



GABRIEL
Roşia Montană
IN PARTNERSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2023

Update on ICSID Arbitration Proceedings

Gabriel Resources Ltd. (TSXV: GBU - “Gabriel” or the “Company”) previously announced that the proceedings in its World Bank International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (“ICSID”) claim against Romania had been declared closed by the arbitral tribunal (the “Tribunal”) on September 14, 2023.

According to Rule 46 of the ICSID Arbitration Rules, the Tribunal must issue its final decision (“Award”) to the parties within 120 days of the closure of the proceedings, provided however that the Tribunal may take a further 60 days if it is otherwise unable to draw up the Award in such timeframe.

The Tribunal has today notified the parties that, in accordance with Arbitration Rule 46, it has extended the period to draw up and sign the Award for a further 60 days. Accordingly, the Tribunal must issue the Award on or before March 12, 2024.

Dragos Tanase, Gabriel’s President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, “This further potential delay to the issuance of a decision by the Tribunal is frustrating to all stakeholders, however we hope the decision is made earlier than the final deadline date.”

For information on this press release, please contact:

Dragos Tanase
President & CEO
Phone: +40 730 399 019
dt@gabrielresources.com

Richard Brown
Chief Financial Officer
Mobile: +44 7748 760276
richard.brown@gabrielresources.com

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About Gabriel

Gabriel is a Canadian resource company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange. The Company’s principal business had been the exploration and development of the Roşia Montană gold and silver project in Romania. The Roşia Montană Project, one of the largest undeveloped gold deposits in Europe, is situated in the South Apuseni Mountains of Transylvania, Romania, an historic and prolific mining district that since pre-Roman times has been mined intermittently for over 2,000 years. The exploitation license for the Roşia Montană Project is held by Roşia Montană Gold Corporation S.A., a Romanian company in which Gabriel owns an 80.69% equity interest, with the 19.31% balance held by Minvest Roşia Montană S.A., a Romanian state-owned mining company.

Upon obtaining the License in June 1999, the Group focused substantially all of their management and financial resources on the exploration, feasibility and subsequent development of the Roşia Montană Project. Despite the Company’s fulfilment of its legal obligations and its development of the Roşia Montană Project as a high-quality, sustainable and environmentally-responsible mining project, using best available techniques, Romania has unlawfully blocked and prevented implementation of the Roşia Montană Project without due process and without compensation. Accordingly, the Company’s current core focus is the ICSID Arbitration. For more information please visit the Company’s website at www.gabrielresources.com.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains “forward-looking information” (also referred to as “forward-looking statements”) within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities legislation. Forward-looking statements are provided for the purpose of providing information about management’s current expectations and plans and allowing investors and others to get a better understanding of the Company’s operating environment. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements.

In this press release, forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by the Company at this time, are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies that may cause the Company’s actual financial results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied herein.

Some of the material factors or assumptions used to develop forward-looking statements include, without limitation, the uncertainties associated with: the ICSID Arbitration, actions by the Romanian Government, conditions or events impacting the Company’s ability to fund its operations (including but not limited to the completion of further funding noted above) or service its debt, exploration, development and operation of mining properties and the overall impact of misjudgments made in good faith in the course of preparing forward-looking information.

Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties, assumptions, and other factors including those set out below, that may never materialize, prove incorrect or materialize other than as currently contemplated which could cause the Company’s results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Any statements that express or involve discussions with respect to predictions, expectations, beliefs, plans, projections, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance (often, but not always, identified by words or phrases such as “expects”, “is expected”, “is of the view”, “anticipates”, “believes”, “plans”, “projects”, “estimates”, “assumes”, “intends”, “strategy”, “goals”, “objectives”, “potential”, “possible” or variations thereof or stating that certain actions, events, conditions or results “may”, “could”, “would”, “should”, “might” or “will” be taken, occur or be achieved, or the negative of any of these terms and similar expressions) are not statements of fact and may be forward-looking statements.

Numerous factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, including:

- There is no assurance that Gabriel will be successful in establishing Romania’s liability in the ICSID Arbitration or, if successful, that the claimants will receive or collect a monetary award in the amount requested or at all. Failure to prevail in the ICSID Arbitration, or to obtain or recover adequate compensation for the loss in value of the Group’s investments, would materially adversely affect the Group.
- In view of the case-specific nature of arbitration, the inherent uncertainty in the actions of the respondent and in the process, timing and outcome of the ICSID Arbitration and any enforcement thereof, there can be no assurances that the ICSID Arbitration will advance in a customary or predictable manner or be completed or settled within any specific or reasonable period of time.

Further such factors include, without limitation:

- access to funding to support the Group’s continued ICSID Arbitration and/or operating activities in the future;
- the impact on financial condition, business strategy and its implementation in Romania of: any allegations of historic acts of corruption, uncertain fiscal investigations; uncertain legal enforcement both for and against the Group, unpredictable regulatory or agency actions and political and social instability;
- changes in the liquidity and capital resources of Gabriel, and/or the group of companies of which it is directly or indirectly parent;
- equity dilution resulting from the conversion or exercise of new or existing securities in part or in whole to Common Shares;
- the ability of the Company to maintain a listing on the TSX Venture Exchange or any regulated public market for trading securities;
- Romania’s actions following the inscription of the “Roşia Montană Mining Landscape” as a UNESCO World Heritage site;
- regulatory, political and economic risks associated with operating in a foreign jurisdiction including changes in laws, governments and legal regimes and interpretation of existing and future fiscal and other legislation;
- global economic and financial market conditions, including inflation risk;
- the geo-political situation and the resulting economic developments arising from the unfolding conflict and humanitarian crisis as a consequence of the Russia-Ukraine conflict;
- the COVID-19 pandemic may affect the Company’s operations and/or the anticipated timeline for the ICSID Arbitration
- volatility of currency exchange rates; and
- the availability and continued participation in operational or other matters pertaining to the Group of certain key employees and consultants.

This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect any of the Company’s forward-looking statements.

Investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements, and investors should not infer that there has been no change in the Company’s affairs since the date of this press release that would warrant any modification of any forward-looking statement made in this document, other documents periodically filed with or furnished to the relevant securities regulators or documents presented on the Company’s website. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the Company or persons acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this notice. The Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update publicly or otherwise revise any forward-looking statements or the foregoing list of assumptions or factors, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, subject to the Company’s disclosure obligations under applicable Canadian securities regulations. Investors are urged to read the Company’s filings with Canadian securities regulatory agencies which can be viewed online at www.sedarplus.ca.