

## **Alburnus Maior Press Release**

### **Undoing the Unwanted - RMGC's urbanism certificate has been suspended**

*Rosia Montana/Romania; 26 June 2005* – On 15 June 2005, the Alba County Tribunal admitted a request to suspend the urbanism certificate granted to Rosia Montana Gold Corporation; a required step in the permitting of the mining project. The request was submitted by Alburnus Maior, who successfully proved the urgency for a suspension due to the irreversible damages caused by the enforcement of this administrative act. The suspension is valid until the relevant administrative litigation case 'Alburnus Maior vs. Alba County Council' is solved in an irrevocable manner.

Rosia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) is 80% owned by Gabriel Resources (TSX:GBU), a small, under-resourced and inexperienced Canadian mining company which plans to uproot the people of Rosia Montana to realize Europe's largest open-cast gold mine. 20% are owned by Minvest, a state-owned mining company. From its' onset the venture has been beleaguered by scandals, operational problems and vehement local, national and international opposition. The American miner Newmont (NTSE: NEM) holds a 10.8% stake in Gabriel Resources.

In August 2004 Gabriel Resources announced that it had submitted the requisite application for an urbanism certificate to the local authority (Alba County Council). "Once issued," went the announcement, "the environmental permitting procedure can be formally initiated through the submittal of the Project Presentation Report (formerly called the Technical Memorandum) together with the urbanism certificate, to the Romanian regulatory authorities." In late August 2004, the urbanism certificate was issued to RMGC who in December 2004 initiated the environmental permitting procedure.

The suspension issued on the 15 June 2005 has immediate effect and will suspend all authorization procedures based on this act, including the EIA procedure. In the next few days Alburnus Maior will send a notification of the court sentence to all the relevant authorities to ensure the enforcement of the court sentence. Alburnus Maior is optimistic that the suspension will be enforced and this because it is opposable "*erga omnes*". Thereafter, the authorities will prepare and provide Alburnus Maior the terms of reference for suspending the EIA procedure. In addition, the suspension of the urbanism certificate means that any advancement regarding the so-called "Modification of the Zonal Urbanism Plan for the Rosia Montana Gold Corporation Industrial Development area" is null and void.

"Gabriel Resources has just announced the resignation of Richard Hill to be replaced by a 'world-class specialist in environmental permitting'. Given the suspension, I suppose that this appointment now is as valuable as the project itself," says Eugen David, President of Alburnus Maior.

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