

**First Meeting of the Parties
to the Protocol on Water and Health
of the Convention on the Protection
and Use of the Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Geneve, 17-19 January 2007**

Item 4 – Status of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health

The statement of the Romanian delegation
on the status of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health

Madam Chair,

I will start by saying that Romania ratified the Protocol on Water and Health on the 5th of January 2001 and this early ratification signifies the importance given by the Romanian authorities to the issue of water and of relation between water and health.

Shortly after the ratification there have been taken a series of measures in order to implement it and also to fully harmonize the national legislation with the aquis communitaires along the accession process of my country to the European Union.

In Romania, responsibilities for putting into action of the Protocol are sharing on the one hand by the Ministry of Environment and Water Management and on the other hand by the Ministry of Public Health.

Concretely, in order to strengthen the administrative and institutional capacity, the Romanian authorities have established the National Reference Laboratory for the surveillance of water quality and a Protocol of Cooperation between Romanian authorities responsible for the implementation of the Drinking and Bathing Water Directives has been also signed.

Institutionally, the quantitative and qualitative water resources management is carrying out by the 11 hydrographical basins. We have begun to develop studies in 9 hydrographical basins in order to elaborate the water management plans.

Nowadays, in Romania, the 65% of the total population has access to the drinking water through the public system, out of which 90 % in the urban area and 33 % in the rural area. All the localities having a population more than 100.000 of inhabitants are carrying out projects on Drinking Water Supply and Waste Water Plants. For the other localities, the same projects have been drafted and we expect that in the near future such kinds of projects are going to be implemented.

Madam Chair,

Romania is currently developing a National Programme of Drinking Water Supply, with money only from the State's budget. Also, a National Strategy on Public Health and a

National Programme on Environment and Health have been developed showing a special attention to the drinking water supply and our national reports on the drinking water quality and water related diseases are also available to the public.

The process of implementation of the EU Directive on Drinking Water will be fully finished until 2015, but for achieving this goal there is necessary of 6 billions of Euros.

I would also like to bring to your attention that fact that during 2000-2006, in Romania, a decreasing percentage of the water related diseases was accounted and also no hydric epidemics was occurred. But, a problem still remains and this is “the blue-baby disease”.

At the end of the intervention, I would like to inform this extraordinary meeting that also a special attention was paid to the education of the population regarding the importance of the use of the “safe water”. Worthy to be mentioned is the new legal framework for the participation and consultation of the public in the decision making process on quality and quality of water issues. For both public education and participation required by the Protocol, Romania shows a special care and attention.

Lastly, I will not finish until saying that the Romanian political actors are totally in favour of an accurated implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and we express our willingness and hope that in the near future other countries will join our efforts.

Thank you, Madam Chair.