounts to be paid to farmers for this year's autumn crops. Farmers will receive between RON 400 and 500 as subsidy for the procurement of diesel and bio diesel fuel, certified seeds, pesticides and fertilisers necessary to sow wheat, rape and other crops this autumn. The total budget allocation for the purchase of these inputs is 1.32 billion lei. The subsidy for a hectare of wheat will be RON 500, for a hectare of rape - RON 400 and RON 450 for other autumn crops. The covered area is 2 million hectares of wheat, 400,000 hectares of rape and 350,000 hectares of other crops. The insurance of the crops is compulsory for farmers who want to benefit from this subsidy. The financial aid is expected to be paid out before September 30 in the form of vouchers distributed free of charge. Minister of Agriculture Decebal Traian Remes stated that the aid would be granted to farmers in order to help them mitigate the effects of the excessive and lasting drought that had extensively damaged the previous autumn and spring crops. The actual granting of this state aid can take place only after Romania receives an official approval from Brussels. According to the data of the ministry, almost 2.6 million hectares of cereals have been compromised by drought. The overall wheat production harvested this year (on 1.9 million hectares) amounts to 2.98 million tonnes, the average yield being merely 1,552 kg per hectare.

Dairy industry to reach EUR 1 billion in 2008

The Romanian dairy market will reach EUR 1 billion in 2008, allowing for a rise of at least 10% a year, according to the representatives of the Romanian Dairy Association (APRIL). APRIL data show that at present the dairy industry stands at EUR 850 million, in the industrialised system alone, but it is expected that it will to grow constantly in the upcoming years by about 10% a year. As regards the market of direct sales, from peasants to consumers, APRIL considers that it exceeds EUR 1.5 billion. The approximately 200 Romanian dairy plants are processing annually some 1.1 billion litres of milk, whereas peasants sell directly on the market 1.9 billion of litres and keep for self-consumption 1.5 billion litres of milk. At present the milk sold by peasants in plastic bottles is by about 30% cheaper than the processed milk sold in shops, although is not in line with the European norms. APRIL estimates that through direct sales from peasant to consumer, the state loses about EUR 300 million.

Progress in the approval procedure of the 2007-2013 National Plan for Rural Development

The European Commission stated that the 2007-2013 National Plan for Rural Development which Romania submitted for approval on June 29, 2007, was accepted. This acceptance notification confirms the fact that the submitted document complies with the relevant community regulations in terms of structure, form and content and can undergo analysis and negotiation in the European Commission committees. The receipt of this acceptance notification from the EC is the first stage in the process of approving the National Plan for Rural Development. The Commission services will proceed to a detailed analysis of the document, and based on the position expressed by them, the representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and EC officials will start technical talks. Comments on the National Plan for Rural Development will be remitted to the Romanian officials in September, before the meetings in Bucharest and Brussels scheduled for October this year. In the framework of rural development, Romania will receive some EUR 8 billion over the period 2007-2013, for the progressive implementation of the 24 measures included in the National Plan for Rural Development, starting with 2008. Romanian officials have already announced that applications for three important measures (investments in farms, in food processing and rural infrastructure) could be already submitted this autumn, before receiving the final approval of the Rural Development Plan from Brussels.

Major outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever in Romania

On August 2, 2007 a first outbreak of Classical Swine Fever (CSF) was reported in one of the pig farms belonging to US giant Smithfield in Romania. The outbreak was reported in Cenei, Timis county (western Romania), followed shortly by a second outbreak in Igris, also in Timis. By mid August, a third farm, also in Igris, was affected. More than 50,000 pigs in total had to be culled and disposed of. Of the 33 farms owned by Smithfield in Romania, 25 are in Timis, 7 in Arad and 1 in Bihor, totalling some 486,000 pigs. Until now, Romania had CSF cases only in household farms, these being the first cases registered in commercial farms. Moreover, these recent outbreaks took place in an area which the Romanian veterinary authority was prepared to declare free of CSF. In 2006, Romania had 716 outbreaks and decided to start a vaccination campaign, in accordance with EU regulations. The eradication programme was approved for a four-year period and total costs for one year were put at EUR 43 million, some 21 millions being EU funds. Some 5 million pigs are currently bred in Romania, 1.4 million in commercial farms and 3.6 million in household farms.

