



Iași – the place where “The Great Union” echoes from

On 14 (Old Style)/27 (New Style) August 1916, the Crown Council at the Cotroceni Palace decided that Romania would enter the First World War on Entente’s side, following two years of neutrality (1914-1916). The decision was supported by King Ferdinand I and his wife, Queen Maria, shortly after signing a political convention with the Entente (4/17 August, 1916) that acknowledged Romania’s legitimate right of union with Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina.

As Bucharest, the capital city, fell under the control of Central Powers, the Romanian government retreated to the region of Moldavia, a territory which was to become the centre of national resistance during the Great War. Iași became the capital city of the country and stayed so until November 1918. The main institutions of the country (the Government, The Parliament, the National Bank, The Court of Cassation and Justice etc.) took refuge in Iași, along with thousands of inhabitants. It was also here that King Ferdinand I and Queen Maria took residence.

It is a truly historical moment that we are living today. The years 2017-2018 celebrate a century since Romania became the Capital of National Revival. A century since the Romanian army’s victories in Mărăști, Mărășești and Oituz. And also, 100 years since the reunited Chambers of the Senate and Deputies debated and adopted the Romanian state reforming agricultural and the elective laws.

Above all, however, 2018 is the year of the Great Union Centenary, the year of the Reunited Romania. A paramount event that summons reflection on the past, the present and the future. It is only through knowledge of our national past and acknowledgement of our predecessors’ efforts and sacrifices that we will be able to understand the foundation of the Great Romania and its subsequent historical course.