



ANNOUNCEMENT

DANUBE-BLACK SEA - TOWARDS A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Ministerial Meeting – Press Conference

**February 23, 2007
Romania, Bucharest**

On Feb. 23, 2007 Ministers of the Danube and Black Sea countries will take an ambitious step towards the protection of the Danube River Basin and Black Sea region ecosystems.

The European Commission and the federal ministers in charge of water management of 16 Danube Basin and Black Sea countries will adopt a declaration in which they jointly confirm their strong commitment to foster their cooperation and to implement the program of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Black Sea Commission. In adopting this declaration the Danube Countries take significant steps towards the compliance the EU Water Framework Directive, which asks for a “good ecological status” of all waters by 2015.

The declaration recognizes the important values of the Danube/Black Sea region, the historical damage that it has undergone and recent signs of environmental recovery as a result of cooperative actions.

Around this high level ministerial meeting, the ICPDR will present their outstanding sustained success reached within the last 15 years and the excellent outputs that could be achieved also through the strong financial commitment of the United Nations, the European Union, and the World Bank.

The existing cooperation carried out in the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Danube River is an example worldwide.

Holding the presidency of the ICPDR for the year 2007 the Romanian Minister of environment and Water management Ms. Sulfina Barbu, is proud of hosting the event in Bucharest, Romania.

In the press conference you will have the possibility for interviews with the present ministers.

Date: February 23, 2007
Time: 2.10 pm
Place: Parliament Palace, Bucharest

Your questions please address to:

Jasmine Bachmann
ICPDR
E-mail: jasmine.bachmann@unvienna.org
Tel.: + 43 / 1 / 26060 - 4373 & mobile: + 43 650 514 7514

- About the ICPDR

The ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) is an international organisation consisting of 13 cooperating states and the European Union. Since its establishment in

1998, it has grown into one of the largest and most active international bodies engaged in river basin management in Europe. Its activities relate not only to the Danube River, but also the tributaries and ground water resources of the entire Danube River Basin.

The ultimate goal of the ICPDR is to implement the Danube River Protection Convention by promoting and coordinating sustainable and equitable water management, including conservation, and improvement and rational use of waters for the benefit of the Danube River Basin countries and their people.

www.icpdr.org

- About the Danube Regional Project

The overall goal of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Danube Regional Project (DRP) is to improve the environment of the Danube River Basin, protect its waters and sustainably manage its natural resources. The DRP helps 13 Danube countries implement the Danube River Protection Convention primarily through reducing nutrient and toxic pollution and strengthening trans-boundary cooperation in the most international river basin in the world – consisting of 18 countries with 81 Million inhabitants. Through its partnerships with governments, industry, NGOs and local communities, the DRP provides technical and financial support.

www.undp-drp.org

- About the Black Sea Commission

In 1992 the six coastal countries of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine signed the Bucharest Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution. The Black Sea Commission (BSC) is the body responsible for implementing the convention, which provides the legal framework for regional cooperation and the actions needed to reduce pollution and protect the marine environment. The BSC plays an important role in promoting the collaboration between different partners working to protect the Black Sea environment – particularly the work of national governments, non-government organisations and other regional projects and organisations.