

**STATEMENT  
OF  
SULFINA BARBU,  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
  
ROMANIA**

**Mr. Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I stated at the beginning of our meeting, from the Romanian point of view we consider that we are in a turning point in the framework of the Danube basin and Black Sea region cooperation. We are in the moment in which we need to establish concrete measures for reaching the Water Framework Directive objectives in the Danube basin, including Black Sea coastal waters.

These extremely ambitious tasks we have to reach taking into consideration that most economies from the Low Danube and Black Sea region have begun to increase constantly and significantly. This situation threatens reaching our proposed objectives regarding the marine environment recovery.

We also pass a period when we are under even more obvious threaten of the climate change which can and have a significant impact on the water resources and which also undermine our efforts for the consolidation of the infrastructure destined to the protection of the water quality.

In addition, as we have presented, the GEF consistent and important support for the Danube basin and the Black Sea region ends. For this reason, it is necessary to find other financing solutions for our projects.

Taking into consideration this situation, Romania especially appreciates the achievements and the input in this region of the projects financed by UNDP/GEF.

In addition, we reconfirm our commitment for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive both in the Danube basin and in the Black Sea region, at least in the Romanian costal waters.

Taking into consideration the results so far, Romania appreciates and supports the continuation of the European Union initiatives regarding the protection of the marine environment in the region. In this way, we consider that it is necessary the access of the European Communities within the Convention for the protection of the Black Sea against pollution. In this way, we think that the region will better benefit both from the resources and the European Union experience.

In the same time, we support the initiative of the European Council to create a Euro-region for the Black Sea, which allows an efficient approach of the marine environment protection issue.

Having in view the achievement of the Convention for the protection of the Danube river and the Convention for the protection of the Black Sea against pollution objectives, we consider that it is necessary and we shall act for the strengthening of the collaboration between these two Commissions.

In addition, we reconfirm our commitment in implementing the ICPDR Action Plan regarding the flood control in the Danube basin.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the Romanian commitment in implementing on national level both the obligations as an European Union Member State and those which result from the taken decisions within the Danube Convention and the Black Sea Convention.