

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN ROMANIA AS A MEMBER STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Andrei Stănișoară Ph. D Student
University of Craiova
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Craiova, Romania**

Abstract: Towards the identified priorities by the environmental policy, this one reflects not only the national needs, but also the existing tendencies and initiatives on the global and european plan, these being: maintaining and improving public health and quality of life; maintaining and improving the existing potential of nature; the defense against disasters and natural accidents; maximum cost-benefit ratio; the compliance programs and international convention regarding environmental protection.

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1. BRIEF REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In Romania, the environment has emerged as a self-contained area of national policy in 1991, when it was first established former Ministry of Environment, in 1992 produced the first document was officially defined national objectives in the field - "National Strategy Environmental Protection "[1], updated in 1996 and 2002. Strategy is structured in two parts: (1) an overview of key natural resources, elements of the economic and environmental factors, and (2) proper strategy itself, ie general environmental principles, priorities, goals short, medium and long term. since 1996 can be observed adequacy of the national strategy with the community regarding the principles, priorities and objectives. Such principles are followed: conservation and improvement of human health, sustainable development, pollution prevention, conservation of biodiversity, conservation of cultural and historical heritage "principle" polluter pays "Recovery stimulation of the environment (through grants, low interest loans, etc.)

Researching and analyzing environmental objectives set I found that they were divided into short-term objectives (until 2000), medium (until 2005) and long term (2020).

Strategies of 1992 and 1996 are the documents which was structured national environmental policy until 1999, when it was adopted National Programme for Accession to the EU. starting in 1999 and continuing annually until 2003, national environmental strategy complemented by a series of additional documents, such as - Report on the state of the environment in Romania, which corresponded to the first part of the Strategy for Environmental Protection and completed by a detailed analysis of

the quality of the main environmental factors: air quality, quality of rainfall, surface and ground water condition, soil condition, forests, waste management, noise situation etc.

National Strategy for Environmental Protection was added in 2002, "National Waste Management Strategy" that meets a pressing need in this area and was first addressed in 2000, this was done by transposing the Framework Directive waste - no. 75/442/EEC, taken into Romanian legislation the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 78/2000, approved and amended in 2001 by Law 426/2001. stages of development strategy are: situation analysis, identification issues, strategic goal setting, evaluating options for achieving the goals and develop a "National Waste Management Plan". This plan, developed by a working group consisting of representatives from industry, ministries, NGOs and ICIM, comprises two parts: 1) overall actions: identify the types of actions needed to implement the strategy and those responsible, deadlines output, estimated costs and potential funding sources, 2) project specific character: it addresses local objectives proposed in the territory.

The plan is adjusted according to the proposals included in regional plans, local and sectoral and proposes measures for the following types of waste: municipal waste, production waste, hazardous waste and waste covered by specific legislation. currently, Plan is in the process of updating a project already submitted for consultation to stakeholders (ministries, employers and professional associations, representatives of civil society – NGOs).

Once in 2000 and accession negotiations, environmental policy developed under the European Commission's strategy for candidate countries in Agenda 2000. Thus, to align national environmental policies and objectives of Community standards, Romania had to identify priority areas for action, establish key objectives to be achieved by accession and establish deadlines for adoption, transposition and implementation of the *acquis* environment. Priorities identified by the Commission for Romania related to air pollution, water pollution and waste management.

In 2002 opened accession negotiations on Chapter 22 - Environmental Protection, which Romania closed in 2004. Also in 2002, the European Commission developed a special document to help Romania and Bulgaria in their efforts to join the EU in 2007 and to supplement financial assistance - and "Roadmap for Romania and Bulgaria" (Roadmap for Romania was focused on administrative and legal, economic reform and the adoption of the *acquis* chapters that were based on "Annual Report on the Progress of Romania to join the European Union - 2002).

Environmental issues to which we referred envisioned capacity to implement environmental legislation adopted and interministerial coordination in environmental issues, to promote sustainable development and environmental policy transformation transversal policy. in this regard are outlined medium and long term objectives that respond to specific problems. Thus, in the short term, the main problems identified are: making an overall assessment to identify existing needs, developing implementation plans completed financing strategies, improving administrative capacity to implement the *acquis* by raising and training appropriate to the level central, regional and local environmental legislation by preparing stakeholder consultation and detailed assessment of implementation costs and adopt horizontal legislation on environmental impact assessment and access to information "[1], strengthening structures and mechanisms involved in the implementation of environmental into other sectoral policies.

