

The Environment and the Relative Protection Programs



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Abstract. *The material is presenting, under an adequate structure, an analysis of the environment of Romania. The starting point of the study is given by the natural conditions, influenced by the geographic location of Romania on the globe, evidencing the main characteristics (relief, hydrographic basin, climate, flora and fauna etc.). Afterwards, the material is pointing out the concerns as well as certain outcomes achieved in our country in the field of the environment protection. Particularly, there is the concern regarding the durable development which is emphasized, along with the part that the environment protection should play under the circumstances. Then, the material is evidencing the essence of the policies concerning the environment protection as well as the transitory steps implied in this field by the adhesion of Romania to the European Union.*

Key words: environment; quality; protection; strategy; environment policy; improvement; wastes; pollution.



1. General aspects

The natural environment of Romania is strongly influenced by the location of Romania on the globe and the continent as well, which generates: the belonging to the *transitory continental temperate climate*, of the central European kind; the complementary character as a feature arising from the diversity of the relief forms and, implicitly, of the natural resources which people exploited and put in circulation; the inhabitation, humanization degree is maximum, the permanent dwellings being spread from the Danube Delta up to altitudes of 1,000-1,200 m in the mountains, while the seasonal ones developed even up to 1800 m altitude.

The display of the Romania relief is almost concentric. In the very center there is a plateau unit of an average height of 500 m (the Hillock Depression of Transylvania), around which there are chains of medium mountains exceeding 2,000 m only locally.

Towards the outer side but, partially, also towards the Transylvania Plateau, there are the Sub Carpathian Hills while towards the western side there are the Western Hills followed by the great plateaus (Plateau of Moldavia, Getic Plateau and Plateau of Dobrogea).

The lowest step is formed by the Romanian Plain and the Western Plain of the country to which the river

meadows of the Danube and Siret, as well as the Danube Delta are to be added.

The relief of Romania has varied appearance but, meantime, symmetrical: mountains, hills, plateaus, plains and everglades, all of them displayed from the center towards the borders, as almost concentric steps, ever lower. All of them are easily communicating with one another through a radial hydrographic network, with springs located in the Carpathian Mountains and river mouths in the Danube or Tisa.

In Romania, the concerns as to the environment protection, the protection of the natural beauties as well as to preventing the abusive exploitation of the nature are not of recent date. Thus, the first decades of the 20th century have marked the attraction into this sphere of activities of a number of scientists, mainly biologists and geographers so that, by the opportunity given by the first Congress of the naturalists of Romania (held at Cluj in 1928), it has been recommended that a special law is adopted meant to secure the preservation of the natural treasures of Romania. As a consequence, by July 7th, 1930, the “The Law for the protection of the monuments of the nature” has been promulgated followed one year later by the setting up of “the Commission for safeguarding the monuments of the nature” which, as from the year 1954, functioned near the Romanian Academy.

Afterwards, there are other laws which have been adopted, mainly for specific fields (waters, soil, forests etc.), an overall regulation being added in the form of the “Law concerning the environment protection” adopted in 1973. Although quite exhaustive, stipulating basically the steps implied by the protection and preservation of the environment, in fact this law was enforced sporadically and to an insignificant extent only, the organism in charge with its enforcement playing a merely formal part.

During the years preceding the revolution of 1989, a number of laws being adopted for various fields (The waters law, The roads law, The landed fund law, The law concerning the protection of the national-cultural patrimony, etc.) included also provisions concerning the environment protection.

Within the general frame of the reform during the transition period, regulations concerning this subject are found again in the new law of the environment protection, adopted in 1995, as well as in the national strategy conceived for this field in 1996. These normative acts

have been updated and improved during the last past years when a number of other laws concerning the waters, the wastes and the bio-diversity protection have been adopted, so that presently a strategy of a durable development in Romania, aiming as horizon the year 2020, is about to be finalized.

