



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

ENGLISH only

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**Statement by Romania at the  
Review Conference of the Economic and Environmental Dimension  
Session 6 – Environmental Cluster (October 25, 2010)**

Mr. Chairman,

The environmental challenges have been increasingly acknowledged since the last OSCE Summit and we welcome the enhanced range of activities and attention given by the OSCE to the environmental cluster.

We have committed to improve environmental governance by strengthening the management of natural resources, including water, in the Madrid Declaration of 2007. We have also focused extensively on water management during the 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum and have undertaken commitments in this respect at the Madrid Ministerial Council. We undertook additional commitments in the field of maritime and inland waterways at the Helsinki Ministerial Council. These commitments are ambitious, far-reaching and underline the need to take a comprehensive approach taking into account security, economic, environmental and people-to-people aspects. Let us reiterate these OSCE commitments and inform about two initiatives promoted by Romania to implement them in cooperation with other states at sub-regional level: the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the Black Sea Environment Partnership.

The Black Sea Environment Partnership was officially launched in March 2010 in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy and comprises the EU Member States and the non-EU states in the region. In line with the importance of the OSCE economic and environment dimension, the Environment Partnership, as well as the Black Sea Synergy as a whole, bring added value to regional cooperation, regional ownership, inclusiveness, the involvement of all important actors, efficient regional cooperation platforms, and concrete environment projects. The importance of the Synergy and of the sector partnerships, as the Environment Partnership, rests with the fact that they provide the possibility of assessing major security risks deriving from economic and environmental issues, as well as identifying the most appropriate ways and means to tackle these risks, in an inclusive manner, based on the OSCE Platform for cooperative security.

The Danube Strategy was initiated in 2008 by Romania and Austria through a large consultation process with the Danube riparian countries for setting up a better and most efficient regional cooperation format and to strengthen the current political mechanisms, considering the economic, social and territorial cohesion aspects. This initiative subsequently became an EU project, with the European Commission due to present the Communication on the Danube Strategy by the end of this year and follow-up to take place during the first semester of 2011. The added value of an EU Strategy for the Danube Region consists in strengthening the inter-regional cooperation and the contribution to achieving economic



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and social objectives by implementing projects with specific and measurable targets. One of the main advantages of such a Strategy resides in capitalizing the numerous initiatives and projects that are developed by the regions along the Danube River. The Strategy also offers a strengthened dialogue with the non-EU states within the Danube region that will participate in the development of the identified cooperation mechanism as its final beneficiaries.

The Danube Strategy will focus on the connecting the Danube Region in the following areas: transport, energy, information technology, tourism, preserving cultural heritage; on strengthening and building prosperity in the Danube Region; on people to people contacts that will encourage the social dimension of the Strategy. *Environment protection* is also a key area for the Danube Strategy, aiming at developing effective mechanisms for preventing and combating the effects of extreme natural phenomena and trans-boundary pollution control and initiating an integrated methodology for preserving the Danube Delta, aiming to harmonize the development of the local communities with the protection of the local ecosystems. Biodiversity preservation in the Danube region is one of the challenges for the riparian countries. Through common programs developed under the strategy provisions, the regions will contribute to reducing trans-boundary pollution, protecting the river biodiversity and encouraging the non-pollutant activities. The excessive pollution with dangerous substances could harm the environment on the long term, with undesirable consequences for the flora and fauna hosted by the Danube waters.

We strongly support enhanced activities of the OSCE in the environmental area, including in water-related issues, including by encouraging partnerships among participating States and in cooperation with international organizations in this field, including through exploring synergies with initiatives such as the Danube Strategy and the Black Sea Environment Partnership.

Thank you for your attention.