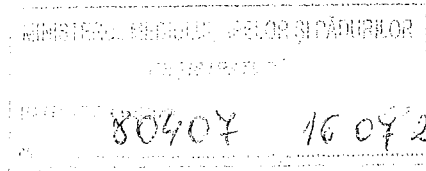


AEICP
20.07.2015



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Minister of Environment and Water

16380/MF
17.07.2015

94998/DMF
20.07.2015

June 2015, Sofia

Subject: Results from the consultations on the provided documentation regarding the SEA procedure for the Romanian General Transport Master Plan (RGTMP)

Dear Ms Gavrilescu,

With the present letter I would like to inform you that the documentation you provided (RGTMP Project, Resume of the RGTMP Project, SEA Report with Annexes and Appendix, Non-technical Summary of the SEA Report, Report assessing the compatibility with the subject and goals of the protected sites (in English)) was published on 07.05.2015 on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) of the Republic of Bulgaria for public access for a period of 30 (thirty) days. In addition, the Resume for the RGTMP, the Non-technical Summary of the SEA Report and the annexes to the SEA Report were provided in Bulgarian at the MOEW web page.

Based on the notes, opinions and comments we received, we would like to express the following opinion:

1. The SEA Report contains analysis of the current status of the environment and also analyses and assessments of the expected impact of the implementation of the plan (in its various versions) both on the different environmental components/factors and the human health. Analysis has been made regarding the expected transboundary impact of the projects included in the plan which are located near to the Romanian borders with the neighbor countries, including the Republic of Bulgaria (reconstruction and modernization of some of the ports located along the Danube River – Orsova, Drobeta – Turnu Severin, Corabia, Giurgiu, Oltenita, and improvement of the navigation along

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*the Danube, including by means of dredging of the river bottom, rehabilitation of the roads Bucharest – Giurgiu, Craiova – Calafat, Turnu Severin – Calafat and railway line Bucharest – Giurgiu). After analyzing the plan's prognosis regarding the volume and type of the activities which will be carried out during the construction and operation of the sites, we concluded that **no significant impact is expected to occur on the components and factors of the environment in a transboundary aspect or the human health. There are measures envisaged for limitation of the impact on the environment and human health, including prevention of pollution of the Danube waters and elimination of ship generated waste.***

2. Taking into consideration the documentation regarding the project of the plan and the SEA to it, we have the following suggestions:

2.1. RGTMP and its implementation should be consistent with the following documents:

- ICPDR Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2013);*
- ICPDR Action Programme for Flood Protection;*
- ICPDR Danube River Basin Management Plan and draft update of the plan for the 2015 – 2021 period;*
- Draft of the Danube River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan for the period 2015 – 2021;*
- Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (1996);*
- Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (adopted in Sofia, 2009).*

2.2. Timely notification should be provided to the neighbor countries during the implementation of the plan with regard to vessels incidents and the results of the monitoring, so that timely measures could be taken in order to prevent risks for human health.

In connection with the above-mentioned, we are looking forward to receiving Your Decision as a result of the SEA procedure as well as some information and feedback regarding our proposals.

Let me take this opportunity to express my highest consideration and willingness to continue our fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Ivelina Vassileva
Minister of Environment and Water