

## Professor Eliot SOREL MD

Mayor Klaus Werner IOHANNIS of the beautiful Transylvanian city of Sibiu won a categorical Presidential mandate in the recent, second round of Romanian elections, concluded on Sunday, November 16th, 2014.

Among the many remarkable aspects of this Romanian Presidential election and Mayor Iohannis's victory are not just the margin of victory- 54.5% - but also the impressive voting turnout-over 64% of the population-, the win by a candidate of ethnic German origin on a continent that rarely if ever elects heads of state from among their ethnic minorities, and last but not least the impressive and noticeable engagement of the younger generation with nearly one thousand of them participating as election observers/monitors and the perseverance of the Romanians in the diaspora to exercise their constitutional right to vote in this historic election.

Robust social media exchanges between the young people, the diaspora, and the home front played a catalytic and decisive role in this election's outcome.

This Romanian democracy in action, a quarter century after the fall of communism, is even more remarkable given the unsettling political scenarios developing to the west and east of Romania, a turn to the far right in Hungary, to former Cold War Soviet tactics in eastern Ukraine, and territorial annexation of Crimea.

President Klaus Werner IOHANNIS, the Romanian people, young and old, from within Romania and from the diaspora, have good reasons to feel proud of their accomplishments and also to have made a palpable contribution to rekindling hope at national and European levels. It is a victory for Romania, for Europe, and for the global family of democratic nations.!