Bucharest, 20 January – On 18 January 2016, the biggest event surrounding environmental issues in the last 25 years was held at the National Opera House of Bucharest, and saw 10 ex ministers from the Ministry of Environment, as well as the minister, debate environmental problems on the same stage in front of over 400 people. 10 former ministers talked about the biggest challenges they had faced during their mandates, talking about both their achievements and failures, and concluded by giving advice for the future. These are some of their statements:

“It’s obvious that man is a predator of the surrounding world, he destroys it and he leaves behind only rubbish and pollution of water and air. The danger for the future of mankind is inevitable as the process advances but fortunately some brave and wise minds were found that can stop this process or at least improve the situation”, Marcian Bleahu, Former Minister of Environment (1991-1992)

“The domain of environmental authorisation in Romania has to be unitary, these documents don’t have to be developed differently from one environmental agency to another and the environmental authorization has to be the same from Galati to Hunedoara”, Sulfina Barbu, former minister of environment (2004-2007)

“The fact that the approval of the Rosia Montana project has not succeeded hasn’t bothered me so much because people did not understand that it’s not enough to come for mining but it’s important to keep in mind other things”, Laszolo Borbely, former minister of environment (2009-2012)

“Romania must have the courage to apply the laws and the civil society must be involved in such things”, Atilla Korodi, former minister of environment (2007-2008/2012-2014)

The session ended with the statement of the minister of Environment, Waters and Forests, Cristiana Palmer – “Romania must have a more powerful voice when it comes to the European Union. The problem of forests is essential; you have in me a loyal partner to solve these issues. Another direction that I want to be more visible is the transition towards a green economy. The green economy brings jobs for people and can offer a good place for Romania in the world market”

The event continued with the radiography of environment based on 8 domains: biodiversity – Dan Hulea, The Ornithological Romanian society, forests – Octavian Berceanu, Water – Dr. Ing. Doru Manea, researcher in industrial energy and executive director of Global Innovation Solution, Air – Ligia Milea, ground and waste - Ionut Georgescu, public services and public authorities – Ilie Brie, director of Sustainable development center, financial tools – Cornel Brezuica, Ioan Gherhes, president of Romanian Association of Environment. In this session, they discussed the proposals and opinions of the civil society on environmental issues. To mark 25 years of Environment, 25 non-governmental representatives that made a positive impact with their projects in the last 25 years were recognized as well as employees of environmental guard and the National agency for Environmental protection.

During the breaks some other activities occurred like the photograph exposition of the “#surprisethenaturebyyourlens” contest, where the members of the event with people on Facebook voted the winners – Bogdan Contantin Tofan and Adriana Gabriela Ticleanu. Also Maria Mihaila was designate winner by F64.
Finally, some of the most important problems of the environment were debated with the representatives of environmental institutions: state secretaries, the president of ANPM and the chief commissioner of GNM with the help of civil society and companies. During this dialogue the institutions were represented by the state secretaries of Environment Ministry, Waters and Forests, Doina Lupu, Iulian Jugan, Erika Stanciu and Viorel Traian Lascu, the president of ANPM, Toma Florin Petcu and Florin Diaconu, the general commissioner of national guard of environment. The civil society spoke through the guests: Roxana Sunica – Recolamp, Mihai Rohan – Cirom, Ioana Oprea-Pirobox and Nicolae Radulescu Dobrogea – EcoCivica.

We want to thank all the guests that brought something positive with their presence at this event organized by Green Planet Association with the Romanian Association of Environment with the support of the Environment Ministry, an event offered by Global Innovation Solution.

The presentantions of experts, the list of winners and the photo&video recordings will be soon available on the website – mentineromaniacurata.ro