THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

Starting today, November 29th 2006 traffic violations can be paid online

Starting today, 29th November 2006, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology offer you the ability to pay traffic violations online through the launching of their **"Virtual Pay-Office."**

"As of today, any citizen within Bucharest who possesses a valid banking card and who has access to the Internet can pay their traffic violations online. It will take less than five minutes to pay any traffic violation via the web. The hours wasted in traffic jams, in lines or leaning over a counter at a violation pay-stations are a thing of the past. With the induction of this new technology we are closer to reaching our goal: creating a more comfortable relationship between the citizens of Bucharest and State's Institutions," declared Zsolt Nagy , Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

Project **"Virtual Pay-Office"** targets the facilitation of interactions between citizens and public administration institutions through a rapid payment modality of debts owed to the state (taxes, fines, duties etc.). This is done in a transparent, efficient and guaranteed manner, while at the same time vastly improving what is currently available by eliminating issues of distance. The convenience of electronic payments through banking cards is here.

The initial service offered through Virtual Pay-office is online payments of traffic violations. The demographic of individuals who may utilize the service offered by www.ghiseul.ro are represented by those citizens who possess a banking card, those who access the internet and those who drive a car. Payments are conducted through a 3D Secure Code System, where any communication with a user's private data is done within a secure environment. Once the transaction is complete, judicially valid electronic receipts are generated that are recognized throughout Romania. The online payment service for the payment of traffic violations required the interfacing of two MCTI projects: the Administration data system of traffic violations within Bucharest's Traffic Police Departments and the **"Virtual Pay- office."**

The service is currently available only to the drivers who live and are fined within Bucharest, however, this will broaden and be implemented at a national level.

The main purpose of project **"Virtual Pay Office"** is to promote the idea of general access to public services and information through information technology (in general) and through the Internet (in particular). We aim to reduce the amount of public expenditures used in debt collecting activity by the state through classical means.

MCTI thanks Bucharest City Hall and the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs, without their assistance the launch of this project would not have been possible.

Further details about "Virtual Pay-Office" are available at: www.ghiseul.ro.