

**MINISTERIAL MEETING
DANUBE-BLACK SEA: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT
(Bucharest, 23 February 2007)**

OPENING SPEECH

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MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

ROMANIA

Mr. President of Romania,
Mr. Ministers,
Honoured Guests,

I would like to welcome you all, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, at this meeting, organized under the auspices of the Romanian Presidency of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

We are honoured and it is my pleasure to address myself to this honourable audience, the ministers responsible for the water management in the member states of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and of the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (ICPDR), as well as representatives of interested regional and international organizations and international financial institutions.

I express my confidence that our efforts for developing common actions for the cooperation in the water management field will contribute to the extension of the mutual relations and, in the same time, will answer to specific regional needs.

Taking into consideration that 2007 is the first European Union Romanian membership year, the Ministry of Environment and Water Management gives a higher importance to the implementation of the EU

environmental policies in the Danube river basin and the Black Sea region.

The environmental issues in the Danube river basin and in the Black Sea region, as well as the necessity of undertaking adequate measures for the rehabilitation and the conservation of the environment for the future generations lead us to the conclusion that, only through a regional co-operation and a substantial support on behalf of the international community, a clean and healthy environment can be ensured.

By confirming, during this conference, our commitment for a sustainable development based on a harmonious and balanced relationship between the social needs, economic activity and environment protection in the Danube River Basin and Black Sea Region, we would like to propose you to take together all the measures needed in order to rich these objectives.

A series of issues are relevant both from national and regional point of view. The protection of the waters quality, as well as the floods on Danube River are issues of interest not only for the Danube countries, but also for the European Commission, in the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the new Directive on flood management.

The conclusions of the seminar which has been held during the last two days, on the occasion of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project close, show us that further reducing of the nitrates pollution in the Danube River Basin leads to the necessity of intensifying the implementation of the Convention on Cooperation for Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River. The costs for measures that should be taken are very high, and thus, the involvement of the private sector in the accomplishment of the environmental protection activities is also another point of interest for all countries within the Danube River Basin and Black Sea Region.

Here are, distinguished guests, only few examples which have motivated us to invite you to attend this conference. I would like to propose you to jointly reflect to the methods to promote new activities for the sustainable development of the Danube Basin and Black Sea Region,

taking into account also the results of the UNDP/GEF project concerning the nutrient reduction, so that the Danube and Black Sea region becomes an example for other regions.

It lays in our willing to promote, at national level, the measures we will establish on regional level, as soon as possible. In the spirit of my statement, I would propose, Mr. Ministers and Head of Delegations, to adopt, during this conference, a Declaration of which draft text is on the portfolio you have received.

Allow me to salute the presence of Mr. Traian Basescu, the President of Romania, and to ask him to take the floor.

