

If you had the opportunity, what would you ask the president or leader of your co...



If I had the opportunity to speak to a leader in my country, I would speak to President Traian Basescu. My homeland of Romania is a wonderful place with a bright future. We have recently been accepted into the European Union. This membership will prove advantageous to Romania as we integrate our businesses into the broader European marketplace. On the other hand, membership in the European Union will also expose some of the weaker parts of our society and economy to competition from the rest of the Union. We need to embark on a course of prolonged, sustainable development to strengthen these areas so Romania can continue to grow and prosper. If I had the chance, I would ask President Basescu, “ Why don’t we spend more money and energy improving our educational system and physical infrastructure in a sustainable manner?”

I would encourage President Basescu to modernize the education system in Romania. The teaching of a relatively antiquated national curriculum is not the best way to prepare students for the new economic realities of being a member of the European Union. We must look at education more holistically if we are to ensure all of the members of our society can be gainfully employed. More money must be allocated to improve the basic literacy and academic skills for all Romanian children. Course work also needs to be differentiated based on a child’s ability to learn a given skill. As children grow and mature, we must provide real educational opportunities for them outside the classroom so they are ready for employment in the field of their choosing, be it manufacturing, business, government service, academia or agriculture. Modernizing education is the first step in improving Romania’s ability to fully participate in the business opportunities created by membership in the European Union.

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Another item of concern I would address with President Basescu is the improving of our nation's infrastructure. Modern business requires a dependable infrastructure of roads, utilities and communication venues. The monetary investment in developing infrastructure has been shown to be a great stimulus to an economy if it is done in a sustainable and systematic way. I would encourage President Basescu to consider the small, developing nature of many businesses in Romania as he ponders options for developing infrastructure. Large projects like a new highway or port improvements help all businesses in theory, but tend to assist large firms most. I would suggest developments in communications infrastructure that provides all businesses, large and small, with speedy access to data and markets. Improving infrastructure is a sure way to sustain Romania's business growth in Eastern European markets as well as in the European Union for generations to come. If I had the opportunity to speak with President Basescu, these topics would be among the most prominent. I believe that as President, he has the influence necessary to make a great change in Romania's economy and standard of living. I believe that the best approach to doing this would be through sustainable changes in Romania's educational system and physical infrastructure.