

Environment Protection and Implementation of its Policies in Romania

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***Abstract.** In its step European Union Starts from the idea there is no contradiction between economic growth and maintaining an acceptable qualitative level of environment. That's whip the measures of environment integration amoug the economic and politic activities must action together in order to reduce pollution and improve economy's function.*

In conclusion, the best strategy for environment integration in to the economic policy must be the creation on improvement of environment goods market function.

Key words: environment risk; air quality; storage of waste; environment goods market; implementation of environment policies.

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JEL Codes: Q56, Q58.
REL Codes: 15C, 15G.

By joining the European Union, Romania made an important step to its integration in the European structures and international standards. Legislative basis of Romanian environment policy is constituted, mainly, by the implementation of environment acquis – more precisely of the horizontal and sector legislation which organizes the European Union's environment policy.

Acquis has over 200 legislative acts that covers horizontal legislation, environment and water pollution, administrating waste products and chemicals, bio-technology, protecting nature, industrial pollution and risk management, noise and protection against radiations. In order to apply the environment acquis it is absolutely necessary to have a strong and well-equipped administration on a national, regional and local level⁽¹⁾. Transposing the acquis that refers to the environment protection in national legislation and its application represents major tasks, the list of priorities includes:

- Frame legislation of European Union (including information access and evaluating environment impact);
- Measures deriving from international conventions from which the Union is part of;
- Reducing global and trans-boarder pollution;
- Legislation regarding nature protection (which pursues the bio-diversity conservation);
- Measures that can assure the intern market function (for example, product standards).

European Union's directives were assimilated in Romanian legislation but they were not implemented yet. Applying and respecting the acquis from the environment protection needs a strong and well-equipped administrative structure, the continue consolidation of consultative role of the Minister and National Agency of environment regarding local and regional agency is also necessary⁽²⁾.

Romanian alignment to European Union's standards of protecting the environment became an important priority, which includes two components:

- Legislative approximation (harmonizing Romanian legislation with EU acquis⁽³⁾);
- Institutional reform that needs the development of a correspondent institutional mechanism capable to apply and monitor the aquis implementation.

Environment protection must be integrated in defining and implementing other sector policies, which are inter-connecting and have an impact on the environment, as agriculture, energy, industry and transports, to contribute to a durable development.

The alignment to the standards of European quality mean very big costs, financial evaluation for communitarian environment acquis implementation, in the period 2004-2018 being almost 29,3 billion dollars. It is pursued the improvement of environment infrastructure⁽⁴⁾, fact that means stations for treating water, stations of purifying used waters, deposits that were

not corresponding to European requests must be gradually closed and ecologic warehouses must be built that will correspond to the requests of European Union, as for the standards, but also from the point of its placement; rehabilitating big burning installations, thermo power stations, and reducing emissions that come from them.

In the year 2007, the activity of the Environment and Waters Minister was based on the continuation of implementing arrangements that Romania has assumed regarding chapter 22 for the integration to the European Union, diminishing the risks that were associated to extreme events, generated by climatic changes and perfecting the institutional instruments that should contribute to the use and protection of resources based on durable development principles and reducing pollution⁽⁵⁾:

- Integrating environment policy in elaborating and applying sector and regional policies;
- Evaluating the actual state of the ecologic factors and grounding a long-term development strategy in the environment domain and that of regenerable and non-regenerable resources;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity in the environment domain;
- Improving the quality of environment factors in urban and rural areas;
- Extending the national network of protected areas and natural reservations, rehabilitating coast infrastructure of the Romanian littoral, ecologic and economic re-

dimensioning of the Danube Delta;

- Strengthening the trans-boarder and international partnership with similar institutions from other countries having the purpose of monitoring implementation degree of international agreements;
- Protecting the citizens against floods and dangerous meteorological phenomena;
- Strengthening the partnership with non-governmental organizations in the process of elaborating and applying public policies in that domain.

In the horizontal legislation⁽⁶⁾ domain the alignment regarding juridical and public participation was finalized, the implementation will be accomplished according to the aquis.

