

To: Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Pavel Filip
Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment,
Mr. Nicolae Ciubuc

Minister of Economy and Infrastructure, Mr. Chiril Gaburici
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European integration, Mr.
Tudor Ulianovschi

Copy: Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova
Embassy of China in the Republic of Moldova
Delegation of European Union in the Republic of Moldova
US Embassy in the Republic of Moldova
United Nations Development Program in Moldova
Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova
Embassy of Austria in the Republic of Moldova
Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Moldova
Embassy of United Kingdom in the Republic of Moldova
Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency in the Republic of
Moldova

APPEAL

on the intention of Ukraine to expand the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex

Dear Prime-Minister,

It is well known that Dniester River has a vital role to play in ensuring environmental security, drinking water supply to the population, economic security of the Republic of Moldova and the sustainable development of the Moldovan society. Dniester River is the main water resource for the Republic of Moldova, and over 2 million Moldovan citizens live in the basin of Dniester river. Dniester River is the only source of drinking water for the capital of the Republic of Moldova and for all the settlements on both banks along the river. We note that the Water Supply Strategy of the Republic of Moldova, due to the low groundwater quality, foresees the construction of water supply systems for the population of 8 districts in the Northern and Central part of the republic who will be supplied with drinking water from Dniester River. Of the total volume of water used for various purposes in the Republic of Moldova, 80% is captured from the Dniester river basin, underlining a huge value of the river for all Moldovan citizens.

At the same time, we note that Dniester Hydropower Complex, which was built in 1983 and is now in the management of Ukrhydroenergo SA in Ukraine, has a disastrous impact on Dniester River, a fact confirmed by the scientists from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The social and environmental impact study elaborated at the planning stage of the construction of Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex highlighted that the extension of such an object could lead to catastrophic situations in the region, this is why, at the commissioning of the first part of the hydropower plant in Novodnistrovsk in 1983, the construction was permanently stopped.

We regret to note that the conclusions of the study were not taken into account by either the Ukrainian authorities, which have continued the expansion of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex since 2002, and the Moldovan authorities which have not officially intervened to protect the Dniester River from the risks imposed by the expansion of operation of Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex. We would like to emphasize that both countries are part of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), meaning that Ukraine was obliged, at the designing stage, to elaborate the Environmental Impact Assessment Study in a Transboundary Context of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex and to consult it with the Republic of Moldova, which has not been done so far at any stage of expansion of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex.

From the latest information received on November 12, 2018, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova informs the Government of the Republic of Moldova about the intention of Ukrhydroenergo SA in Ukraine **to build another 3 immense aggregates** at the Dniester Hydropower Complex, which implies a new large construction, subject to a new environmental impact assessment in a cross-border context, according to art. 1 pt. 5 and art. 2 point 2 of the Espoo Convention. Thus, art. 1 pt. 5 and art. 2 pt. 2 of the Espoo Convention provides that any activity or major change in an activity which is the subject of a decision of a competent authority under an applicable national procedure must be subject to a new environmental impact assessment in a cross-border context (https://www.unece.org/env/eia/about/eia_text.html).

In this context, we ask the Government of the Republic of Moldova:

- to send to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a letter to remind on the obligations of the Ukrainian State under the Espoo Convention and to request the elaboration of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex in a cross-border context, which will be consulted with all interested parties, and first of all with the Republic of Moldova;
- do not sign the Agreement on ensuring the functioning of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex until the finalization of the Study on the Environmental Impact Assessment of Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex and its consequences on environment of Moldova, taking into account social and economic issues, elaborated by UNDP Moldova, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in the Republic of Moldova; presentation and consultation of the Study to assess the environmental impact of the Dniester Hydro-energetic Complex in a cross-border context, elaborated by the beneficiary from Ukraine and submitted to consultations with all interested parties in the Republic of Moldova.