The issues concerning the environment protection are focused by certain international institutions, which are watching the activity carried out in this field by the countries. It is to be noted the fact that, as a result of the steps which have been taken, mainly these 8-10 years, Romania is recording certain positive outcomes which are placing it in front of other countries both from Europe and other continents. In its position of country member of the European Union, for Romania it is of utmost importance the fact that the national legislation has transposed the most part of the community *acquis* which it kept on implementing.

2. The global quality of the environment in Romania

In Romania the quality is affected by the negative impact of certain economic activities, mainly industrial processes, production of thermo and electric energy, un-proper exploitation of certain natural resources, vehicles traffic, a technical and urbanistic infrastructure not correlated with the development of human habitats, as well as the trans-frontier pollution.

A negative impact on the environment is given by certain industrial branches, mainly as far as the *air pollution* is concerned: the thermo-energetic industry, because the emission of effluents into the atmosphere, such as the sulphur dioxide, powders and carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide; the siderurgical industry by the large number of eliminated gases and the big quantities of dust containing noxious substances; the building materials industry, where the key-polluting agents are the nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and dust (the cement factories, generating 500 tons of cement dust per year); the mining industry, a branch which is affecting the environment through its extracting operations, the ores and minerals manufacture, the storage of the wastes as well as through the transportation infrastructure; the chemical and petrochemical industry, through the emissions into the atmosphere which have also a negative impact on the environment etc.

The concentration of polluting substances in the air exceeded frequently the maximum allowed concentration in locations such as: Zlatna, mining center and non-ferrous metallurgy center (both as for powders in suspension and subject of sedimentation as well as for sulphur dioxide), Rovinari and Motru, centers of the quarry and mine extraction of lignite (mainly as for powders subject of sedimentation), Turceni, Rogojelu, Doicesti, places where there are thermo-centrals coal based functioning (powders subject of sedimentation also), Baia Mare, the major center of the non-ferrous metallurgy of the country (mainly as for cadmium and lead), Copsa Mică (as for cadmium, lead and their compounds), Galati, the largest center of the siderurgical industry (mainly as for powders subject of sedimentation), Bicaz, Tască-Bicaz și Comarnic, places locating cement factories (as for powders in suspension and powders subject of sedimentation) etc.

Another major polluting factor for all the cities of the country as well as for the public roads consists of the vehicles circulation (thorough emissions of gases), which gets intensified as from 1990 on, as a result of the spectacular increase of the cars number and, mainly, due to the fact that many of the vehicles being brought into the circulation are, in fact, old and polluting vehicles leading meantime to a *phonic pollution* as well.

The hydrographic network and the water quality on the Romanian territory is radially disposed as against the mountains crown.

The total length of the rivers (excepting the flows of temporary leakage) counts for about 66,000 kms, the average density of the hydrographic network counting for about 0.25 kms/km². The density of the hydrographic network shows a vertical division into zones, varying from 0 km/km² at the plains zone, up to 1.4 kms/km² at the mountains zone.

On the area of 237,500 kms of the territory of Romania, there are more than 4,000 individualized rivers which have the receiving drainage basin of a surface bigger than 10 kms².

The concentric disposal of the main forms of relief as against the Carpathian Mountains, let them be the main watershed, divided, due to the tectonics, in three important corridors: Someș, Mureș și Olt, which are draining the internal van of the Transylvania basin towards the outer zones of the mountains.

The Danube is collecting almost the entire flowing waters network from our country.

The Black Sea is a non-typical sea, mainly due to a lower salinity (17‰) as comparatively with the ocean one (over 34‰), as well as due to the big quantity of sulphurated hydrogen which is found below the level of 180-200 m. The main polluting agent of the marine environment within the zone of the western continental plateau of the Black Sea is given by the liquid and solid debit of the Danube which brings into the marine basin an abnormal quantity of microelements and nutrients as a result of draining large continental surfaces (about 817,000 kms²), intensely polluted.

