

Statement by the delegation of Romania  
to the 16<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum (Closing Session)  
Prague, 19-21 May 2008

ENGLISH only

The Romanian side is deeply committed to the protection of the environment and to ensuring the safety of navigation, in particular in relation to the Black Sea Basin, and supports the organizing of a conference dedicated to such themes.

There are quite a few issues related to the protection of the environment in relation to the Black Sea Basin and the Danube River that need to be addressed at international level.

In this context, Romania welcomes the inclusion among the topics to be debated at the Conference of the issue of the ecological consequences of the hydro-engineering works undertaken for the purpose of navigation development.

Romania also believes that the agenda of the Conference would benefit from dedicating more space to the topics linked to the protection of the environment, and in particular to the issue of the compliance with international norms and standards when undertaking works related to navigation waterways.

At the same time, Romania views the planned visit to the Vessel Traffic Centre of the Danube-Black Sea navigable waterway as inappropriate. Romania believes that the project of the Danube –Black Sea canal was completed by Ukraine without proper regard to its obligations under various bilateral and multilateral legal instruments, especially in the field of environmental protection. In the case of such visit, Romania will need to state its views on the said project, which would not be conducive to a proper development of the works of the conference.