The objectives of horizontal legislations are:

- Evaluating the impact on the environment of public and private projects;
- Public participation in taking decisions;
- Guarantying the right to access environment information that is in the possession of the public authorities and establishing terms, practical conditions in order to exert this order;
- Assuring that the environment information is put at public disposal by promoting utility, especially, computerized telecommunication and/or electronic technology;
- Monitoring and reporting kerosene emissions with green house effect in order to accomplish assumed

engagements by the Kyoto Protocol in the frame – Convention of United Nations on the climateric changes and achieving national and regional plans or programs in the domain of kerosene emissions with green house effect and to achieve adapting measures to the climateric changes.

During the Government Program 2005-2008, Romanian Government wants to strengthen the partnership with non-governmental organizations in the elaboration and application process of public policies⁽⁷⁾, by:

- Giving a priority attention to population ecological education by conceiving and implementing a national plan of actions to sensitize and making the public aware of environment protection problem;
- Implementing the requirements of Aarhus Convention concerning information access, public participation in taking decisions and access to justice for environment problems, by defining legislative frame, introducing an automatic system at central, regional and local level regarding the administration of environment information;
- Realizing an annual campaign of making the public aware about public participation in taking environment decisions, especially concerning public role in evaluation processes of the impact on environment for projects with significant impact, authorization, environment evaluation for plans and programs;

- Making public some punctual problems of environment protection: genetic modified organisms, persistent organic pollutants, polychlorinated biphenyls, climacteric changes in order to protect not only the environment but also human health of their damaging effect.

In the air quality domain it is considered that legislation is transposed in conformity with the *acquis*; necessary administrative structures being established and functional.

Romanian government has adopted⁽⁸⁾, in July 2005, the first National Strategy regarding Climatic Changes, in this way it directed itself to a concentrated and coordinated national effort to implement policies from this domain for limitation of kerosene emissions with green house effect and preparing adaptation measures for possible effects of climatic changes until 2013.

The twining project with Germany is on its way to being implemented “*Implementation and Application of Environment Acquis, Emphasizing the Domain of Air Quality*”, inside which there were selected 11 Agencies for Environment Protection (Iasi, Galati, Constanta, Craiova, Brasov, Ploiesti, Alba Iulia, Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca, Baia Mare, Bucuresti), to these calibration units will be built, necessary for the implementation of Quality Insuring Procedure and Quality Data Control of Air.

In the air quality domain, Environment and Water Minister followed:

- Operating the National System of Monitoring Air Quality resulted from

the endowment with monitoring stations to 34 APM and area lists will be established for every region and district;

- In noise domain PHARE project will be implemented: “Strengthening institutional capacity for implementation and application of directives that refer to noise”.

In the waste product management domain, the acquis transpose was finalized. A series of important measures were taken in the direction of implementation directives regarding waste product warehouses, packing waste products and waste products coming from electric and electronic equipments. Still, it is necessary an improvement of assistance and consultancy functions at a national level.

In what concerns the implementation of the Directive regarding the storage of waste⁽⁹⁾ products until July 2009, all warehouses with non-dangerous waste products will have to conform themselves to European Union’s requirements. To respect the requirements of the Directive, Romania obtained the following transitions periods⁽¹⁰⁾, as follows:

- Gradual closing of 101 invalid district warehouses (from 256 registered) until the 16th of July 2017, their monitoring for 30 years, as well as assuring conform warehouses capacities;
- A transition period until 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2009, for temporary storage of dangerous industrial waste products;

- Transition period, until 31 December 2013, in order to forbid the storage of liquid waste products, the interdiction to storage waste products with certain properties (corrosives and oxidant) and regarding the prevention of water infiltration in waste products warehouses (only surface water).

Until 2017 the solution for housekeeping waste products is storage and starting with 2017, when the prognosis regarding features and caloric powers of housekeeping waste products will justify the endorsement of this solution, the incineration of housekeeping waste products will be realized with energy recuperation.

In this sector a transition period was obtained until 31 December 2011 for:

- Reaching global objective of valorizing 50% and the recycling objective of 15% for plastic, stipulated in Directive 94/62 regarding packaging and packing waste products;
- Reaching the recycling objective of 15% for wood stipulated in the Directive that refers to the same thing.

Through the Directive regarding packing and waste products a transition period was obtained until 31 December 2013 for:

- Reaching the global objective of valorizing of 60%;
- Reaching the global objective of recycling of 55%;
- Reaching the recycling objective of 60% for glass and 22,5% for plastic.

