

**A “FORGOTTEN PAGE” OF DIPLOMACY:  
THE ASSUMPTION BY ROMANIA  
OF THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP (2001)**

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*“...remembering is a triumph ver the fortresses’ dead”  
Lucian Blaga*

**Abstract.** The authors draw the attention of the reader to what they call a “forgotten page” of the Romanian diplomacy: the assumption by Romania of the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), for the whole year as the CiO, at the very start of the century, and two years as a member of troika (respectively, 2000 and 2002). An input they consider to be Romania’s second major contribution to the heritage of that Organization after it counted as one of its “founding fathers”. Having been closely linked to the work of the OSCE Chair-in-Office, they bring together facts and events which occurred in Europe in that year, among which they particularly concentrate on the territorial reconfiguration under way in one part of Europe, as well as on the large variety of issues deriving from the dissolution of multinational entities and the new shape Europe was assuming. In the view of the authors that was to count as a significant evidence of the revival of Romania’s presence among the European nations and of its diplomacy on the European scene.

**Key words:** Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Chairmanship, troika, mandate, crisis management, Helsinki Final Act, frozen conflicts, “task force”.

The Romanian always was looking towards “Europe” with sympathy and interest. The Princes of the Romanian Provinces had relations with the European chancelleries, and the modern history of Romania took shape and was structured in this context. The big saga of the continent started to include Romanians too, in a way or another, on the quite early stage, “Yet, Romanian’s reflex was to not hand down a project from one generation to another, each one cutting the thread” (**Martha Bibescu**).

These are the words we are frequently reminding when trying to bring to the attention the “forgotten” pages from the national history. In this case, an

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