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и заштите животне средине
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ROMANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATERS AND FORESTS
Minister, Grația Leocadia Gavrilescu

B-dul Libertății nr. 12, Sector 5
040129 Bucharest

Ref: Notification

Dear Mrs Minister,

In accordance with provisions of Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, we hereby inform you that the Republic of Serbia is in its final phase of development of the **Water Management Strategy for the territory of the Republic of Serbia** and the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Water Management Strategy for the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Please find appropriate to evaluate if the implementation of the Strategy is likely to have significant transboundary impact on environment, including health, in your country and notify us whether you wish to enter into consultations.

We hereby enclose the Notification of proposed activities and the Executive Summary of the Water Management Strategy for the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

We are looking forward to your response in a deadline of four weeks from the date of receipt of this notification letter.

Sincerely,

MINISTER

Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, PhD

1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity

Type of plan proposed
 Adoption of the Water Management Strategy of the territory of the Republic of Serbia

Is the proposed activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention? YES

Scope of proposed activity
 Objectives have been defined for each water sector segment, which need to be achieved during the planning period in order to fulfill the main strategic goal of water management.

Scale of proposed activity
 (e.g. size, production capacity, etc.)

Proposed activities are covering:

- 1) *Water use: Public water supply*
- 2) *Water use: Irrigation*
- 3) *Water pollution control (water protection)*
- 4) *River training*
- 5) *Protection against the adverse effects of water: River floods, erosion and flashfloods*
- 6) *Drainage*

Description of proposed activity
 (e.g. technology used)

The strategy sets out the basic guidelines for:

Water use: Public water supply

- Increased public water supply coverage from the current 81% to 93% at the end of the planning period;
- Steady water supply and compliant water quality, along with a reduced risk of interruptions in extreme or emergency situations;
- Reduced proportion of unbilled water in public water supply systems to about 25%;
- Efficient water use, along with a gradual water price increase to economic levels;
- Protection of water supply sources (establishment of sanitary protection zones), exploration, protection and conservation of water resources.

Water use: Irrigation

- Sufficient amounts of water for irrigating 250,000 to 350,000 ha of farmland from Development Group I and part of Development Group II by the end of the planning period (revitalization of existing systems on about 100,000 ha and construction of new systems on 150,000 to 250,000 ha);
- Efficient water use ensured by appropriate irrigation depths by crop type and farmer awareness raising about modern irrigation technologies, protection from drought, associations, and market placement of products.

Water pollution control (water protection)

- Establishment and implementation oversight of restrictions on wastewater discharges containing pollutants in excess of stipulated levels;
- Establishment and implementation of a Water Pollution Control Plan and setting up of surface water and groundwater monitoring based on suitable programs and applicable regulations.
- Development of municipal infrastructures and wastewater treatment plants (reconstruction of existing and building of new plants) in agglomerations greater than 2,000 PE (85% population coverage);
- Reduced pollutant discharges from industrial facilities through wastewater pretreatment to prescribed levels;
- Removal of illegal solid waste dumps, primarily from protected areas, riparian lands with an unfavorable hydrological regime and the like, and rehabilitation of existing and construction of new landfills per applicable strategic and planning documents;
- Reduced pollutant discharges from diffuse sources, such as farmland, forest land, roads and agglomerations smaller than 2,000 PE;
- Reduced pressures on groundwater quality, through the establishment, monitoring and maintenance of sanitary protection zones of drinking water supply sources;
- Conservation and achievement of good quantitative status of groundwater, to ensure sufficient amounts of water of satisfactory quality, to respond to present and future demands of all legitimate users;
- Establishment of comprehensive monitoring of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater and systematic observation of pollutants in large rivers (the Sava, the Danube, the Tisa and the Velika Morava), and of groundwater sources of the bank filtration type in the alluvial aquifers of these rivers.

