

ENVSEC IN BELGRADE

Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007

DECLARATION “Building Bridges to the Future”

**by Ministers of the region of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

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30. Addressing common environmental problems offers opportunities for cooperation amongst governments diffusing tension and contributing to a greater cooperation and security. Environmental cooperation may contribute to peace-building processes and we note the work of the Environment and Security Initiative in participating countries, which should continue to aim at reducing environment-related security risks. We note the usefulness of independent environmental assessments in order to address and limit potential environmental damage.

**Statement by His Excellency Constantin Mihailescu,
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova**

11 October 2007, Item 6(b) (16.30-19.00), Plenary Session

ENVSEC Initiative

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is cooperating with a range of global and regional international organizations such as the GEF, World Bank, EBRD, NATO, OSCE, UNECE and many others.

Through this cooperation Republic of Moldova made considerable progress in addressing environmental challenges.

Taking into account the multitude and diversity of environmental problems, Republic of Moldova is trying to find new partners of collaboration to effectively manage these problems. In this context, our country established in 2005 a successful collaboration with Environment and Security Initiative.

The ENVSEC Initiative is a common mechanism that connects the problems of environment and security. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources highly appreciates this initiative, because the initiative is aiming at:

- Adjustment the state to detect the problems in the field of environment and security;
- Resolution of the regional and national conflicts
- Minimization of the political problems by improving the dialogue and cooperation in the field of environmental problems
- Development and approval of common activities at national and international levels
- Development of the collaboration between states with the purpose to ensure the sustainable development, security and stability in the region.

The most important achievement of the ENVSEC Initiative that encompasses Moldova is elaboration of Regional ENVSEC Report for Belarus-Moldova-Ukraine.

The report describes the progress made by our counties since adherence to this Initiative. The official launch of the report took place at 15th Economic and Environmental Forum of OSCE in Prague, May, 2006.

In Republic of Moldova, the report was presented at the workshop, organized by ENVSEC Initiative in collaboration with OSCE Mission in Republic of Moldova. The workshop was attended by interested stakeholders representing governmental and non-governmental organizations. The participants at the event made a positive appreciation to this report.

Also, the ENVSEC Initiative contributed to involvement of the transnistrian NGOs in detection of the environmental hot-spots from transnistrian region and try to find the solutions for them.

With the support of ENVSEC Initiative the MENR elaborated the National Program for Environmental Security for the 2007-2015. This program has a significant role for our republic, because environmental safety is one of the most important components, which ensures the general safety of the state and its sustainable development

And finally, I would like to use this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all international partners for their support in effective management of environmental problems from our country.

**Presentation for the Sixth Ministerial “Environment for Europe”
Conference
Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007**

**Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in
Europe**

“Omissis...

One of the most important environmental activities of the OSCE is its participation in the Environment and Security Initiative. Recognizing that environmental problems do not stop at national borders, the ENVSEC Initiative has developed a platform that turns the potential for conflict between states into opportunities for confidence-building and co-operation. In close coordination with national governments, ENVSEC has conducted environment and security assessments in the regions of Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. Following these in-depth assessments, ENVSEC has developed work programmes, consisting of over 70 projects ranging from capacity-building to environmental policy development and public awareness events, to address priority issues.

But of course, the OSCE is but just one member of a dedicated partnership of international agencies devoted to linking environment and security considerations. Joining the OSCE in the ENVSEC Initiative are the United Nations Development and Environmental Programmes, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, and our associated member, NATO. The combined strengths of these partner organizations helps focus interventions in a way that meets the environmental security priorities of national governments in a coordinated manner. This type of international coordination is exactly what was meant in the 2005 Paris Declaration which called for more harmonization from international organizations in providing development aid and humanitarian assistance.

Omissis...”
