



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
WATERS AND FORESTS

CABINET OF MINISTER

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To: Mr. Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Compliance Committee
Ms. Fiona Marshall, Environmental Affairs Officer - Secretary to the Compliance Committee,
Aarhus Convention Secretariat
E-mail: aarhus.compliance@un.org

Ref: Third progress report on the implementation of Decision VI/8h

Dear Chair,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Compliance Committee as a whole, together with its Secretariat, for the continuous work in identifying the issues of compliance with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention and the assistance of the Parties in order to meet their obligations and to improve their implementation of the Convention.

According to Decision VI/8h adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, in September 2017, in Budva, Montenegro, concerning compliance by Romania with its obligations under the Convention, Romania was requested to submit detailed progress reports on 1 October of the following three years. The reports need to point out the measures taken and the results achieved in the implementation of the recommendations received from the Compliance Committee.

In this context, we are hereby submitting Romania's third progress review, with the deadline of 1 October 2020.

Since our last report, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MEWF) took the following measures aimed at raising awareness among the public authorities and the general public about their rights and obligations in matters related to the pillar on access to environmental information of the Aarhus Convention:

- MEWF published the final "*Guide to public authorities for public access to environmental information*" on our website. The guide can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/accesul-la-informatia-de-mediu/242>.
- Also, MEWF sent letters to other public authorities at national and local level, asking them to support our ministry in our goal of disseminating the guide. The letters were addressed to the following authorities:
 - the ministries of the Romanian Government (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment, Ministry of European Funds, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration, Ministry of Labour

and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications, Ministry of Tourism and Sports) - *Annex Ministries*¹;

- the prefectures of each county - *Annex Prefectures*²;
 - national authorities responsible for water management (Romanian Waters National Administration), forests (ROMSILVA - Forest National Administration), natural protected areas (National Agency for Natural Protected Areas), Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration (ARBDD), the national and local agencies for environmental protection (ANPM and LEPA), the environmental guard (GNM) - *Annex ANPM, ANANP, GNM, ARBDD, EPAs, ANAR, ROMSILVA*;
 - public health (National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority), mineral resources (National Agency for Mineral Resources) - *Annex ANRM, INS, ANSVSA, INCDPM, INCDM, INCDDD*;
 - national research and development institutes for: environmental protection, marine, Danube Delta, and the National Institute for Statistics - *Annex ANRM, INS, ANSVSA, INCDPM, INCDM, INCDDD*.
- Furthermore, we advised the ministries to ask the authorities under their authority/ subordination/ coordination to also publish the guide on their website.
- After this action, we received answers from other authorities that published the guide on their website. - *Annex print screen*.
- Another measure undertaken by MEWF was to print 1000 paper copies of the *Guide to public authorities for public access to environmental information*, in A5 format. Most of the printed copies are made available at the entrances in MEWF for any member of the public who wants to be informed or for any representative of the public authorities/ institutions who visits our building. - *Annex photos*.
- Currently we are distributing the paper copies of the guide to other ministries and to the LEPA (42 local environmental protection agencies) in order to be used and disseminated at national level.

We would like to express our willingness to closely collaborate with the Compliance Committee in order to reach compliance with the Aarhus Compliance in the intersessional period, before the next Meeting of the Parties, and to continue our efforts to implement the Committee's recommendations in due time.

Minister

Costel ALEXE



¹ The folder named *Annex Ministries* contains 14 pdf documents which represent the scans of the letters sent by MEWF to other ministries. Since the letters are in Romanian language, we also added a txt document containing an in house translation of one of the letters, having in mind that all letters have the same content, the only difference between them being the addressee.

² The folder named *Annex Prefectures* contains 42 pdf documents which represent the scans of the letters sent by MEWF to each prefecture, and a txt document containing an in house translation of one of the letters.