It is absolutely necessary to reduce the growth of waste products quantity by introducing separate systems of gathering and some treatment operations: re – utilization, recycling (paper, cardboard, glass, textile, plastic, metal), valorizing operations and eliminating these, only in the conditions in which the environment is protected, as well as in what concerns water management, the acquis transpose was finished, monitoring water quality being established according to parameters and frequencies regulated by the acquis. A series of important implementation measures were taken regarding the identification of water capturing areas and elaborating a new register of collecting and treatment systems of water. A series of investments in infrastructure were continued, being elaborated a new financial strategy⁽¹¹⁾.

Water quality is the most expensive sector (65% from the total of implementation costs), representing a special importance for local authorities. Significant sums must be invested in realizing the infrastructure or rebuilding specific infrastructure: in purification and treatment stations, in water alimentation and sewerage networks. The longest period of transition, in tight connection with this financial evaluation necessary to the Directive implementation, is that of purifying used urban waters and it was obtained a period until the end of 2018.

The directive regarding the quality of water destined to human consume is that which has as main objective assuring and complying with the value of quality

parameters for water destined to human use, of all installations, monitoring the function of water alimentation networks and distribution of drinkable water. This way, for all connected areas to a centralized system of water alimentation, it was requested and obtained a period of phased transition, in the first phase until 31 December 2010, with a prolongation until 31 December 2015, for a series of specific parameters: oxidability, turbidity, aluminum, iron, pesticides, maganese, lead, cadmium.

Total costs of implementation were estimated to 5, 6 billion euros, and these must materialize in exonerating treatment installations, changing interior installations, exonerating networks of water alimentation and monitoring drinkable water quality.

The impact of communitarian acquis application can present the following positive and negative aspects:

- Costs will affect state budget as well as local and economic agents' budgets. Negative effects of implementing communitarian environment norms can materialize in bigger costs at the final consumer level concerning utilities price, loosing jobs caused by re-organization, re-technologization or bankruptcy of certain economic agents;

- The costs in environment protection domain are costs that should be realized even in the case in which we didn't join the European Union. We can say that investments for environment are made for better health and cleaner environment for each of us.

Integrating environment policies in sector policies (agriculture, transport, industry, health etc.), preoccupations for promoting economic instruments in administrating the environment, the

relationship environment – privatization constitute priorities in society building, having as purpose improving environment quality and transition to a durable development.

Notes

- (¹) European Commission – “The Comprehensive Rapport of Monitoring Concerning Romania“, Bruxelles, 2005, pp. 63-65.
- (²) European Commission, “Monitoring Rapport of Romania and Bulgaria Preparing Stage for the Status of EU Member“, Bruxelles, 2006, pp. 26-27.
- (³) EU Acquis = legislative and institutional frame specific to each sector – here we speak about the sector of environment protection.
- (⁴) <http://www.MinisterulMediuluisiGospodariiiApelor> (The environment status 2000 -2005, Legislation, U.E. Integration, Rapport for deployment activity of Ministry of Environment and Menage of water in 2007).
- (⁵) The Priorities of Environment and Water Minister for the Year 2007, www.mmediu.ro
- (⁶) The Directive 85/337/CEE, modified by the directive 97/11/CE, was transposed by HG no.918/2002 (M.Of. no. 686/17.09.2002) concerning the establishment of frame- evaluation procedure of the impact on environment and to approve to the list of public or private projects that are under these procedure, modified by HG no. 1705/2005 (M. Of no. 970/22.10.2004); the directive 90/313/CEE was transposed by HG no.1115/2002 (M.Of. 781/ 28.10.2002) regarding free access to information concerning environment; Decision 93/389/CEE and Decision 280/2004/CE concerning monitoring and reporting CO2 emissions and other gases with green house effect do not transpose in national legislation, they remain implemented as they are.
- (⁷) Post-adhesion strategy 2007-2013, Romanian Government, Bucharest 2006.
- (⁸) Government Decision no.645/2005 for approving Romanian National Strategy regarding climacteric changes 2005/2007.
- (⁹) Council Directive no.99/31/CE regarding waste products deposit.
- (¹⁰) Transition periods are presented in the Treaty of Romanian Joining the European Union signed on 25 of April 2005 in Luxemburg.
- (¹¹) See European Commission, *op. cit.*, 2006, p. 27.

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