As far as the surface *water quality* is concerned, it must be underlined that out of the total length of the river flows being under surveillance in 2006, about 92,5% observed the quality conditions as stipulated by the legislated standards, the balance being considered as polluted waters. The developments during the period 1990-2006 underlined the decrease of the river flows having sectors of polluted water, in parallel with the increase of the weight of the rivers of 1st category water. This dynamics is reflecting the diminishing of the punctiform emissions, mainly in industry and agriculture, as a direct result of cutting down the economic activity but also as a result of applying more extensive steps of protection as far as the water quality is concerned, as comparatively with the previous period, before 1989.

In 2006, the 1st category waters, fit to drink, counted with a weight of 64.1%, those of 2nd category, needed by piscicultural arrangements and urbanistic purposes counted for 21.8% while those of 3rd category, fit for irrigations and industrial purposes counted 7.5%. Nevertheless, there are certain sectors of water flows, among which Tisa, Someș, Crisuri, Mureș, Olt, Argeș, Ialomița, Siret, Prut, mainly downstream industrial centers, which are polluted, basically because the residual non-treated waters, overflowed by the respective enterprises.

As far as the phreatic waters are concerned, there are certain areas within the rural space, where relatively high concentrations of nitrogen and pesticides (DTT and HCH) still persist.

The soil quality is affected by different injurious processes and phenomena, both natural and atropic, which exercise their influence on about 11 million ha agricultural land (out of which, approximately 7 million ha arable land) and about 4 million ha forestry land.

The biggest part of the *agricultural soils* has been affected, at the level of the year 2007, by one or several

injurious phenomena, such as: excessive draught (which affected almost the entire agricultural surface); soil erosion through water (6,300 thousand ha are subject of this process); low and very low content of phosphorous and nitrogen (about 6,400 thousand ha), strong and moderate acidity (3,500 thousand ha), compact soils due to un-proper (6,300 thousand ha), chemical pollution of the soil with pesticides, crude and other industrial wastes (about 900 thousand ha) etc.

On the *forests quality*, “the green lung of the country” (which, with a weight of about 26,3% of the total surface, is classified in the category of countries with medium resources), besides certain causes of biological nature (one of them consisting of the difoliage degree, namely the degree of forests drying, indicator which, in 1991, counted below)⁽¹⁾, a negative impact has been involved by certain inadequate policies carried out within the pervious periods. We are talking here, firstly, about the rapacious exploitation of the forestry fund during the last half century (policy which keeps on being run presently as well), by cropping quantities of wooden mass bigger than the exploitation capacity of the forests, as set up by forest arrangements, implying negative effects of ecosystems degradation (erosions or land sliding which tend to get generalized, decrease of the water debits and phreatic water sheet, dramatic climatic alterations, with extended draught over several successive years).

Fighting the forbidden grubbing, initiating a national program of reforestation, these are representing the basic conditions for the protection of the only one ecosystem which secures the natural balance of the entire country.

Wastes management. One of most critical issues of the environment protection is given by the wastes management. As a result of the consumption increase but also as a result of the old technologies and machinery of the industry, in Romania there are millions of tons of wastes being produced each year.

Thus, in 2006, the total quantity of solid wastes being generated counted for 380.2 million tons of which, industrial and agricultural wastes represented 27.8 million tons, urban wastes 7.9 million tons and the mining sterile 344.5 million tons, arising mostly from the activities of lignite extraction.

However, there is a tendency of decreasing the amount of dangerous wastes to be noted for the last years, these representing in 2006, 2.5 million tons (1% of the total general wastes), the biggest quantities being generated

by the extractive industry (1,905 thousand tons), chemical industry (135 thousand tons), metallurgical industry (126 thousand tons), or originating in shabby oils (117 thousand tons), in the crude refining (78 thousand tons), etc.

As to the degree of reevaluating the wastes, while it is exceeding 80% for the metallic, glass, wood, paper, textiles, plastics wastes, a low degree of reevaluating is to be considered for petroleum wastes, the mining extractions wastes and residual mud.

