



Our Ref: 03-08/726

Date: 30 November 2012

Subject: *Implementation of the Decision IV/9d, point 4, adopted at the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention*

Dear Mr. Keiner,

In the context of your letter from 8 October 2012, regarding the implementation of the Decision IV/9d, point 4, adopted at the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, regarding the compliance with the obligations of the Republic of Moldova in the framework of the Convention, I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, during 2012, has implemented the National action Plan for the implementation in the Republic of Moldova of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, approved by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 471 from 28.06.2011.

Improving the legal framework in the field

The aspect of public involvement in decision-making process in environmental field and ensuring access to environmental information was included in a separate chapter of the draft Law on environmental protection. The draft law is being finalized in accordance with the proposals and objections received during the regional public consultations and the official position papers received from the state institutions, and is to be passed to the State Chancellery to be promoted for discussions in the Government meeting.

The draft Law on access to environmental information was developed and consulted with state institutions. Currently, this draft is being finalized, to be later passed for discussions in the Government meeting. The draft Law was developed in accordance with the provisions of the Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC.

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, approved on 23.12.2011 the Water Law, which involves provisions on public consultations and public access to information in the water field (art. 12, 16, 20).

To: Mr. Marco KEINER,

Director

Environment Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Improving the institutional framework

The National Aarhus Center, with the headquarters in Chisinau (for Cente zone) and two branches in Glodeni (for North region) and Cimislia (in South region) were established in June 2012. The center is an –autonomous, nongovernmental, non-profit and non-budget institution. Its activity is coordinated and monitored by the founder and by the Ministry of Environment. The Center establishment, logistical, furniture and other operational costs are financed from the National Environmental Fund.

Attracting the support of international organizations in supporting civil society initiatives

The Small Grant Programme, financed by the GEF and implemented by the UNDP, meant for NGOs, was launched.

REC Moldova is implementing the "Promotion of the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters" Project, financed by the Ministry of Environment from Netherlands.

The REC CEE project "Support to environmental NGOs from Belarus and Moldova", supported financially by SIDA, is being implemented in teh Republic of Moldova by EcoContact and REC Moldova.

Organization of awareness raising campaigns regarding environmental issues

The Ministry of Environment organized, during 2012, 9 information campaigns: World Water Day (22 March 2012), Earth Hour (31 March 2012), Spring Salubritization Campaign (12 May 2012), Dniester River Day (28 May 2012), World environment Day (5 June 2012), Danube River Day (29 June 2012), European mobility Week (17-23 September 2012), National Country Greening Day „A tree for our lasting” (27 October 2012).

The „Water Week” was organized during the information campaign on the occasion of the World Water Day. During 7 days (19-24 March 2012), it was organized a press conference regarding the official launch of the „Water Week in the Republic of Moldova”, the Moldo-German Symposium on water supply and sanitation and energy efficiency was organized, thematic environmental hours were organized in education institutions, etc.

Three information campaigns on (1) waste management for towns in South Development Region, (2) Surface water management in Lapusna river basin and (3) Information campaign on public participation for the whole territory of the country, were organized with the support of the Dutch Foundation Milieukontakt International, through EcoContact, Eco Tiras, National Environmental Center and ProRural Development in 2012.

During „Earth Hour”, the Ministry of Environment organized the National Campaign to promote the principles of sustainable use of electrical energy. On the occasion of this event, the „Smile - Nature loves you” flash mob was organized on the main square of the city. Around 500 citizens were actively involved in the event.

The National Salubritization Campaign was organized in May 2012, in order to involve population in solving the environmental problems in the country. The event was organized in close relation with „Moldova, let's do it!” Campaign. The National Country Salubritization Day was organized on 12 May 2012. Around 150 thousand citizens took part in the campaign.

Massive public information events about the environmental status of Dniester and Danube rivers, existing problems and solutions, were organized on the occasion of the Dniester River Day (28 May 2012) and Danube River Day (29 June 2012). The scientific Conference “Dniester River – Vital Country River” was organized on 28 May 2012, in Oxentea village, Dubasari rayon. The International Conference “Danube- the river that unites us” was organized in Valeni village, Cahul rayon, on the occasion of the Danube River Day. Also, information materials and articles on these subjects were published in “Nature” and “Environment” magazines.

The information campaign “Environment problems and solutions” was organized on the occasion of the World Environment Day, in order to ensure media coverage and population information on the importance of the environmental protection. Several major actions, with environmental character, were organized during this campaign. Thus, the National Conference to present the National Report RIO+20 was organized on the 5th of June 2012, the second edition of the Ecological Festival “Concert in the Meadow” was organized in Costesti village, many articles with environmental thematic were published in newspapers and magazines.

The information campaign on the occasion of the European Mobility Week was organized in September 2012. During this campaign, we tried to draw people’s attention to the need to reduce the use of polluting transport and use the ecological transport, like for example bikes. In this context, the cyclists march Velo Hora, in which around 4000 cyclists were involved, was organized.

The information campaign for the National Country Greening Day “A tree for our lasting” was organized on 27 October 2012.

“Environment and sustainable development” drawing and photo Contest was organized.

44 interviews, TV broadcasts and press conferences were organized during the year.

The National Environmental Fund finances the organization and broadcast of the following TV shows:

- “Nature in Focus”, broadcasted weekly on TV Moldova 1 Channel (national coverage);
- „Eco-Terra” broadcasted weekly on Radio Moldova(national coverage);
- „Eco monitor” broadcasted weekly on Bessarabia Voice radio;

Articles on environmental subjects are published in each edition of “Nature” and “Environment” magazines, 3 films promoting waste management in the Republic of Moldova were financed.

A regional training seminar for Local Public Authorities staff was organized. Its thematic was “The role of the Local Public Administration in environmental management”. Representatives from all Local Public Authorities were invited. It included the discussion of the following topics:

- Environmental legislation and the attributions of local authorities in its implementation;
- Local Action Plans in the field of Environment;
- State and perspectives of the integrated waste management;
- Development of closed water supply and sanitation systems;
- Compliance with the provisions of environmental laws and regulations in the territory;
- Methods of financing environmental activities at regional and local levels, National Environmental Fund procedures.

PRTR Protocol

For the implementation of the provisions of the National Implementation Action Plan for the Aarhus Convention, the Ministry of Environment developed in 2012 and coordinated with the ministries the draft Law on ratification of the PRTR Protocol. A concept note was developed with the support of the UNDP/KEMI Project on the PRTR implementation in Moldova, which indicates the main benefits, evaluate gaps, and develop major actions, necessary for the implementation of the Protocol and establishment of the PRTR System in Moldova.

On 7 November 2012, with the support of the environmental NGO EcoContact, the Ministry of Environment organized the National Consultation Workshop on the PRTR protocol, during which representatives of the sectorial ministries, academic sector, NGOs and beneficiaries examined and discussed the opportunities and plans for the implementation of the Protocol in Moldova in the next period of 3-5 years.

Looking forward to a fruitful cooperation in the future.

Sincerely,



Valentina ȚAPIȘ
Deputy Minister