



**INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY
OF ASTRONAUTICS**

PRESS - RELEASE

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General Dumitru Dorin Prunariu Honored in Bucharest, Romania

On Thursday 11 September 2008 the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) held its first regional meeting in Bucharest, Romania upon invitation of the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA). Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso President and Chief Executive Officer of ROSA co-chaired the meeting with Dr. Jean-Michel Contant, Secretary General of the IAA. Most of the Romanian Academician attended the meeting such as Dr. eng BADEA Alexandru, Director of the Space Applications Department ROSA, Acad. CONSTANTINESCU Virgiliu Niculae Romanian Academy, President of the Commission for Astronautics, Dr. HASEGAN Dumitru, Director of the Institute for Space Sciences, Dr. eng NAE Catalin, General Director of the National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli", Dr. eng PRUNARIU Dumitru-Dorin, President of the ROSA Administration Council, Dr. SERBAN Florin, Director of the Advanced Studies and Research Centre, Dr. STROE Ion Professor of the "Politehnica" University of Bucharest, Mr. NISTOR Cosmin, Director of the IT Department ROSA, Mrs. SIMION Iulia and Mrs. NEAGU Oana, Assistants to the President of ROSA.

Based in Paris, the IAA is a 1200 member-80 countries honorary society with an action agenda. The Academy has a strong scientific program with each year about 10 standalone conferences around the world. The International Academy of Astronautics is an independent organization of distinguished individuals elected by their peers for their outstanding contributions to astronautics and the exploration of space. The IAA has both its independent studies and conferences and collaborates with others partner societies. Although the IAA has many connections to other similar organizations, it is distinctive as the only international academy of elected members in broad area of astronautics and space.

IAA membership consists of individuals who have distinguished themselves in one of the fields of astronautics or one of the branches of science of fundamental importance for the exploration of space. Full members are elected for life, while corresponding members are eligible for full membership after two years, but retire after five years. The Academy was founded by the leaders among the early space pioneers. Continuing that distinguished tradition, current members include the leaders and the key managers in all the space agencies and many space industries, leading space engineers and scientists, prominent space lawyers and judges, and outstanding individuals at the interface of space and society.

On this occasion, General Dumitru Dorin Prunariu, Cosmonaut was inducted a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics following his recent election in the Life Science section. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu born in 1952 graduated from the Polytechnica University in Bucharest in Aerospace Engineering. He flew onboard Soyuz-40 and Salyut-6 space laboratory in May 1981 together with Cosmonaut Leonid Popov. He completed scientific experiments in the field of astrophysics space radiations, space technologies, space medicine and biology. A former Secretary of State to the Ministry of Transportation and a former President of the Romanian Space Agency Dr. Prunariu is currently President of the Administration Council of the Romanian Space Agency.

This first regional meeting underlines the new role of Romania in the international space community as proactive node in the development of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe region. Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso Doctor in Physics University ALI, Cuza Iasi, is since October 2007 the first Romanian representative in the Board of Trustees of the IAA. Romania is going to lead regional substantial activities in support of IAA study groups as exemplified by the proposal to lead an international work on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures.





Photo: General Dumitru Dorin Prunariu receiving IAA membership diploma and pin from Dr. Jean-Michel Contant, Secretary General of the IAA and Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso, President and Chief Executive Officer of ROSA ON 11 September 2008 in Bucharest, Romania.

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