Transport & infrastructure

Foreign railway operators able to enter the Romanian market

Several passengers and freight railway operators from abroad will enter the Romanian market starting this autumn. In order to have full access to the market a safety certificate by the Romanian Railway Safety Authority of the Romanian Railway Authority (AFER) is required as well as a transport license issued in any EU member state. 'As of August 25, any passenger and/or freight railway operator in the European Union will be allowed to operate on the Romanian market if the operator posses a license issued in a member state. After obtaining the license on the Romanian market they will also receive a safety certificate and will be able to operate on the Romanian market,' Anca Bursuc, manager of the Romanian Railway Licensing Body of AFER said. The liberalization of the European transport will enable the Romanian operators to enter the European markets as well, through the license provided by the Romanian Railway Licensing Body. 'We already have four operators, of the 30 active on the Romanian market, who have submitted the documentation in order to receive the new type of license,' Anca Bursuc added. At present AFER has granted railway transport licenses to 30 passengers and merchandise railway operators, 25 of them being private freight operators.

Foreign investment

Foreign investment at the end of July 2007

At the end of July 2007, according to the data published by the National Office of the Trade Registry there were 141,292 companies registered in Romania with foreign participation in the social capital, total foreign investment amounting to EUR 16.7 billion. The top of the first five foreign investors was led by the Netherlands, with 2,949 companies registered and total invested capital of EUR 2.9 billion, followed by Austria with 4,598 companies and a total investment of EUR 2.2 billion, France with 5,102 companies and an investment of EUR 1.8 billion, Germany with

15,024 companies and a total investment of EUR 1.6 billion, and Italy with 23,288 registered companies and a total investment reaching EUR 0.8 billion.

Dutch presence in Romania

Den Braven posts EUR 9.7 million turnovers in H1

Den Braven Romania posted for the first semester of the year EUR 9.7 million turnovers, 50% increase compared to EUR 6.5 million registered in the similar period of the previous year. The company plans to reach EUR 20 million turnovers, from EUR 17.5 million in 2006. Den Braven Romania entered the Romanian market in 1997 and started this year a EUR 7.5 million investment in a polyurethane foam plant near Chitila. *Source: Business Media Group - BR Daily.*

ING: Romania is a strategic market

Romania is a "strategic" market for the Dutch financial group ING, a very important market, given that, in just a few months' time, it will account for 20% of the company's total number of clients for private pensions in Central and Eastern Europe. "We have a four-month window of opportunity (between September 17th and January 17th, when all employees below 35 will have to choose a private pensions fund, i.e.), with our objective being to attract one million clients," stated Jacques de Vaucleroy, a member of ING's board, in charge of insurance for Europe. ING has around 6 million clients in Central Europe, 4 millions of whom are contributors to private pension funds, with the rest being holders of insurance policies, therefore the 1 million clients in Romania will account for 20% of ING's total private pension clients. De Vaucleroy, one of the nine members of ING's executive board is currently following the domestic market very closely. "We were ready to start on August 1, but unfortunately the date was pushed back (to September 17). Let's hope the new deadline will be met," added the ING executive. According to De Vaucleroy, it is hard to say when the first billion of euros from assets managed on the Romanian market will be reached. "Unlike the situation on the other markets in Central and Eastern Europe, in Romania, the contribution percentage is very small, of 2% in the first year". ING has so far brought over EUR 50 million to the capital of the pension company and aims to attract 35,000 marketing agents. *Source: Ziarul Financiar.*