The storage of the industrial wastes is generating particular problems to the environment, mainly in the case of the sterile storages, both by the risk as to the stability and the negative direct impact on the soil (occupying the lands and their degradation), the pollution of the surface and underground waters, the soil pollution. Meantime, there are frequent situations when the garbage is stored uncontrollable, in the neighborhood of human habitats and surface waters, without taking the adequate steps for the environment protection.

3. Environment protection

In the frame of the policy meant to secure a durable human development, after the year 1989, in Romania the selection of the priorities for action has been taken into consideration and the required legislative acts have been initiated aiming the environment protection and conservation. The targets aimed the achievement of the preservation of conditions for the people health, avoiding the pollution through preventing steps, the preservation of the biodiversity, the protection against the natural disasters and against the accidents, as well as the connection to the provisions of the international Conventions and Programs.

The strategy for the environment protection drawn up in Romania is based on the examination of the relationship between the economic development and the environment quality, a series of laws, steps and programs being adopted in this respect, aiming major aspects such as: the arrangement of the hydrographic basins in order to prevent the negative events associated to floods, land sliding, streaming etc., an adequate use of the lands even by giving back the natural vocation to those which got inadequate uses; the rational exploitation of the soil and underground resources, in accordance with the maintenance of the balance between the natural processes

and the human life requirements; preventing and fighting all the polluting phenomena by eliminating or reducing the generating causes, by introducing non/polluting technologies, by using equipments and installations for eliminating or reducing the noxious substances etc.

In fact, Romania is one of the first countries which adopted a *National Strategy for a Durable Development*, in 1999, this one being in accordance with the regulations in the filed in force at the European and world-wise level, which aims absolutely all the fields of the social and economic life.

In order to achieve the forecasted targets, annually there is a series of *expenses for the environment protection*, which are made in the form of investments and current spending, carried out by both un-specialized producers and specialized producers or the local public administration.

The total expenses at the national level, for activities of environment protection, amounted, as an average over the period 2002-2006, 2.85 billion of lei, representing about 1.8% of the GDP, out of which the investments amounted almost 956 million of lei (33.1%) while the internal current spending amounted 1.894 billion of lei (66.7%). By categories of producers, the total expenses went in a proportion of 59% to the un-specialized ones, 32% to the specialized ones and 9% to the local public administration.

On an overall basis, the total expenses for the environment protection, spread over protection activities, underline the fact that they were preponderantly directed towards activities of the wastes management (43.4%), activities concerning the water protection (17.3%), activities concerning the soil and the underground waters protection (17.2%), activities concerning the air protection (13.4%).

The outcome of these expenses is mainly materialized in supplying certain enterprises with equipments, machinery and installation for the environment protection: installations for capturing the dust (the cement industry), installations for capturing, neutralizing and revaluating the gases (thermo-energetic industry, petrochemical industry etc.); installations for water protection and treatment, installations for collecting and treating the wastes etc.

When executing certain works, as auxiliary or secondary activities to their main activity which they are carrying out, some of the un-specialized producers

manage to secure the increase of the quality parameters for their own activity and, meantime, contribute to the improvement of the environment factors. For instance, among these activities, there are the works meant to prevent the floods and remove the effects of high floods, the land protection, the fight against the erosions and banks sliding, the works meant to eliminate the floating material from the lakes surface as well as the wastes stored by the population within areas contiguous to the hydro-energetic arrangements (with benefic effects on the soil and water protection).

The storage of wastes on open ground is representing the most important way to eliminate the industrial wastes, about 70% of the generated wastes being stored annually in Romania likewise. Thus, in the year 2006, the records are showing that there were 935 warehouses of wastes, out of which municipal warehouses (covering a surface of 796 ha) and 683 industrial warehouses (covering a surface of de 11,142 ha), most of them consisting of waste dumps of mining sterile (203 warehouse), pits (121), ordinary industrial warehouses (107) waste dumps of slag/ashes (77), decantation dams (64).