River training

- River engineering consistent with environmental criteria, i.e. minimal hydromorphological alterations;
- Excavation of river sediments from water lands primarily aimed at conserving and/or improving the water regime, with rates of extraction conditional upon minimal disturbances to aquatic and riparian ecosystems, along with mandatory rehabilitation of gravel pits.

Protection against the adverse effects of water: River floods, erosion and flashfloods

- Mitigation of flood-risk and flood damage through:
 - Completion, extension, reconstruction and regular maintenance of existing flood defenses on lowland rivers and construction of new flood defenses based on the flood cell approach;
 - Active protection measures (flood wave attenuation) and prevention of rapid runoff

- from rural and urban areas along small and medium rivers, as well as local protection measures relating to individual structures or groups of structures;
- Proper use of water land and flood risk areas;
 - Introduction of new building principles and methods in floodplains and flood risk areas;
 - Locating away from risk areas all highly sensitive structures, facilities and installations relevant to public safety, defense and maintenance of public order, or whose destruction would threaten the population;
 - Efficient and coordinated active flood defense, including protection from ice and ice floods;
 - Continual monitoring and forecasting of hydrometeorological phenomena and upgrading of flood forecasting and early warning systems in drainage areas devoid of flood protection;
 - Improved legal framework for enhancing erosion control and flashflood protection;
 - Improved conditions for erosion management and flashflood protection through preventative, technical and biological measures, updating of land registries, improving the efficiency of inspectorates and other competent bodies, public awareness raising, and the like.

Drainage

- Maintenance of inland water regimes within drained areas;
- Completion, extension, reconstruction and regular maintenance of structures for the protection against water-logging and construction of new systems, beginning with soils of Drainage Class I.

Description of purpose of proposed activity

The implementation of the development projects needed to improve the state of affairs in the water sector over the 20-year planning period.

Rationale for proposed activity

(e.g. socio-economic, physical geographic basis)

The implementation of the development projects will require funding to the tune of 9 billion € (some 450 million € per annum, on average), which can be procured from various sources. Operating expenses amount to 550 to 600 million € per annum, on average. The total is therefore about 1 billion €, or several times the current extent of water sector allocations.

Additional information/comments No

(ii) Information on the spatial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity

Location

The territory of the Republic of Serbia

Description of the location (e.g. physical-geographic, socio-economic characteristics)

The territory of the Republic of Serbia covers an area 88,361 km² which meet various types of landforms and landscapes interceptions river valleys.

On the territory of the Republic of Serbia water flows to three seas to the Black Sea (the river

Danube), the Adriatic Sea (the Drin and the Plavska river) and the Aegean Sea (the Lepenac, the Pčinja and the Dragovištica river). On the territory of the Republic of Serbia several very important tributaries of the Danube river are: the Tisa, the Sava and the Velika Morava, as well as several smaller ones.

Rationale for location of proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical-geographic basis)

Time-frame for proposed activity (e.g. start and duration of construction and operation)

2014-2024/2034

Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity

Additional information/comments No

(iii) Information on expected environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures

Scope of assessment (e.g. consideration of: cumulative impacts, evaluation of alternatives, sustainable development issues, impact of peripheral activities, etc.)

The water management policy is founded upon the following:

- Water is an irreplaceable, renewable resource, a precondition for proper functioning and development of society and a prerequisite for the survival of the natural environment and the entire human community, whereby the management of water resources and water infrastructure constitutes a national interest and an obligation;
- Water resources are natural assets owned by the Republic of Serbia and, as such, cannot be removed from public property, but concessions and usage rights over them may be acquired;
- Water resources must be managed in an integrated manner, based on the principle of sustainable development, with Serbia constituting a single territorial entity for the purposes of water management;
- Public water supply is in the public interest and has priority over all other types of water use;
- Protection of water resources and protected areas is in the public interest and a national priority, such that it needs to be implemented under the scrutiny of relevant national institutions;
- The risk of adverse effects of water cannot be eliminated but can be reduced to a socially and economically acceptable level, while the mindset associated with protection against the adverse effects of water needs to change, in terms of delineation of social and individual responsibilities;
- The institutional framework needs to enable water management with clearly delineated responsibilities of different government agencies and other stakeholders, with mandatory coordination of planning and capital project implementation activities;
- Steady funding (permanent sources, projected extent, procurement, up-to-date payer databases, revenue collection mechanisms, economic pricing of water based on full cost

