

Ceremony marking the bestowal of a National Order

Embassy of Romania – London/ On July 8, 2010, the Embassy of Romania in London has organized a ceremony marking the bestowal of an honour by the President of Romania, Mr Traian Băsescu, on The Rt. Hon. Lord Lamont of Lerwick.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Lamont of Lerwick was bestowed the National Order of “Faithful Service” in the rank of “Commander” for his remarkable contribution to the *“development of Romanian-British trade relations and for a sustained promotion of Romania’s image as an attractive business environment for British investors”*.

The award was given by the Ambassador of Romania to the Court of St. James 's, HE Dr Ion Jinga.

Reading the Decree signed by the President of Romania, Ambassador Ion Jinga, highlighted the impressive career and remarkable political personality of Lord Lamont. He has been Cabinet Minister in the Government of both Margaret Thatcher and John Major. When he entered the House of Commons, aged twenty nine, Norman Lamont was the youngest Conservative MP. A strong supporter of Mrs Thatcher, he became a Minister in the Departments of Energy, Industry, Defence and the Treasury. He was Britain’s chief negotiator for the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, Chairman of the G7 Group of Finance Ministers in 1991, and a strong supporter of the enlargement of the European Union with the Central and Eastern European states.

The Ambassador of Romania stressed that the present distinction represents an *“acknowledgement of Lord Lamont’s support to encourage the development of British-Romanian relations - Romania being a country which he has visited over fifty times – and for promoting Romania’s image in the United Kingdom”*.

Lord Lamont expressed his gratitude towards the President of Romania and declared himself honoured and delighted to receive such a distinction. Addressing the audience, Lord Lamont showed that over the years, he had observed a miracle emerging; Romania’s transition from a closed society with a centralized economy to a free society with a flourishing European economy and young entrepreneurs: *“In all this time I achieved a high regard for the huge courage and perseverance of the Romanian people. I know that the adjustment was painful for most of them, therefore their achievements represent a remarkable and astonishing step forward”*.

Lord Lamont is the Honorary President of the British Romanian Chamber of Commerce and has been a frequent speaker at conferences on investing in Romania. He has been a director of several companies that have invested in Romania and has been involved with a number of charities, supporting hospices for disabled children.

The award ceremony took place in the presence of over 50 guests, close friends and colleagues of Lord Lamont and of the Embassy of Romania in London, members of the House of Lords and House of Commons, the future British Ambassador to Romania and former British Ambassadors in Bucharest, chairmen of City of London’ companies, representatives of the British aristocracy and distinguished members of the Romanian Diaspora.

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