

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to encourage you to extend an invitation to Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, to meet with you in Washington in the coming months or consider a visit to Romania ahead of the 2024 NATO Summit in Washington, DC. Amidst ongoing threats to peace and stability in Europe as a consequence of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, it remains imperative that the United States take all possible actions to maintain our longstanding partnership with Romania, a valued NATO Ally.

As you know, since joining NATO in 2004, Romania has built deep partnerships with the transatlantic Alliance and strengthened the U.S.-Romania relationship on issues ranging from military cooperation to countering Russian malign influence and disinformation. In particular, Romania's position as a key ally in the Black Sea region, where Vladimir Putin has tried to expand the Kremlin's footprint, requires continued and robust bilateral engagement to strengthen the region's democratic institutions, promote economic development and bolster regional and international security.

In response to Russia's further invasion of Ukraine last year, Romania has been a vital partner to both Ukraine and NATO. Romania has provided over \$1 billion humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and welcomed more than 6 million Ukrainian refugees. Romania has also provided Ukraine with significant military equipment; in addition, Romania is establishing an F-16 Training Center which will train Ukrainian pilots alongside Romanian and Allied personnel.

Romania has facilitated the transit of more than 30 million tons of Ukrainian grains since the start of the war and is seeking to even increase that amount. Romania is partnering with Turkey and Bulgaria to demine the Black Sea to protect grain shipment routes. Today, approximately 130,000 refugees remain within its borders, and the Romanian government provides support to ensure those Ukrainians can access essential services, including opportunities for children to attend school.

Additionally, the Romanian government has provided over \$3 million in assistance to Ukraine for ammunition, fuel and medicine. In a boost to the security of the transatlantic Alliance, following the February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine, NATO established a multinational battlegroup in Romania. Combined with efforts to strengthen existing battlegroups and establish new groups in Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia, this effort greatly enhanced the security of the Eastern Flank, ensuring NATO has a strong presence from the Baltic States to the Black Sea region. Most critical to the enduring success of the NATO Alliance, President Iohannis announced the country's decision to increase its defense spending to 2.5% of its GDP, making Romania a leading contributor to NATO.

The United States and Romania recently celebrated 25 years of strategic partnership, and Romania has proven itself to be an outstanding Ally. A visit by the Romanian President or a visit to Romania will enhance our strategic relationship and cooperation on regional security engagement and reaffirm our friendship to the Romanian people.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



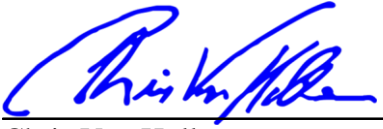
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Van Hollen", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thom Tillis", written over a horizontal line.

Thom Tillis
United States Senator