ING climbs to 7th place in retail banking

ING announced a 27% increase on gross premiums underwritten for its Romanian insurance unit and the bank also climbed to seventh position in domestic retail banking. ING Bank has invested 53m euros in order to develop its retail unit network since the project's launch in 2004. ING currently operates a network of 123 SelfBank units (agencies dedicated to retail, operated via a franchise system) through which it serves 351,000 individual customers, according to data recently published by the group in Amsterdam. At present, the group wants to develop operations in Ukraine following the model used on the Romanian market. ING, which originally had a corporate bank profile on the domestic market, started its operations on the retail market practically from scratch in 2004. *Source: Ziarul Financiar.*

Medsystem trebles Interamerican health insurance

Interamerican company, part of the Dutch financial group Eureko B.V. announced a volume of subscribed premiums in the segment of health insurance, due to the first quarter of this year, worth over EUR 1 million, up by 202% as against the same period of last year. The growth was prompted by the expansion nationwide of the Medisystem product. After the first three months of the year, Interamerican owned 20% of health insurance market, which totalled EUR 2.15 million, placing the company on the second position, after Allianz-Tiriac. Activating on this segment are as many as 13 insurance companies and, according to president of Interamerican Frans van der Ent quoted by Business Standard, the results of the first quarter of the year triggered the company's position on the first place. The volume of gross subscribed premiums in all the segments of insurance offered by Interamerican grew as against the first half year 2006 up to RON 11.5 million (EUR 3.5 million). The segments of non-specific insurance generated a total of gross subscribed premiums worth EUR 6.3 million, up 36% as against the same period last year, whereas life insurance advanced 21% up to EUR 5 million. The increase in the segment of life insurance was backed by the positive evolution of the products combined with investment programmes, which went up 63%, because of performances reported by investment funds administered by Interamerican. Of them, Ronplus fund saw the best evolution with a yield in the first six months worth 17.1%. As regards the segment of non-specific insurance, the rise was supported by the car insurance policies, for which policy underwriting grew 27% compared to the same period of 2006. For the coming period, Interamerican will focus on the pension division that will start operating on the market of compulsory private pensions. *Source: Rompres.*

ColdStoreDesign.com enters the local market

Dutch company ColdStoreDesign.com signed a collaboration contract with the Timisoara-based company A&B Trade. The two companies will offer to the local firms from the cold food supply industry an A-to-Z service package that takes into account local aspects as well as international standards and regulations (HACCP, European Food Law, temperature monitoring, F-gas legislation, etc.) The approach covers all stages, from concept development and design through to construction management. The focus of the ColdStoreDesign.com is on cold stores, refrigerated warehouses, distribution centres, cross docking operations and processing plants for meat, fish, fruit and vegetables. A&B Trade is specialized in construction. *Source:Business Media Group - BR Daily*

Events & Useful web links

Visit of the Netherland minister for European Affairs

On 11 and 12 September, the Netherland minister for European Affairs, Mr. Frans Timmermans visited Bucharest. Read more in the press release on www.netherlands.ro.

Water Export Day in the Netherlands

On 11 September, companies from the water sector were informed of the opportunities and developments in the most important international markets (China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brazil, Egypt, South Africa, UAE/Saudi Arabia, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey and the United States) and of the support they can receive from the authorities. More information on this event organised by the Netherlands Water Partnership and EVD is available [here](#) and the presentations are available for download on www.evd.nl/waterexportdag.

Biomass workshop

On September 25, SenterNovem and the Ministry of Economy and Finance will organise an interactive workshop for stakeholders on biomass. The goal is to identify the steps that need to be taken to reach Romania's targets in the fields of biomass/bio-energy. For more information, please contact the Economic Department of the Embassy.

- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bucharest - www.netherlandsemb.ro
- Agency for International Business and Cooperation - EVD - www.evd.nl
- The Netherlands – Romanian Chamber of Commerce - www.netherlands.ro
- The Dutch-Romanian Association - www.nederland.ro
- Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - www.mapam.ro
- Romanian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology - www.mcti.ro
- Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - www.mmediu.ro

- Romanian Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Romanian Ministry of Transport
- National Institute for Statistics
- Agency for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

- www.mefromania.ro
- www.mt.ro
- www.insse.ro
- www.animmc.ro