



22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting Co-operation and security in the OSCE area”

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, Dear participants!

I would like to thank the Swiss Chairmanship for proposing this topic for the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. I align myself to the declaration of the European Union and I would like to raise some points in my national capacity and refer to our experience in this area. In the past years Romania has been facing important climatic changes, which led to unprecedented natural disasters such as massive snowfalls, rainfalls, floods and extreme temperatures, affecting regions with no history in this regard. It is obvious that emergency management is primarily a national responsibility, but often, the size and severity of disasters we face, natural or technological, require a complex response from both national and international organizations. This is a strong incentive to explore the advantages of bilateral and regional cooperation. Activities undertaken by Romania in this regard have sought to improve the functioning of the National Emergency Situations Management System and to strengthen its cooperation and interaction with relevant structures from other countries and international organizations.

The National Emergency Management System addresses emergency situations, develops prevention activities and manages and coordinates the human, material and financial resources aimed at bringing the community back to their normal state. The National System is established by the public administration authorities and contains a series of entities with responsibilities in emergency situations management, organized on levels and fields of activity, possessing the required infrastructure and resources. In case of a large scale disaster, the national committee is led by the Prime Minister and involves also civil society and unions.

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations under the Ministry of Internal Affairs provides continuous coordination of emergency situations and management activities. GIES ensures cooperation and legal representation at national level in the fields of civil protection, fire fighting and emergency situation management. Operative centers for emergency situations are organized within ministries, other central public institutions with responsibilities in emergency situation management in municipalities, cities and towns. These centers have permanent activities. In emergency situations the unitary coordination of all response forces on the scene of the event is provided by a person designated by the national ministerial or county committee, called intervention commander. His selection takes into account the nature and impact of the event and the number of forces involved. This proves the integrated and flexible approach of Romanian authorities when dealing with natural disasters. The main goal of GIES is to sustain, develop and extend the cooperation relations with the international organizations and bodies, as well as with the specific national institutions, on the basis of conventions, international treaties and agreements in the field of civil emergency management.

In the end, I would like to emphasize that Romania supports the potential of OSCE to be used as an integrated platform for debates on relevant topics related to its concept of comprehensive security, such as: disaster prevention, developing specific mechanisms for coordination in disaster assistance, raising public awareness and disaster risk management. Thank you very much for your attention! We have prepared a extensive document which details the activities of GIES, the risks of natural disasters that threaten Romania and areas of regional and international interaction. If you wish to receive copies my delegation in Vienna is happy to provide them to you.