

STATEMENT OF ROMANIA

on item 7 of the Agenda – compliance mechanism

Chair,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I will be brief in my attempt to mark what is, in our view, a very important moment.

More than 10 years have passed since Romania made its submission to the Committee concerning Ukraine's compliance with the Convention, alleging failure by Ukraine to comply with art.6 of the Convention, by failing to ensure that the public affected by the Bystroe Canal project in the Danube Delta, including the Ukrainian public had been informed early in the decision making procedure concerning this project.

After several decisions on non-compliance, the Meeting of the Parties is prepared to note important progress on the matter. With European support, the Ukrainian authorities have finally adopted the EIA law, a very important piece of legislation. I want to use this opportunity to congratulate my Ukrainian colleagues for their efforts to convince all authorities on the necessity and the usefulness of this law.

In 2005, when decision II/5b was adopted, Ukraine had been required to bring both its legislation as well as its practice in line with the Convention. It is, naturally, impossible to assess now the impact of the new law in practice. We would have appreciated the establishment of a dedicated reporting mechanism to be used by Ukraine for informing the Committee and the Parties on the implementation of the EIA law. We nevertheless hope that, even without such mechanism, the Ukrainian environmental authorities will actively use this law and enable a meaningful participation of the public in the process of authorizing economic activities.

Before closing my brief remarks, I would like to thank the Committee for its efforts in managing the Romanian submission. The Committee's contribution has thus extended beyond ensuring compliance with the Aarhus Convention, to the protection of the Danube Delta, our common heritage.

Thank you,