
**THE NEGOTIATIONS OF DIPOLI. INITIATIVES OF THE
ROMANIAN DELEGATION AT THE PREPARATORY TALKS FOR
THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN
EUROPE, 22 NOVEMBER 1972 – 8 JUNE 1973**

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Abstract: At the beginning of the '70s, in the context of the East-West détente, the idea of convening a conference on cooperation and security in Europe gained more ground. Thus, on 22 November 1972, at Dipoli-Helsinki, the Preparatory Talks Leading to the CSCE were inaugurated and, later on, prolonged in four successive stages until the early summer of 1973. Following these negotiations, the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations were adopted. The document contained seven chapters: conference organization; rules of procedures; agenda and related instructions; participation, contributions, guests; financial arrangements; starting dates of each stage of the CSCE, and the conference venue.

For the Romanian diplomacy, the preliminary conference of the European security proved to be a perfect occasion to assert itself on the international stage, especially among the Western powers. In this regard, one of the most significant contributions was the proposal of a set of rules of the reunion procedure. Within the Romanian project, particular attention was given to: the rule of consensus in decision making, the rotation principle in leading the working groups, and also the possibility that states should participate in this international forum with equal rights outside military alliances. The fact that some of these proposals were included in the final document represented a genuine success for Romania.

Keywords: CSCE, diplomacy, Dipoli, negotiations, initiatives, security, Romania.

The preparation of a conference on security in Europe was an excellent opportunity for the “small- and medium-size” European countries, including Romania, to assert themselves internationally. Moreover, the conference was an opportunity for the Romanian diplomats to initiate political and economic contracts with the Western states, shake off Moscow’s influence, and make their views known¹.

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¹ European security was an issue of interest and debate as early as the '50s for the member states of the Warsaw Pact, but especially for the USSR, which aimed, first, to maintain the political and territorial status quo established in Europe after World War Two, and halt the