Dear Mr. Schrage!

We are the representatives of NGO’s of Kilia region that is situated in the Danube delta in the south of Ukraine. We had great hopes on meeting you in the town of Vilkovo on the 30 July this year. The necessity to meet was stipulated by the fact that lately the people of our region have a big alarm for their own future and the future of their children.

It happened historically that the main sources for living of the overwhelming majority of Kilia region people were and still remain the traditional activities in the Danube delta: fishing, navigation, gathering of plants, cattle-raising, hunting and lately – the tourism. For more than four centuries (that is the age of settlements in the Ukrainian part of the delta) the nature and local population were developing in a close connection. In this way the Kilia part of Danube delta became the unique natural environment with the great variety of plants and animals.

That is why people of our region very want to have the natural complex of the Danube delta in safety and support the harmonious balance between the social development and environmental protection.

However, unfortunately due to circumstances left beyond our control this delicate balance was disturbed. We witness this irreversible degradation process in the Ukrainian part of the Danube delta. The reason for this is a number of hydro-technical projects executed on the Romanian and Moldavian territories in the Danube delta and close to it. It is enough to mention the cutting-off of the Sulin and Georgiy arms for construction of navigable canals in the area of Izmail chatal, in the place where Danube divides into Kilia and Tulcha arms.

As the result of the above mentioned projects implementation the redistribution of stream flow between Kilia and Tulcha arms is taking place. According to the statistics, the stream flow at the beginning of the XX century in Kilia arm was 70% and in Tulcha arm – 30% of total stream flow. Nowadays this correlation is 50% in each arm. That is why now we have the extinction of arms Stepovoi, Dunaets, Prorva, Limba and Belgorodskiy Ukrainian part of the delta. The stream flow in the Kisliatskiy arm has also decreased. Suspended solids that were taken by the flow to the Black Sea now are settling in the internal Kilia delta increasing the bottom
sediments. Directly in the town of Vilkovo, so called Ukrainian Venice, which is often visited by large number of European tourists, now we see the drying up of the canals and the Belgorodskiy canal now becomes innavigable.

We are especially concerned about the preparation for implementation of a number of hydro-technical projects according to the Plan of National Territory Development adopted by the Law of Romania dated 21st September, 2006 № 363. The Plan foresees the building and reconstruction of the transport lines which includes water arteries, construction of new canals and ports, clearing and dredging of existing canal – Sulin and others.

The implementation of the Plan will lead to the significant adverse impact on Ukrainian territory and for further growth of stream flow redirection of Danube water in favor of Romanian canals. That will bring to the decrease of water level in the Ukrainian part of the delta, to the loss of navigable depths and significant damage for the whole natural complex.

It is the fact that no consultations in frames of the Espoo Convention were held with Ukrainian party by the Romanian party. In this way Romania neglected the Espoo Convention provisions during the development and adoption of the Law № 363.

**We are sure that the information from the Internet on the projects executed on the Romanian territory has not over passed your attention.**

**However, we do not see the proper response of the Espoo Convention on this issue.**

Unfortunately we also do not see the reaction from the Convention on the construction of the large industrial complex and port in Djurjuleshy, Moldova.

At the same time the Ukrainian party has been found in non-compliance to the provisions of the Espoo Convention by Ukraine on the project of the navigation renewal in the Ukrainian part of the Danube delta. No doubt that this project has vital importance for the social status and economy of the region. We have participated in the public hearings on the project that were held in towns of Vilkovo and Izmail. During its realization the special attention is given to questions of preservation of environment. So, on the basis of the current legislation, in specialized nature protection funds of local administrations compensatory payments are listed.

It is also known that the insubstantial increase of the stream flow in the Bystroe arm resulted by the dredging works on the navigation renewal can only in a small part outweigh the disadvantage resulted by the execution of Romanian projects.
On the 30th June this year on the meeting in the town of Vilkovo we, taking into consideration your competence and status, were trying in circumstantial conversation to draw your attention to the environmental problems of the Danube delta that were caused by the transboundary impact of the economical activity of the contiguous party. Though, because of the absence of time we did not have the detailed conversation.

We, the people of Ukrainian part of the Danube delta, first of all feel the consequences from Romanian and Moldavian economic projects. We are very sorry for carelessness of Ukrainian authorities who particularly do not make efforts to resist uncontrollable execution of these projects.
But at the same time we do not want to apathetically wait for the time when it will be too late.

Taking into consideration the importance of the current problem in the Danube delta, we kindly ask you to give your professional assistance on this occasion and to take measures concerning the projects executed or planned to be executed in Romania and Moldova that will lead to irreparable environmental, economical and social consequences.

We would like to ask you to inform us on your decision by the address:

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