Signatory organizations:

1. **National Environmental Center, Ina Coșeru, chairman (Centrul Național de Mediu)**
2. **Ecological Movement of Moldova, Alecu Renita, chairman (Mișcarea Ecologistă din Moldova)**
3. **The Association of Environmental Journalists and Ecological Tourism, Lilia Curchi, Executive Director (Asociația Jurnaliștilor de Mediu și Turism Ecologic)**
4. **"EcoContact" Public Association, Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Executive Director**
5. **"Environmental Quality" Association, Dr. Sandu Maria, chairman (Asociația „Calitatea Mediului”)**
6. **River Keepers Association “Eco-TIRAS”, Ilia Trombițki, Executive Director (Asociația Păstrătorilor Râului “Eco-TIRAS”)**
7. **"Eco-Sor" Public Association, Valentina Jamba, chairman**
8. **Institute for Public Policy, Arcadie Barbăroșie, Executive Director (Institutul pentru Politici Publice)**
9. **Center for Legal Resources of Moldova, Vladislav Gribincea, Executive Director (Centrul pentru Resurse Juridice din Moldova)**
10. **Vitalie Sprinceana, Sociologist, Journalist, Chief Editor Platzforma.md**
11. **NovaService Moldova, Sergiu Ungureanu, Energy and Environmental Expert**
12. **National Confederation of Employers of the Republic of Moldova, Vladislav Caminschi, Executive Director (Confederația Națională a Patronatului din Republica Moldova)**
13. **Center for Politics and Reforms Moldova, Vlada Ciobanu, associate expert (Centrul de Politici și Reforme Moldova)**
14. **Association of Women for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (AFPMDD), Ioana Bobîna, chairman (Asociația Femeilor pentru Protecția Mediului și Dezvoltarea Durabila)**
15. **DACIA Youth Resources Center, Ion Babici, chairman (Centrul de Resurse pentru Tineret DACIA)**

16. Ecological movement Stefan Voda, Tatiana Marin, chairman (Mișcarea Ecologistă Ștefan Voda)
17. Association of Independent Press, Petru Macovei, Executive Director (Asociația Presei Independente)
18. "Speranța" Public Association, Liuba Balan, chairman
19. BIOS Public Association, Valentin Ciubotaru, chairman
20. Tourism Development Association in Moldova, Viorel Miron, director (Asociația de Dezvoltare a Turismului în Moldova)
21. "Biotica" Ecological Society, Gabriel Mărgineanu, chairman (Societatea Ecologică Biotica)
22. "Tighina Information Center" Public Association, Cislaru Tudor, director (Asociația Obștească "Centrul Informarional Tighina")
23. Institute for European Policies and Reforms, Iulian Groza, Executive Director (Institutul pentru Politici și Reforme Europene)
24. IDIS Viitorul, Liubomir Chiriac, Executive Director
25. Victor Parlicov, energy expert
26. Independent Analytical Center EXPERT-GRUP, Adrian Lupusor, Executive Director (Centrul Analitic Independent EXPERT-GRUP)
27. Ecological Urban Movement, Corneliu Mârza, chairman (Mișcarea Ecologistă Urbană)
28. WiSDOM Public Association, Nadejda Andreev, chairman
29. National Youth Council of Moldova, Ana Indoitu, secretary general (Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova)
30. Union of Invalids Organizations of the Republic of Moldova, Vitali Covaliov, chairman (Uniunea Organizațiilor Invalizilor din Republica Moldova)
31. Center for Ecological Consultancy in Cahul, Artur Nebunu, Executive Director (Centrul de Consultanță Ecologică Cahul)
32. East European Foundation, Sorin Mereacre, chairman (Fundatia Est-Europeană)
33. Transparency International - Moldova, Lilia Carasciuc, Executive Director
34. Promo-LEX, Ion Manole, Executive Director
35. Foundation for Education and Development-Moldova, Steliana Burlacu, chairman (Fundatia pentru Educație și Dezvoltare-Moldova)
36. "Terra-1530" Public Association, Petru Botnaru, chairman
37. Society of Eco toxicologists of the Republic of Moldova, Elena Zubcov, chairman (Societatea Ecotoxicologilor din Republica Moldova)
38. REC Moldova, Victor Cotruta
39. VESTA Public Association, Antonina Volkova, chairman
40. Pro-Energy Efficiency Center, Ruslan Surugiu, chairman (Centrul pentru Eficienta Energetica "Pro-Energy")
41. "Watchdog.MD" community, Sergiu Tofilat
42. Center for Development and Management, Georgeta Mincu, chairman (Centrul de Dezvoltare si Management)
43. "Rural Renaissance" Public Association, Vladimir Ursu, executive director (Asociația Obștească "Renașterea Rurală")

Chișinău

17.12.2018

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