

Glăvan, Doru Dinu

Article

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**Uniunea Ziariștilor Profesioniști
din România**

UZPR – A CENTURY OF CONTINUOUS PUBLIC UTILITY

Doru Dinu Glăvan

President of the Union of Professional Journalists of Romania

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United Romania needed a strong, coarse press, worthy to go along with the great act of December 1, 1918. It was January 1919, the great moment in which fifty very young journalists from Bucharest took the initiative to set up the Union of Professional Journalists, an organization meant to group journalists from all historical regions. The approach was major, and it turned out to be a dream that was fulfilled and consolidated, crossing national times of greatness, revealing rare professionals, talented people, models of their generations.

Romania's history of the last century is as tumultuous as fascinating. The more meritorious is the journey through the times of sacrifices and the importance of the Romanian journalists of all generations, who knew not only to do their job fully under the sign of the Union of Professional Journalists, but also to hand over the relay. Titans of literature have entered the press world one after the other, building a pattern in which Romanian journalism has been built, many of the best of them shining in their pen at the same time in the pages of the publications and in the positions as members of the Union of Journalists Professionals.

The first reunion of UZPR brought together enthusiasts like Victor Iamandi, Eugen Filotti – future ministers, then Nicolae Batzaria, Ion Minulescu, Ion Pas, Cezar Petrescu – poets and novelists who were rising in Romanian literature, Constantin Papacostea, Brunea Fox, Dinu Dumbravă, Ion Felea, Mircea Grigorescu, I.G. Peltz, Nicolae Pora, Jean Vulpescu and Pamfil Șeicaru – who will become over the years personalities of the Romanian press, pillars that

are present even today in the books. They established professional landmarks that the authentic publications still function by. From the war reporting to the ability to write in years of bleak censorship, journalists of the Union of Professional Journalists of Romania have always found the right tone to fulfill their public utility, with their goal to inform, with their vocation to discover the truth and the need to give it to people, thus empowering them.

Even though the Romanian press has always been a "cosmopolitan" entity, with sometimes divergent beliefs, with different principles, with various arguments, its members succeeded almost miraculously, given the harsh times of all kinds, to remain solidary, and this has always been a mark inside the Union of Professional Journalists of Romania. Activating "in scene lights" or in the darkness of censorship, persecuted or considered to be a force partner, UZPR has kept an unaltered spirit of cohesion. This professional solidarity is fully shown in the models of statutes approved by the general assemblies of the Union. The road was long and not always easy; the professional hierarchy of the editorial staff, the correct remuneration of journalists, the preservation of the dignity of the members, the regulation of their work relations have been accomplished with difficulty. Granting supplementary pensions to this category of creators has been achieved only recently, in the current formula of the Union of Journalists Professionals in Romania. But perhaps this current benchmark is likely to give the measure of cohesion in time and space of the Union. Today, almost a century after its establishment, the Union of Professional Journalists of Romania has much to look back to and also all the reasons to look ahead. Capable of attracting young journalists but also of keeping close to those who gave it the essence and value, managing the extremely complex issues of the media situation in the Internet age, standing side by side with high cultural and academic entities, UZPR carries on, at the third millennium scale, all its members gathered around the main principle statued by its "founding fathers" – the professionalization of the press through great publishing creations.

The Union of Professional Journalists of Romania is celebrating a century and, together with it, this entire Romanian society is in celebration, for the UZPR journalists have served it from their first to their last word.