

Dr. VASILE PUȘCAȘ-Jean Monnet Ad Personam professor at Babes-Bolyai University ,and researcher within George Barit Institute of History(Romanian Academy) in Cluj-Napoca(Romania) is a Contemporary History&International Relations scholar.

From 2000 to 2008, he was a member of the Romanian Parliament while during 2000-2004, as member of the Romanian Government, he also acted as the country's Chief Negotiator for Romania's accession to the EU after which, in December 2008, he became Romania's first Minister for European Affairs.

During Pușcaș's mandate as Chief Negotiator with the EU, Romania closed all negotiation chapters, obtaining a firm accession date – 1st of January 2007 – and also finalized the negotiations of the Accession Treaty (European Council, December 17,2004).

His expertise in International Relations was not only used for Romania's negotiations with the EU; even before, during 1992-1994, as one of Romania's diplomats in Washington, DC, he also negotiated the country's Most Favored Nation Clause with the US.

Born in 1952, Vasile Pușcaș obtained a degree in history and social sciences at Babes Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, in 1976. In 1991, he pursued his interests further to complete a doctorate in history. His long career in the academic field began at the University of Babes-Bolyai. In 1995, he became the Dean at the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration and, in that same year, professor of International Relations at the Faculty of History and Philosophy. His academic career still continues, with courses at the International University Institute for European Studies, Gorizia- Italy, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca where he also acts as PhD coordinator and Head of the Institute for European Research.

Between 1990-1991, he was also the co-director of the Centre for Democracy and Post-Communist Studies in Cluj-Napoca and consultant with the Manfred Wörner Foundation in Bucharest. Furthermore, he has been the director of the Master's Program for the Management of International Affairs with the Institute for International Studies (ISI) and of the Journalism and Communication Training Centre. Between 2002-2007, he was Director of the Institute for Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy.

Dr. Vasile Pușcaș became Director of the Romanian Cultural Centre in New York in 1991-1992, then Minister-Counsellor (DCM) and Acting Ambassador with the Romanian Embassy in the USA till 1994. He is the author of 34 volumes, co-author of 90 books, 4 academic textbooks on Contemporary History,International Relations and European Integration, and of over 200 articles and essays. His particular fields of interest in research are Contemporary History,International Relations, European Negotiations, Transatlantic Relations, Central and Eastern Europe within International System, as well as business relations and conflict management in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th-21st Centuries; at present, he also acts as Member of the Board of Banca Transilvania SA.