Meantime, we have to underline the efforts undertaken in order to process the residuum generated by the crude extraction in order to let them become consistent with the ecological requirements, by means of imported equipments, which residuum are stored over a 70-80 years period, as slem warehouses, of which there is a crude being extracted and reused.

In the perspective of the forthcoming years, the efforts meant to improve the activities of the environment protection will constitute a top priority concern for all the factors being involved in this field. According to the estimates drawn up by the Department for the Environment Protection, along with European specialists, over the next 20 years Romania should invest more than 20 billion euro in order to maintain the ecological equilibriums as close as possible to the environment standards, which are considered as acceptable in the frame of the European Union.

4. Policies concerning the environment protection

Taking into account the fact that a healthy environment is essential for securing the prosperity and the life quality and considering also the real fact which shows that the damages and the costs generated by the

pollution and by the climatic changes are considerably huge, Romania is promoting the concept of decoupling the impact of the environment degradation from the economical growth, by promoting the efficiency and by interpreting the high standards of the environment protection as a challenge to innovation, to new markets creation and to new business opportunities.

Targeting, as main objective, the consolidation of the administrative structures as basic element for building up a solid system of environment management and the contribution to the durable development, the activity carried out in this field will focus on the following priorities:

- *Integrating the environment policy in the process of drawing up and enforcing the sectorial and regional policies;*
- *Evaluating the actual situation of the environment factors and substantiating a long term strategy of development in the field of environment, regenerating and non-regenerating resources;*
- *Consolidating the institutional capacity in the environment field;*
- *Improving the quality of the environment factors within the urban and rural zones;*
- *Extending the national network of protected areas and natural reservations, the rehabilitation of the coastline infrastructure of the Romanian littoral, the ecological and economic resizing of the Danube;*
- *Consolidating the trans-frontier and international partnership with similar institutions from other countries in order to watch the stage of implementing the international agreements;*
- *Drawing up the strategies for the protection of the citizens against the natural disasters, the ecological accidents and exposures within areas of ecological risk;*
- *Consolidating the partnership with non-governmental organizations in the process of drawing up and enforcing the public policies in the field.*

5. Transitory steps implied by the adhesion of Romania to the European Union as to the environment field

As far as the *environment* is concerned, the European Union directives are very complex and oblige the Member States to sustained efforts in order to line up with the European standards.

The accent goes to the environment issue from the point of view of the air quality, the policy carried out in the field of wastes, the water quality, the industrial pollution and the risk management.

The aspects concerning the air quality are settled by the Directive no. 94/63/CE issued by the European Parliament and by the Council on December 20th, 1994, concerning the control on the emissions of volatile organic compounds arising from the storage and distribution of fuels and their distribution from terminals to the fuel distribution stations, amended by the Regulations no. 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and by the Council of 29.03.2003.

- *Water quality*, generally speaking, and the one of the potable water, particularly, are treated with utmost attention by the European Union. When studying the environment situation, the air and water quality hold a determinant place.

Out of the examination of the directives which are regulating, at the European level, the water quality (Directive 83/13, regarding the limit values and quality targets for the cadmium evacuations, amended by Directive no. 91/692/1991, as well as Directive no. 84/156/1984, regarding the limit values and quality targets for the hexachlorocyclohexan evacuations, amended by Directive no. 91/692/1991), it is resulting that Romania must do huge steps in order to line-up and comply with these requirements.

That is why the European Union approved for Romania a number of derogations, namely: the limit values for cadmium and mercury evacuations into waters are not applying on the territory of Romania until December 31st, 2009 for a number of 23 industrial installations.

By derogation from Directive no. 84/491/CEE of the Council of October 9th, 1984 concerning the limit values and quality targets for the linden evacuations into waters, as stipulated by Directive no. 76/464/CEE and Council of May 4th, 1976, regarding the pollution caused by certain dangerous substances being evacuated into the aquatic environment of the Community, these requirements are not applied on the territory of Romania until December 31st, 2009 for a number of three industrial installations.