In the long term, the matter under consideration relates to continue transposition of EU laws, the implementation of already adopted and to strengthen the

administrative structures necessary to fully implement the environmental acquis. These recommendations are thoroughly analyzed in the report on progress in preparing for accession to the European Union from September 2002 - June 2003, which includes assessment of progress made towards their implementation in the following year.

Legal basis of environmental policy in Romania is the mainly implementation of environmental acquis, ie horizontal and sectoral legislation governing environmental policy of the European Union. Environmental acquis sectoral reality structured on the following areas of air, waste management, water quality, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk management, chemicals and genetically modified organisms, noise pollution, civil protection and nuclear safety.

A particular aspect of the transposition of sectoral legislation is the request by Romania, transition periods, lasting from 3 to 15 years and required due to the high cost evaluation posed as follows: a period of transition air quality, 3 on waste management, 4 and 3 water quality in industrial pollution and risk management.

2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The main institutional actors in Romania environmental policy are the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD), Ministry of European Integration (MEI) and the Romanian Parliament. MESD is directly responsible for initiating national environmental strategies and the framework for their implementation, consisting of three directions: Division "Agriculture and Forestry" Department "Water" and Department "Environment" - of which only the last two are of interest major national environmental policy. these directions are subordinated Environmental Protection Inspectorate (EPI), local units (at county level) that indicates local needs, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the policy at this level.

Everything is subordinated MESD and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (ARBDD) and the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) who also supporting role in the development of environmental policy.

MESD coordinated and providing a range of data and analyzes necessary further measures, four research institutes: National Institute of Research and Development for Environmental Protection (NIMRD - ICIM), National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD), Institute National Research and Development "Danube Delta" (INCDD) and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. An important role in directing the legislative process plays MEI through its responsibility in the negotiation process which is manifested by operation of Subcommittee Romania - EU Association no. 6 "Transport, Trans-European Networks, Energy and Environment", which analyzes and evaluates progress. Other ministries involved in environmental policy are the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Housing and the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, which supports the consultation of the parties Interested in adopting new legislation. thus initiated legislative proposals go to Parliament for approval, which are subject to discussion in the various specialized committees.

3. COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Development strategies of national environmental policy were outlined in the priorities of EU and national needs, in conjunction with national priorities. Thus, we can talk about extensions of community and national initiatives and initiatives

consistent international environmental strategies. Community initiatives active in national environmental policy were the pre-accession instruments Phare, ISPA, and LIFE, compliance with international strategies is given by Agenda 21 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and compliance with the national program "Health for Romania".

Phare. Analyzing the two components of the villages, institutional development and investment support, the program (created in 1989) was the main instrument of financial and technical assistance to countries acceding and contributed to the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* and leveraging investments in environment (among other areas). In Romania, Phare program is active in 1998 with three active components in the environment - Phare "National" Phare "Cross-border Cooperation" and Phare "Economic and social cohesion." national targets for each year of operation progresses from preparing the adoption of the *acquis communautaire* practical issues of implementation, as follows:

-PHARE 1M8 - strengthening institutional and administrative capacity in Romania to develop an environmental policy capable of implementing the *acquis* by projects relating to: providing technical assistance to strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity to develop an environmental policy capable of implementing the environmental *acquis*, strengthening environmental protection authorities to implement laws and strategies in the water sector, strengthening institutional and administrative capacity of environmental management policy in line with the *acquis communautaire*;

- PHARE 2000 - implementation of environmental *acquis* by: technical assistance to ensure compliance with the Directive environmental impact assessment, develop a strategy for legislative approximation environment with special reference to financial mechanisms, technical assistance to strengthen local EPIs and developing EPIs regional pilot project to monitor air quality in Bucharest;

- PHARE 2001 - technical assistance for the implementation of environmental policies in Romania by: assistance in implementing the environmental *acquis* in the field of waste management, implementation of the Water Framework Directive on pilot basins level, assessing environmental costs and investment plans, Support for the Implementation of the IPPC Directive on integrated pollution prevention and control, support for the project as such;

- PHARE 2002 - technical assistance for the transposition and implementation of the environmental *acquis* in the field of chemicals, industrial pollution control and risk management, air and water; assistance in the field of chemicals to improve the legal framework and its application, assistance in implementing VOC Directives (on emissions of volatile organic compounds), LCP (Large Combustion plants) and Seveso II (relating to industrial accidents and risk prevention), improving the National Network of Air Quality Monitoring, establishing an information system and a database for water management in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

