

Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova at the 16th Meeting of the  
OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
**“Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area:**  
**Increasing security and protecting the environment”**  
**(19-21 May 2008)**

Mr. Moderator,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentleman,

On behalf of this Delegation I would like to express our appreciation to the Finnish Chairmanship and to the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the preparation of the Forum, as well as the host country for excellent conditions provided for this event. I would wish also to thank the OSCE for the support offered to our representatives.

We share the views that appropriate coordination of multilateral efforts aimed at ensuring necessary cooperation among all stakeholders on the issue of securing and protecting the environment of the maritime and inland waterways is of indisputable relevance. We duly consider that OSCE could bring added value to existing efforts in this sense, by contributing to strengthening and stimulating existing potential. Strengthening the partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and regional organizations could contribute to integrating efforts towards a more effective implementation of the relevant international conventions.

The Republic of Moldova is a State Party to all UNECE Conventions related to Economic and Environmental Forum, as well as to the [Aarhus Convention](#). The ratification of this Convention meant the country became more likely to attract international funding. In this way, was created Environmental Information Centre. To fulfill its obligation under the [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#) the country has signed a range of bilateral agreements with neighboring countries in the field of transboundary water resources protection. During recent years amendments have been introduced to the Water Code following to the provisions of the Convention. The National Concept for Water Resources for 2003 – 2010 identified possible action to help advance efficient water management. Necessity of development of a new water strategy is caused by the social and economic conditions in the country as well as the new international principles, approaches and methods for water resources planning and management. The responsibility for the implementation of the Espoo [Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context](#) is also under the Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources. Moldova actively participated in the elaboration of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Protocol) signed at the fifth Kiev Conference in 2003. In order to proceed with SEA implementation, the country plans to: identify criteria for SEA, to establish procedure for conducting a SEA and to introduce

the necessary changes in the current legislation. The [Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents](#) was ratified in 1993. In this regard, with the support of Germany, we have: identified facility that could be potentially sources of environmental pollution; elaborated criteria for evaluating the risks of five types of industrial activities; created a data base for major pollution sources.

The issues of interest in these fields remain the following:

- enhancing public participation in environmental decision making procedures;
- improvement of the process decision making strategic planning through establishment of the national system on SEA (legal mechanism for SEA implementation);
- improvement the monitoring system of Danube river and transboundary rivers - Prut and Nistru, as well as of the transboundary aspects of cooperation in the region, and, what is important, awareness of all actors in the case of high pollution.

Mr. Moderator,

Maritime and inland waterways define, to a large extent, economic development of the countries. Enhancing the cooperation to increase the access to maritime and inland water communications, to improve security and environmental protection are important for the Republic of Moldova as well.

The territory of Moldova embraces Nistru and Prut, both of which are flows of international importance, as classified by European *Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance*. Fluvial navigation channels have a total length of only 558 km. It is well known that, protracted conflict in the East of the country negatively impact the water transport branch. A part of infrastructure was seized by the separatist regime. In this context, we mention the Moldovan President's initiatives on strengthening confidence and security between both banks of the Nistru River and creation of the 8 relevant working groups. We appreciate the mediator's and observer's, in the Transnistrian conflict settlement format, support in this sense.

Economic stabilization and further development relatively improved the situation and created premises for further fluvial transport development. Draft *Concept of water transport development* was elaborated, aiming to highlight the issues of navigation security, environmental security, to develop legal and normative background and provide training for qualified specialists. The implementation of this Concept will allow to integrate national system of inland water transport into international transport system, to improve the level of security on inland water channels.

The building of International Free Port Giurgiulesti on the Danube River is of great importance for national economy. It opens the access to the Black Sea – and, thus, to international maritime ways. Moldovan authorities undertook a range of measures necessary to ensure navigation and environmental security. The Moldovan Government adopted the Port rules and procedures for International Free Port Giurgiulesti, as well as Security Plan in accordance with IMO standards, and Plan of urgent actions in case of leak of hydrocarbons. Also, the terminal of the Port was supplied with all necessary equipment for emergency situations.

With the view to regulate the navigation along Nistru and Prut rivers, the Republic of Moldova signed the bilateral agreements on inland waterways with the neighbouring countries Romania (in 2005) and Ukraine (2006). Unfortunately, due to shoaling and a range of other reasons the Nistru and Prut Rivers are just partially navigable.

We underline the importance of using Nistru water resources in compliance with the principles of International Water Law and on the basis of mutual respect and constructive collaboration. Such an approach is of particular relevance with regard to construction of Novodnestrovsk Hydro-accumulation station. We hope that UNECE and OSCE projects “Nistru-2” and “Nistru-3” will help in Nistru water resource management. These projects provide an opportunity to create legal and organizational framework for Moldovan-Ukrainian cooperation in ensuring sustainable use and protection of Nistru River basin.

We mention Moldova’s activity within ENVSEC Initiative since 2005. Within the framework of ENVSEC an Overview of basic environmental and security problems for Moldova was jointly prepared by ministries, state institutions, NGOs, as well as Ukrainian partners.

We consider it will be beneficial if OSCE fosters the coordination of activities directed towards facilitating joint action of states, such as:

- Trans-boundary waterways’ management, focused on their sustainable use and directed towards enhancing access to maritime and inland water communications;
- National legislation adjustment to international standards;
- Diminishing possible hazards during transportation of oil products;
- Larger use of energy-saving means of transport.

All about mentioned will contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources. We consider that the OSCE and its field missions should keep the environmental and waterways security issues on their development assistance agenda. Taking this opportunity we express our readiness for further cooperation with the OSCE in the security and environmental fields and wish the Forum successful deliberations and a positive outcome.

Thank you