Also by derogation, the provisions of Directive no. 86/280/CEE of the Council of June 12th, 1986 concerning the limit values and quality targets for the evacuations of certain dangerous substances, amended by Directive no. 91/692/CEE of the Council of 23.12, are not applied on the territory of Romania until December 31st, 2009, for a number of 21 industrial installations.

Another derogation from the provisions of Directive no. 91/271/CEE of the Council of May 21st, 1991, concerning the treatment of the urban residual waters amended by the Regulations (CE) no. 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and Council of 29.09.2003, the requirements regarding the systems of collecting and treating the urban residual waters are not applying entirely on the territory of Romania until December 31st, 2018, two distinct stages being stipulated in this respect: according to the provisions of the article 3 of the directive, the conformity must be achieved by the urban agglomerations having an inhabitant-equivalent lower than 10,000, by December 31st, 2013; the conformity with the provisions of article 5 (al. 2) of the directive must be achieved by December 31st, 2015 by the urban agglomerations having an inhabitant-equivalent higher than 10,000.

Romania is bound to achieve a gradual extension of the systems of collecting the residual waters in conformity with the following minimum general levels of inhabitants-equivalent: 61% by December 31st, 2010; 69% by December 31st, 2013; 80% by December 31st, 2015.

Romania is bound to achieve a gradual extension of the treatment for the residual waters in conformity with the following minimum general levels of inhabitants-equivalent: 51% by December 31st, 2010; 61% by December 31st, 2013; 77% by December 31st, 2015.

The Directive no. 98/83/CE of the Council from November 3rd, 1998, concerning the quality of water meant to the human consumption, amended by the Regulations (CE) of the European Parliament and Council no. 1882/2003, stipulates concrete steps to which a number of derogations applied taking into consideration the difficulties faced by Romania in the process of lining up rapidly to the directive requirements.

- Romania will have to pay a particular attention as regards the lining up to the provisions of the Regulations (CEE) no. 259/93 of the Council of February 1st, 1993 concerning the *supervision and control of the transports of wastes within, to and from the European Community*, subsequently modified by the Regulations (CE) no. 2557/2001 of the Commission of 28.12.2001.

In this respect, it is stated that until December 31st, 2015, all the transports to Romania, containing wastes meant to recovery, as enumerated by the Regulations (CEE) no. 259/93, must be notified the competent authorities while the relative documents must by

processed in accordance with the European standards.

There is a period of another ten years which is granted to Romania for conforming to the European standards, which means respite large enough, but the steps to be taken and adopted are of a great complexity.

By derogation for the regulations, until December 31st, 2011, the Romanian authorities in charge may draw up objections regarding the transports towards Romania containing certain wastes meant to recovery.

Till December 31st, 2001, Romania may draw up objections regarding the transports towards Romania containing certain wastes meant to recovery, as enumerated by the Annex IV to the Regulations as well as in respect of those transports mean to recovery, which are not stipulated by the annexes to the regulations. This dead line may be prorogated up to latest December 31st, 2005, in accordance with the procedure established by the 91/156/CEE of the Council.

Romania is bound to hit the global target of recovery or incineration in installations of wastes incineration with energy recovery, by December 31st, 2011.

- The steps which have to be undertaken in the field of the *liquid wastes management* of high level of environment pollution are those stipulated by Directives no. 75/442/CEE, no. 1999/31/CE and no. 75/442/CEE.

By derogation from the provisions of Directive no. 1999/31/CE and without causing prejudice to the Directive no. 75/442/CEE of the Council of July 15th, 1975, concerning the wastes as well as to the Directive no. 91/689/CEE of the Council of December 12th, 1991, concerning the dangerous wastes, the requirements regarding the water control and the infiltrations management, the soil and water protection, the control and security of the gases stability are not to apply in Romania for a number of 101 municipal warehouses for wastes which will exist until July 16th, 2017.

