

POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. DIRECTIONS FOR ACTION

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Abstract

Environmental policy is conceived as a form of general policy of the State with responsibility for establishing strategies, objectives and priorities, methods and tools involved in actions taken at national level to prevent and combat pollution, environmental conservation and sustainable development. Representing a special policy (both national and international), environmental policy and assessment means both actual environmental situations, finding negative environmental effects, establishing institutional measures necessary to protect the state bodies and conservation and to establish systems of penalties in case of pollution and the amount of penalties.

Key words: environmental policy, establish systems, environmental effects.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Environmental Protection Law, each holder of the plan or program must ensure the sustainability of the environment in terms of all plans and programs they develop. Its administration at all levels (national, regional and local) prepare environmental policies and in some cases environmental plans and programs that implement these policies. Policies, plans and environmental programs established environmental objectives and targets in accordance with legal regulations in force. Environmental objectives must be met by all sectors of development, and spatial and urban planning, transport, telecommunications, industry, energy, tourism, water management, waste management, forestry, fishing and agriculture.

Performance targets are an essential detail about environmental objectives and quantified rule set for a time certain. Environmental targets should be set and met in order to achieve environmental objectives (eg total emissions from cars will be reduced by 50 % within 5 years by providing installation of catalytic converters on all vehicles within three years). Environmental policy is conceived as a form of general policy of the State with responsibility for establishing strategies, objectives and priorities, methods and tools involved in actions taken at national level to prevent and combat pollution, environmental conservation and sustainable development. Representing a special policy (both national and international), environmental policy and assessment means both actual environmental

situations, finding negative environmental effects, establishing institutional measures necessary to protect the state bodies and conservation and to establish systems of penalties in case of pollution and the amount of penalties. Environmental policy is closely linked to conditional economic, financial and legal administration, which is based on a correlation National incentives and international relations as it represents both theoretical and practical relationships concrete. Environmental policy tasks are different and complex environmental policy returning primary responsibility of each country governments and national and local authorities specialist. The three national environmental conferences have established the main political tasks environment⁴ protection for the participating states. Thus, shortly after the first UN conference environment, the European Commission has proposed a program of action in this area recognizing the necessity and legitimacy of a common policy on the environment. As time develops progressively a Community environmental law which currently includes over 200 directives and regulations on environmental protection. The Single European Act adopted in 1987, is the document environment acquires a legal basis in the EC Treaty, the European Community explicitly assigning environmental competence. Conference in Stockholm in 1972, conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and Environmental Conference in Johannesburg in 2002 In 1997, the Treaty of Amsterdam, environment becomes horizontal policy of the European Union, which means that environmental issues will necessarily be taken into account in sector policies. In Romania, the environment has emerged as a self-contained area of national policy in 1990, when it was first established a Ministry of Environment. Environmental policy in our country has evolved from minimal measures of environmental protection, they had regarding pollution limitation, by outlining their causes and to establish the roles and responsibilities for environmental damage. Constitution, adopted in 1991 and amended in 2003, Article 35 enshrines the human right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, this article being with article 8 of the European Convention on human rights legal basis for any legal action. All art. 35 enshrines natural and legal obligation to take necessary measures to protect and improve the environment.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 1992 it produced the first official document that sets national objectives for the protection and sustainable conservation of the environment, the National Environmental Protection Strategy, updated in 1996 and 2002 in accordance with the relevant Community provisions. Divided into two parts, the National Environment Strategy pursues an

overview of the main natural resources and elements on the economic and environmental factors as well as an overview of the main environmental resources, priorities and objectives in the short, medium and term. Since 1996, one can find an adequate national strategy with the community regarding the principles, priorities and objectives in the environmental field. The principles on which our country's environmental policy are:

- these principles have been implemented in environmental policy in Romania, due to correlation of legislation with the *acquis communautaire*, as stipulated in article 174 of the EC Treaty on the Community's environmental policy in this regard, see P. Prisecaru Policies common European Union, Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2004, pg. 226

- precautionary principle - on activities with impact on the environment;

- principle of pollution prevention and environmental risk;

- the principle of conservation of biodiversity, cultural and historical heritage;

- the principle that the polluter and user pays "in the sense that they are obligated to direct payments so that pollute the environment and those who use the natural resources of the environment;

- the principle of stimulating environmental recovery activities (through grants, loans, etc.). Regarding the priorities identified, they reflect both national needs and trends and initiatives globally. These are: maintaining and improving the quality of life and the nature of the existing potential, the maximum cost-benefit ratio; international conventions on environmental protection. National environmental strategies in 1992 and 1996 are the documents which structured national environmental policy until 1999 when it adopted the National Programme for EU Accession. During the period, the national environment is complemented by a series of documents such as environment status report on Romania, the National Waste Management and Hazardous Substances. As of 2000, the start of the accession negotiations to the EU, environmental policy in our country is developing according to the European Commission's strategy for candidate countries under Agenda 2000.

