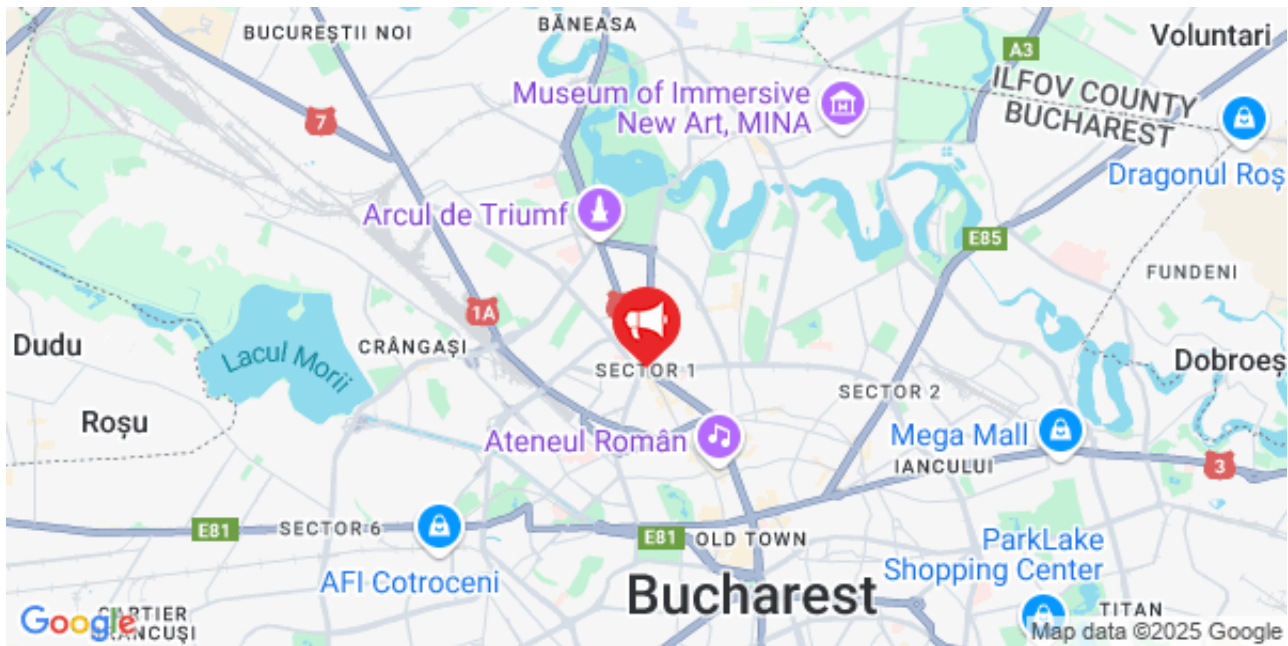


Protest



13

MAR

12:28 UTC

Romania Tactical: Multiple pro-EU groups to hold protest at Piata Victoriei in Bucharest at 17:00 (local time) on March 15; avoid nonessential travel

Current Situation

- On March 15, multiple pro-EU groups, including Euromanifest, Declic, and si altii, are slated to hold a protest at Piata Victoriei in Bucharest at 17:00 (local time).
- The protesters will denounce extremism, Russian propaganda, and any form of authoritarianism while reaffirming their commitment to European values, the rule of law, and democracy. They will also reject intolerance, disinformation, and any attempt to distance Romania from the European Union.
- Separately, similar rallies are also planned for multiple cities nationwide including Brasov, Oradea, and Timisoara.



Source: [Organizer's website](#)

Assessments & Forecast

1. Based on the precedent and mobilizational capabilities of the organizers, the slated protest is likely to attract a turnout in the mid-to-high thousands.
2. Although no counter-protests have been announced, the risk of spontaneous counter-demonstrations near the scheduled pro-EU rally remains high due to Romania's polarized political climate and increased right-wing protest activity since the December 2024 annulment of the presidential election. This risk is further elevated by heightened grievances among right-wing groups following the [invalidation of far-right politician Calin Georgescu's candidacy for the May 4 presidential election](#). After the decision on March 9, Georgescu's supporters rioted outside the BEC headquarters in Bucharest, overturning vehicles, throwing projectiles at police, and setting fires.
3. Consequently, the slated protest also carries a heightened risk of unrest, in the form of clashes between protesters, police, and potential counter-protesters. Additionally, the risk of vandalism targeting public and private establishments near the protest locations, including government buildings, vehicles, and business establishments near Piata Victoriei also remains elevated. Notably during the March 9 right-wing protest, journalists were attacked, injuring at least one foreign reporter, while protesters blocked roads near Piata Unirii and Calea Victoriei, temporarily trapping foreign guests in nearby hotels.
4. Consequently, authorities are expected to enhance security near Piata Victoriei and other potential protest locations in central Bucharest, deploying riot police, setting up checkpoints, and securing key sites. Temporary roadblocks and traffic restrictions may be imposed with little notice during protests. In response to escalating unrest, police are liable to resort to forcible measures, including tear gas, baton charges, and mass arrests to disperse crowds.
5. Therefore, significant travel-related disruptions, including road closures, restricted movement, and public transport reroutes can be anticipated near Piata Victoriei and other government buildings in central Bucharest during evening hours.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Bucharest on March 15 are advised to avoid nonessential travel in the vicinity of Piata Victoriei due to the heightened risk of unrest during the slated protest.
2. Allot for significant disruptions to travel near the protest location during the afternoon and evening hours.
3. Avoid areas where demonstrators and counter-protesters are likely to converge, particularly major transportation hubs such as Piata Unirii, Gara de Nord, and metro stations near Piata Victoriei.
4. Monitor local news and official sources for real-time updates on security measures, road closures, and public transport disruptions.
5. Businesses near the protest site should implement contingency measures, including adjusted operating hours, security reinforcements, and staff safety protocols.
6. Foreign nationals and tourists should remain vigilant in the vicinity of protest areas and have contingency plans in place in case of unexpected security developments.
7. Journalists covering the protest should exercise caution, use protective gear if necessary, and avoid drawing attention in areas with heightened tensions.
8. If caught in unrest, seek shelter in secure indoor locations and avoid engaging with demonstrators or law enforcement.