

**Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable  
Development**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Silvian Ionescu,**

**State Secretary,**

**Ministry of Environment and Waters Management**

**of Romania**

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**Check against delivery**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Romania, as an acceding country, associates herself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union by H.E. Mr. Joseph Pröll, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria. I shall therefore make only a few complementary points and stick to the time limits imparted to us.

**Mr. Chairman,**

A thorough debate over the climate changes and their influences over the sustainable development of our countries has been of focal point for the discussions of these two weeks of meetings.

Under this frame I have chosen on behalf of my country to inform you over the latest consequences of climate changes in Romania, that is the last two years of floods, whilst on the screen you can follow images of the peculiar events we passed through.

In 2005, there were 7 waves of floods in Romania, distributed over the whole country in all its 11 water basins; from early spring to late fall almost all of them due to torrents and rapids formed in unusual ways, locations and time of the

year. We identified as main causes of the floods: the sudden melting of the mountain snow due to global warming; the rainfalls in overwhelming excess in short periods of time (e.g. in Timisoara, on an area of about 5,000 sq. km., three repeated rainfalls of more than 80 ltrs/sqm/h. within the month of May); 3 tornados, a phenomenon unknown to Romania until last year; mountain rapids formed mainly in areas where illegal wood chopping took place or gravel pits where digged close to bridges; inside river flows with capacities 50 times higher than the average.

As a result, more than 10.000 families remained homeless for several months and only state emergency aids and private contributions could help them rebuild the houses until the end of the year.

Aid has also come this month from the European Union to mend and consolidate structural housing damages.

This year the main problem has been the Danube, with the sudden melting of snow in all the 8 riverane states, entering in Romania on 13 April with a historical maximum flow capacity of more than 15.600 cm/sec. and maintaining this volume for more than two weeks, phenomenon unrecorded in the last 100 years.

The dam works built back in the 70s, in a total length of 1,100 km., from earth structures, did not resist to the pressure of the water in long periods of more than 25 days, and collapsed in some cases.

Rapid interventions limited the effects of the disaster to less than 2,500 houses flooded. Private fundraising actions are already in place, and the Government of Romania granted the funds for building materials to those in need.

Aside from the endorsement of the environmental law that has been very thoroughly applied, up to penal prosecution in courts in more than 100 cases, my Government's general conclusions over these meteo and hydro phenomenon are:

- we can call the Romanian Government's action a success as no human casualty has occurred during these 2 years heavy floods;
- it takes very strong mechanisms of control and decisive Best Available Techniques (B.A.T.) implementation in the permitting activity in order to succeed the maintenance of less than 2 ° C increase of global temperature by the end of the century;
- although by the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, Romania is a recipient country, the whole sector of fossil energy production can and will be upgrade or, in some cases, even be closed by 2018;

- man's brutal intervention in the nature, as in the case of artificially damming the river Danube should stop, and the flooding river bed renatured, as well as the Danube Delta;

- on an international level, in order to better coordinate all our efforts on the environmental issues, my country as recently declared in Dubai by our Minister of Environment and Waters Management, H.E. Mrs. Sulfina Barbu, is sustaining France's initiative for a specialized environmental body of the United Nations.

These, we think, will be the best contributions on the topic of climate changes of the Government of Romania to the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals which we all consider to be best future for our children and our children's children.

Thank you.