Development strategies of national environmental policy in the pre-accession were outlined according to EU accession priorities and national needs, in conjunction with national priorities. Community initiatives active in national environmental policy are the pre-accession instruments as support programs:

- PHARE program, which is the main instrument for financial and technical assistance, with a role in the implementation of the environmental *acquis* and mobilizing investments in the environment;

- ISPA program, focused on financing environmental infrastructure projects;

- LIFE6 program that funds projects aimed at the protection and preservation of the environment and biodiversity. This program was the precursor of the Cohesion Fund, see, W. Cairns, Introduction EU law Dali Universal Publishing, 2001, page 41. Evolution of environmental policy is reflected both the objectives and priorities and the large number of implementation tools, grouped into three types: legislative (represented existing environmental legislation) technical tools (as environmental quality standards and best available technology) economic financial instruments (represented by LIFE and Cohesion Fund) and supporting tools (which completes standard instruments acting as incentives to adopt environmental protection measures). In order to achieve environmental policy objectives have been created in our country government bodies and institutions new powers in a process called environmental institutionalization.

Central Environmental Authority (created in 1990), has undergone many changes in the organization, functioning and attributions. Lately, there is a prominent widening trend affirmation and strengthening administrative structures towards environmental protection and sustainable management at national level: the National Environmental Protection Agency (established by HG no.1625/2003) Environment Guard (established by Government no.1167/2001) Environmental Fund Administration (established by Law no.73/2000). Also, to international coordination of activities on the environment have created various advisory bodies, ministerial bodies and national structures of international cooperation on environmental issues sector.

Directions: Policy environment and forests is through the 5-way action.

Direction of action I. Environment

Outcomes:

Nature protection and biodiversity conservation, management of Natura 2000.

Help ensure national biosafety framework; Soil and subsoil reclamation of contaminated sites. Waste and hazardous substances. Air quality assessment and improvement, reducing air pollution; Climate change and sustainable growth; Natura 2000 is a European network of protected natural areas created in 1992 from the need to protect nature and maintain natural resources necessary for long-term socio-economic development. Section Natura 2000 in Romania has been realized within the 17609 SMIS - NSRF " National awareness campaign on the importance of biodiversity

conservation in Natura 2000 network in Romania" Expected results: In the field of nature protection and biodiversity conservation; - Ensure effective management of the national network of protected areas; - Providing a favorable conservation status of species and habitats (sustainable use of components of biological diversity, ex situ conservation, control of invasive species); - Modernization of zoos; - Cooperation with international organizations for the formulation, adoption and implementation of regulations on the protection of nature and biodiversity protection; On biological, Ensuring better regulation, control and cooperation in biosafety. In the field of soil and subsoil - Reduce surfaces contaminated sites: - Reduce the effects of natural and anthropogenic geologic hazard. The waste management - Environment and health by generating smaller quantities of waste to be managed sustainably, reducing environmental impact; - Supporting the development of sustainable waste management infrastructure. - Analysis of the impact on the production, use and placing on the market of safe chemicals and the environment, including management of heavy metals; - Training of staff to assess the risk posed by the use of hazardous substances, staff will be responsible for preparing assessment reports, issuing environmental permits, socio-economic analysis; - Increase the number of people receiving integrated waste management systems at affordable cost targets agreed in the Treaty of Accession of Romania to the European Union.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the assessment and improvement of air quality:

- Operationalization and extension of the national air quality monitoring; - Reduce noise and vibration in residential areas. - Prevention and control of industrial pollution. Climate change and sustainable development:-Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the commitments made by Romania under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the Kyoto Protocol and EU level and national socio-economic system to adapt to climate change. Policy coordination on climate change and sustainable development and integration of these policies into the development of all sectoral policies;

- Contribution to achieving the target of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases assumed in Europe 2020 Strategy. Direction of action: II. Management of water resources and flood risk. Through this course of action ensures the sustainable management of water resources, flood protection, monitoring the hydro -meteorological appropriate. Improving the legal framework, methodologies, rules and regulations for water management, hydrology, to achieve a sustainable management in the

national and international harmonization with EU requirements. Outcomes: Spatial water protection; Emergency Management (caused by extreme hydrometeorological conditions, pollution, accidents hydraulic structures) ; Risk management associated hydraulic structures. Coordination of inspection and water management at national level.