ISPA

Regarding the ISPA program, this is a pre-accession structural instrument created in 1999 and operational in 2000, preceding the Cohesion Fund and focusing on financing infrastructure projects in the fields of environment and transport. For environmental projects, ISPA has two courses of action (the existing three): (1) familiarity with EU policies and procedures, (2) aligning with Community environmental standards. In Romania, environmental infrastructure is a priority of national policy in the field, especially in terms of infrastructure and waste water (and

air pollution). Thus, national environmental priorities of ISPA are: water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment, urban waste management - especially green ramps storage, collection systems and recycling, improving air quality through the use of technology ecological urban home heating.

Please note that projects funded under this program must not only meet these priorities, but also to have capacity of at least 20% financing, to attract local funds and demonstrate contribution to improving environmental quality in Romania.

LIFE

Another community support program is LIFE program, which with its two components, LIFE - Environment and LIFE-Nature, became operational in Romania since 1999 and financed projects addressed specific local improvement, protection or preservation of quality Environment (LIFE Environment) and biodiversity (LIFE Nature).

If projects within "nature" intended to protect various ecosystems and plant and animal species within the environmental component were carried out innovative projects Warning System in dangerous phenomena, development of operational systems for studying, monitoring and forecasting the impact pollution awareness in selective pre household waste. Such projects will support the infrastructure of ISPA measures and lead to national environmental objectives.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive UN action (UN) adopted in 1992 to reduce the effects of human impact on the environment and to implement the principles of sustainable development and local and signed by 178 countries, including Romania. It focuses on the participation of local communities and provide a means of integrating social, economic, cultural and environmental protection, whilst emphasizing the role of education in developing a positive attitude towards the environment and the responsible use of natural resources.

In Romania, the local strategy was implemented first in nine pilot cities (Ploiesti, Galati, Targu Mures, Baia Mare, Iasi forthe Giurgiu, Oradea and Ciuc), the level of which were established: (a) permanent secretariat within municipalities and (b) working groups on economic, social and environmental. Strategy was extended to 40 cities in 2002, having performed the National Forum "Sustainable development of local communities, the path to European integration", and later in other cities.

GEF (Global Environment Facility). The international character of national environmental policy was reflected and Romania joined the Global Environment Facility in 1994. This feature is actually an instrument adopted in 1991 (and revamped in 1992, following the Rio Summit) to support global financial environment by creating a special fund and its allocation to global projects that consider preserving biodiversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants, desertification, protection of international waters and the ozone layer. GEF projects are implemented through UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and the World Bank / are undertaken by public or private organizations and must meet two criteria: (they reflect national and regional priorities and have the support of the country / countries involved, and / (2) to help improve the environmental situation globally. Romania implemented so far 20 GEF projects, 3 projects of national and 12 regional projects, mostly related to protection of the Black Sea and Danube.

The "Clean Romania" was released in April 2002 by the Government and outlines efforts to improve the environmental situation and national integration of the principles of Community environmental policy. Important to note is that the "Clean

Romania" is a strategy and initiative national, which aims not only to ensure environmental protection and conservation of natural resources, but also "increase education and awareness on achieving these objectives." Therefore, its objectives are, "the protection and conservation of natural and environmental built in compliance with the requirements of sustainable development, ensuring / integrated waste management; raising awareness education in the spirit of environmental protection.

This strategy, of its content, has a character that is not reformative d, only focus on education and empowering people, but also that it j run through promoting public-private partnerships and collaboration with authorities and local society civil. Specifically, the partners considered are: ministries, associations of national associations of environmental activities, higher education institutes, government cloud environment organizations, children and youth organizations etc. Thus, Romania meet EU criticism about the consultation and involvement of stakeholders in development: environmental policy implementation and create a strategy to promote environmental transversality most important sectors of economic, social.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion is required following a review of the environmental policy of the novel is that by the year 2003 to transpose the most part, the *acquis communautaire* into national legislation. On its implementation and the creation of institutional and human resources appropriate to achieve this apparent intention of answering critics EU but progress in this direction can not be achieved with involve high financial costs. The fact that Romania, like Bulgaria d were detached from the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe and that they join the EU in 2007, compared to 2004 can be seen as a positive step in terms of developing appropriate structures for environmental policy implementation d infrastructure and environment, by increasing financial assistance of the EU pre-accession funds PHARE and ISPA LIFE.

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