



# CONFERINȚA EPISCOPILOR DIN ROMÂNIA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **His Excellency Aurel Percă, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucharest, is the President of the Bishops' Conference of Romania starting with September 23, 2020.**

The Roman Catholic diocesan bishops and the Greek Catholic diocesan bishops from Romania elected the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucharest, Mons. Aurel Percă, in the position of President of the Bishops' Conference of Romania (BCR).

Archbishop Aurel Percă will continue the three-year term started by Mons. Ioan Robu in May 2019, being, according to the BCR Statute, the coordinator of the works in the joint meetings and the representative of the Catholic episcopate and the Catholic Church in Romania.

The position of BCR President of Mons. Ioan Robu, currently Archbishop Emeritus of Bucharest, ceased with the acceptance by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, of his retirement from the mission held in the Archdiocese of Bucharest at the age of 75, according to the canons of the Catholic Church.

The first representative mission of the new BCR President will take place this week (September 25-26) when His Excellency Aurel Percă will participate in the plenary meeting (online) of the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), a church organism that brings together all presidents of Bishops' Conferences of the European continent (not just in the European Union).

The mandate of BCR Vice President continues to be exercised, according to the BCR statute, by the Major Archbishop of the Romanian Church United with Rome, Greek-Catholic, His Beatitude Cardinal Lucian Mureșan.

The Conference of Bishops of Romania meets twice a year and brings together all Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic bishops in Romania and expresses the unity of the local Church and communion with the Successor of Peter, the Holy Father Pope.

This year the meeting was postponed twice due to the pandemic.

Fr. Francisc Ungureanu  
General secretary

### **Short biography of the new BCR President**

HE Aurel PERCĂ was born on August 15, 1951 in Săbăoani, Neamț. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1979 in Iasi. He studied in Rome, where he obtained degrees in Oriental Theology and Moral Theology.

He was Chancellor of the Diocese of Iași and professor at the Theological Institute of Iași. Between 1989 and 1994 he was rector of the Major Seminary in Iași, and later General Vicar of the same diocese.

Holy Father John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Iasi on September 29, 1999.

On November 21, 2019, Pope Francis appointed him Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucharest.

On January 11, 2020, he inaugurated his pastoral ministry in Bucharest.

Starting with September 23, 2020, he is also President of the Bishops' Conference of Romania.