

**What country model do we wish for Romania? A debate on capitalism and the country development options**

*Debate organized by New Strategy Center  
– June 8<sup>th</sup>, National Military Club –*

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Romania will celebrate the centennial of the Grand Union. Where would Romania stand not only a century after the historical decision taken in Alba Iulia, but also after almost three decades after the fall of communism? After 100 years, we still encounter issues in connecting the old provinces, as the poor development of highways between Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca or Iași with the other cities have a negative mark on the national growth. Soon, Romania will face a new test, as it will take on the Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2019, a period synonymous with the presidential elections of Romania.

The EU faces many difficulties generated by high risks which cumulate and create dependencies among them – a slow growth for several member states, social and political effects of the migrant flow, increase of the terrorist threat, Russia's assertive policy which aims to undermine the EU solidarity, an upsurge of euro-skepticism and nationalism through the rise of the populist and extreme-right parties.

The illegal annexation of Crimea and the war in the proximity of Romania have shown the fragility of the security in the area and the importance of our military guarantees resulting from the NATO membership and the strategic partnership with the US. The erosion of the democratic mechanisms in the neighboring countries, where the liberal democratic system has suffered a setback, increased the level of trust of our major allies in Romania. We have to be aware that we benefit of an improved image not only through our efforts, but also because of the sideslips recorded by our neighbors. Under these circumstances, is it possible for us to seize the opportunities? How do we encourage the foreign investments, but how do we support the development of the domestic capital? Which are the domains to be developed in order to offer consistency to the Romanian economy? Where should the state invest more to facilitate the sustainable development?

To these questions and to many others, we will be trying to answer during the debate organized by New Strategy Center on June 8<sup>th</sup>, having the privilege to gather together speakers and guests with a high institutional and entrepreneurship expertise.