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**Pavel Popescu**

Member of the Romanian Parliament  
Chair of the Committee for Defense, Public Order and National Security

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Dear Distinguished Colleagues,

I am delighted to invite you to join me and several hundred Parliamentarians from around the world to the 21st Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum on **July 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** at the **Palace of Parliament in Bucharest**. As a guest, I have witnessed how these briefings have been exceptional in allowing us to understand from preeminent experts the ominous threats we face from our unrelenting adversaries and their effective use of evolving and transformational technologies. The significance of having such a platform which allows for knowledge exchange and collaboration among global decision-makers cannot be stressed enough at a time and place like this. Given the regional security context it is of utmost urgency to strengthen our knowledge and cooperation on key areas as we seek to protect and secure our freedoms and liberties. It is therefore a pleasure as well as a challenge for us to host this event.

The pace at which events are unfolding right now adds to this urgency but also gives us an opportunity to focus on it and prioritise the most important matters. We must not forget the work and sacrifice it has taken to keep this continent safe and free from the horrors of War for well over 75 years. We must persevere in addressing the many threats we face from state and non-state actors given the current security context. I firmly believe this platform offers an extraordinary opportunity to acquire a 360-degree view and assess current global and regional threats by giving all of us access to exceptional expertise from the world's leading security experts.

As a regional leader in terms of strategic projects with impact in key areas such as 5G legislation, hosting the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, with a war on our border and countless security challenges to be addressed in the Black Sea region, Romania assumes the role of host in these discussions and debates with experts at the highest level. Given the fact that we are facing one of the most complex security crises since the Second World War and in solidarity with our Ukrainian neighbours, a substantial component of this forum will be dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine, focusing on identifying lessons learned and future prospects for preventing crises caused by illiberal regimes.

It is for this reason that I strongly encourage you to attend, because only by connecting global policy makers will we be able to achieve meaningful results in combating rampant cybercrime, transnational organised crime, espionage and modern terrorism among other challenges we face today. We remain committed, now more than ever, to tackle all these problems in the face of aggression. I look forward to seeing you for this special occasion. Official letters from the leadership of our Parliament will follow soon.

Yours truly,  
Pavel Popescu