Starting with June 30th, 2007, Romania provides the Commission, by June 30th, of each year, a report concerning the gradual enforcement of the directive, as well as its compliance with these intermediary targets.

Romania will put in practice the provisions of the Directive no. 2002/96/CE of the European Parliament and Council of January 27th, 2003, concerning the wastes of electric and electronic equipments, amended by the 2003/108/CE of the European Parliament and Council of 08.12.2003, with one accepted derogation only, namely, the extension until December 31st, 2008, of the dead line set up for an average level of separate collecting of minimum four kilograms per capita for wastes

generated by the population households.

■ The Directive 96/61/CE of the Council of September 24th, 1996 concerning *the prevention and the integrated control of the pollution*, amended by the Regulations (CE) of the European Parliament and Council no. 1882/2003, is regulating the steps which the member states of the European Union should enforce in order to limit, control and eliminate the industrial pollution.

Romania is considered as being a country of “high level of risk in the field of the industrial pollution as it has been marked, still keeping the negative effects of an intense industrialization (forced), un-accompanied by necessary steps meant to reduce the pollution and to control it”.

In this respect, in order to give it the possibility to line up to the European standards, Romania takes the advantage of a series of derogations from the provisions of the European Union directive. These derogative steps are stipulated by timetable, taking into account the level of pollution which the industrial companies from Romania are showing, as well as the costs implied by the reduction of the pollution and the implementation of the risk management.

To this purpose, our country *has negotiated and accepted* a calendar, under the circumstances of the derogation from the provisions of the article 5, alin. (1) of the Directive no. 96/61/CE, according to which the conditions to comply with for authorizing the existing installations are not to apply on the Romanian territory to a number of installations, provided that these installations are operated in conformity with the limit values of emissions, the equivalent parameters or the available technical actions, in accordance with the provisions of the article 9, alin. (3) and (4) of this document.

The fully coordinated authorizations should be released for these installations before October 30th, 2007 and should comprise individual compulsory calendars, in order to achieve the full compliance with the general principles which govern the basic obligations of the

operators, as stipulated by the Directive.

■ The European Union is paying a great attention to *the conditions of incinerating the wastes as well as to the way the emissions into the atmosphere of the polluting agents are controlled*.

It is evaluated that Romania faces difficulties as to the observance of the program included by the Directives no. 2000/76/CE and no. 2001/80/CE of The European Parliament and Council.

Under the circumstances, a series of derogative steps have been accepted, in order to allow Romania to line up, within a reasonable period, to the European Union requirements in this respect.

Starting with March 31st, 2007, Romania is bound to report to the Commission, until the end of each quarter of every calendar year, about the situation of shutting down the non-complying installations for the thermic treatment of the dangerous wastes and the quantities of medical wastes being treated during the previous year.

In case that the Commission, taking into consideration mainly the effects on the environment and the need to reduce the misrepresentation of the competition on the domestic market, involved by the transitory steps, considers that these plans are not enough for reaching the forecasted targets, it notify Romania accordingly. Within the following three months after getting such a notification, Romania must communicate the steps which were taken in order to hit the respective targets.

Subsequently, in case that this time also, by consultations with the Member States the Commission considers that these steps are not enough for reaching the targets, it releases the procedure of sanctioning the non-observance of the obligations resulting from the quality of member state, in accordance with the article III-360 of the European Constitution.

Note

⁽¹⁾ According to a number of surveys performed in 1991 within the European countries, the defoliation process of the forest in Romania represented below 19% drying degree, which place Romania on a better position as comparatively other countries such as Belgium, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Hungary,

Greece, Holland (10-25% drying degree) or United Kingdom, Poland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Russia, Germany, Lithuania (over 25%) – See Mircea Bulgaru: „Mileniul III, Disperare și Speranță”, Editura Revista Română de Statistică, p. 337.