<p>recovery and the “user pays” and “polluter pays” principles, and the like), and self-funded operations, are expected to make the water sector less dependent on government funding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of water infrastructure needs to be funded from different sources (water funds, revenues of local administrations, water prices, IPA and other funds, project owner’s resources and loans); the proportions will depend on the significance, size and purpose of the project in question; • Capital projects relevant to the state, region and/or local administration, especially those funded from public revenues, can be implemented more efficiently via <i>special capital project implementation centers</i> (a new or existing regional development agency, provided that their technical capacity is strengthened); • Water infrastructure maintenance is an obligation and needs to comply with technical standards and norms; • Citizens are entitled to information and direct participation in the creation of water management plans for water districts, to which the National Water Conference needs to contribute; <p>More effective and prudent water management requires a higher level of cooperation with scientific and research organizations and institutions, and ongoing and programmed efforts to improve engineering, construction, service and other capacities at government and local levels, and the creation of a better material and information base for their operations.</p>
<p>Expected environmental impacts of proposed activity (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)</p> <p>Expected environmental impacts on air, water, soil, climate, flora and fauna, habitats and biodiversity, protected natural areas, protected cultural goods and goods under previous protection of ecologically important areas and ecological corridors of international importance, population, health, cities, towns, and other issues that may have a significant impact on the environment, will be the question of SEA.</p>
<p>Inputs (e.g. raw material, power sources, etc.)</p>
<p>Outputs (e.g. amounts and types of: emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into the water system, solid waste)</p>
<p>Transboundary impacts (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)</p> <p>As more than 90% of Serbia’s territory falling within the Danube River Basin, implementation of the Water Management Strategy could have some minor potential transboundary impact.</p>
<p>Proposed mitigation measures (e.g. if known, mitigation measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize, compensate for environmental effects)</p> <p>As the SEA assessment is currently being undertaken the impacts are not yet known and therefore the mitigation and monitoring measures have not been defined yet</p>

Additional information/comments No
(iv) Proponent/developer Name, address, telephone and fax numbers
(v) SEA documentation Is the SEA documentation (e.g. SEA report) included in the notification? If no/partial, description of additional documentation to be forwarded and (approximate) date(s) when documentation will be available. SEA documentation is not included in the notification.
Additional information/comments NO
2. POINTS OF CONTACT
(i) Points of contact for the possible affected Party or Parties Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA (refer to decision I/3, appendix) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers To be delivered by the diplomatic post
List of affected Parties to which notification is being sent Hungary, Republic of Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria
(ii) Points of contact for the Party of origin Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA (refer to decision I/3, appendix) - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers Miroslav Tošović, Omladinskih brigada 1 00381 11 2690977 00381 11 3132574
Decision-making authority if different than authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers Nataša Milić, acting director, MAEP Water Directorate Bulevar umetnosti 2a 00381 11 201 33 60
3. INFORMATION ON THE SEA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED
(i) Information on the SEA process that will be applied to the proposed activity Time schedule

- 2015
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to be involved in the SEA process - During 2015
Nature and timing of the possible decision - During 2015
Process for approval of the proposed activity - During 2015
Additional information/comments
4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Public participation procedures Public consultation on the Draft Report on SEA shall include publishing of text at the premises of the Water Directorate and its website (www.rdvode.gov.rs). Public consultation shall also include public hearing which will be held during 2015.
Expected start and duration of public consultation Public consultation will be organized in September/October 2015 Public hearing (presentation) will be held during the period planned for public consultation.
Additional information/comments NO
5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE
Date According to the date of receipt of notification, within 30 days