Support for infrastructure development in the water sector through implementation of the National Infrastructure Development. Expected results:

- Achieving good water status;
- Providing water and sanitation services at affordable rates for the population;
- Protection of Romanian coastline against erosion and ensure integrated management of the coastal zone;
- Informing the public and policy makers to prevent and / or mitigate the damage caused dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena;
- Proficiency in hydro-meteorological phenomena to base policy and strategy in the management of water resources;
- Protection of the population against the negative effects of floods, flood, drought, accidental pollution of water courses;
- Increased safety hydraulic structures and inform decision makers;
- Hydrographic basins in accordance with the principles of sustainable development;
- Regulation, control and coordination of water management at national level.

Direction of action: III. System Administration National Weather

Through this course of action ensures meteorological watch, issuing forecasts, warnings and alerts in order to inform the population and policy makers to prevent and/or mitigate the effects due to dangerous weather phenomena.

Outcomes:

The major objective is to ensure protection of life and goods, by conducting unified supervision and weather information. Through this course of action, the National Weather data transmission and provides specific information to the Ministry of Environment and Forests to implement policies and development strategies, medium or long term, in various areas, such as administrative and operational decisions, socio - economic or technical.

Expected results:

- Ensuring vigil weather issuing forecasts, warnings and alerts;

- Meteorological information institutions responsible for air navigation, river, sea and the institutions of central and local;
- Thorough research of weather and climate phenomena;
- Ensuring international trade data in accordance with its obligations under the World Meteorological Organization;
- Fund Administration National Meteorological Data.

Direction of action: IV. Protection and sustainable management of forests and wildlife hunting.

By the fourth course of action ensures the sustainable management of forests and wildlife hunting in order to increase their contribution to improving quality of life and ensuring sustainable development Outcomes:

Expanding the national forest and ensure its integrity; Improving forest management; Sustainable use of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. Sustainable forest management and protection of biodiversity in forest ecosystems. Forest resource assessment and monitoring

Expected results:

- Establish national forest inventory and forest monitoring system operation (levels I and II) of the new European forest monitoring system FUTMON;
- Provide compensation to forest owners for loss of income due to restrictions imposed by compliance with forestry regime and/or protected natural areas;
- Reducing illegal logging of trees in the national forest;
- Accessibility forest by forest road construction works of new and the rehabilitation, strengthening, rehabilitation and construction of forest roads.

Direction of action: V. Modernization and strengthening administrative capacity in the environment.

Outcomes:

Develop and implement internal mechanisms of human resource management performance to transform environmental administration system a strong and flexible body.

Educating and raising awareness among the people and businesses on the importance of environmental issues. Institutional capacity to absorb EU funds in the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment. Creating effective mechanisms to improve cooperation between authorities in order to better environmental regulations.

CONCLUSIONS

Priorities of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as they assumed the government program in strategic documents such as the National Development Plan, Sectoral Operational Programme "Environment" or National Reform Programme are: 1) Improvement of the environment and reduce the gap to other EU Member States and among developing regions; 2) Prevention and mitigation of natural disasters to increase the safety of citizens; 3) Improving the management of waste and hazardous substances at the national level; 4) Support and promotion of energy from renewable sources, renewable and clean; 5) Promoting sustainable growth, the economy in terms of efficient use of resources and the environment; 6) The protection and conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage in accordance with the regulations and management plans and sustainable development principles; 7) Reducing pollution and improving air quality; 8) Prevent and minimize the negative effects of climate change, the implementation of measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; 9) Stimulate initiatives and investments in environmental protection through economic and fiscal instruments and increased absorption of EU funds by the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment; 10) Expansion of forests, combating deforestation and illegal logging of timber; 11) Apply the principles of sustainable development into sectoral policies; 12) Modernization and strengthening administrative capacity in the environment.

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