

IN MEMORIAM

MIHNEA CONSTANTINESCU (1961 -18.11.2018)



Born in 1961, Mihnea Constantinescu graduated the Faculty of Energetics of the Polytechnic University in Bucharest. He was member of staff of the Polytechnic University in the nuclear energy department, a field in which he got a PhD. Subsequently, he joined the diplomatic service and became Ambassador

with Special Assignments, Special Representative of the Government of Romania on energy security and was, in different governments, Director of the Chancery of the Prime Minister, state counselor and General Director for Political Affairs in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2001 he was the personal representative of the incumbent OSCE Romanian Presidency for South-Eastern Europe, and in 2003 he was the Government of Romania's representative with the Provisional Authority in Baghdad and advisor of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mihnea Constantinescu was, in sequence, personal assistant for prime minister Petre Roman, Director of prime minister Theodor Stolojan's cabinet (1991-1992), Speaker of the Government (1991-1992), Director of prime minister Nicolae Văcăroiu's cabinet, State Minister for Economic Reform in the same Văcăroiu government.

Later he was Director of Cabinet and advisor of then minister of Foreign Affairs Mircea Geoană (1996-1998). In 2004 he was Director of prime minister Adrian Năstase's cabinet (2004) and thereafter Director of prime minister Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu's cabinet (2005-2008), after which he was appointed Ambassador with Special Assignments with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2012 he was appointed by prime minister Victor Ponta State Counselor and worked in the prime minister's close team.

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He won, too, the respect and trust of King Michael and his successor, Princess Margareta due to the efforts exerted to the benefit of the Royal House.

The Romanians owe to Mihnea Constantinescu the unseeable contributions to many international files which helped our country. In 2016 he was the Chairman of the International Holocaust Remembrance alliance and was behind the wider definition this organization suggested during the Romanian chairmanship of IH-RA. 47 countries already adopted that definition.

"I am very, very, very tormented by Mihnea's (Constantinescu) death. He was very close to me even when he was a student. I brought him to the government. He was the Speaker of the Government. He was an extraordinary important fellow for me. We must say he was what the French call really nice «un grand serviteur de l'état», namely a great man in service of state", declared for Mediafax, Petre Roman – former prime minister of Romania.

According to the head of the Romanian diplomacy, Constantinescu was one of the most respected ambassadors: *"Mihnea Constantinescu was one of the most respected ambassadors, a man of high professional quality, very balanced and very interested in promoting Romania's causes irrespective of the political color of the governing parties. For us, for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is a big loss. We will take all the steps for his repatriation and what we could do now is to pray for his eternal rest, to understand that such things happen and that it is important what you leave behind. He was an ambassador leaving a very important legacy for us",* Teodor Meleşcanu declared.

I met him personally in 1993 and, even after 2003, when I ended the activity in the central administration, I kept a relation with this statesman with a professionalism, patriotism, kindness and modesty hard to find any longer nowadays. I was very pleased when he accepted to join the Geostrategic Pulse board and to contribute with valuable articles to our publication. He still found time and attended the round table we organized in Bucharest on the "Black Sea Extended Area and the Middle East – an Important Space of Geopolitical Confrontation" - la 29 iunie 2016; while we felt him permanently alongside us.

When he left us at 57 only, Mihnea Constantinescu was going through a period whereby his qualities and his international height conferred him a great importance in the Romanian politics and diplomacy. But as fate had it, he left us too early. May he inspire and lead the Romanian political class and God rest his soul!

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