

# ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION - PREMISED ON THE INCREASE OF THE COMPETITIVE CAPACITY OF ROMANIA IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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**Abstract:** *The continual degradation of the living environment implies the necessity of its permanent protection as it is a provocation, preoccupation and worry of the century. Nowadays pollution is a world wide issue, a permanent risk factor, the eradication of which means taking a wide range of supporting measures. These measures should be reciprocally correlated and benefiting from the active participation of all the states of the world. In this context the pollution of all environments: soil, water and air are the consequences of an aggressive industrialization and urbanization. The excessive use a large variety of substances express the disrespect for people's and the planet's health. The economic agents will act as a shield to reduce polluting agents, wastage of materials and energy, recycling of will be done using its residual energy. A new technology and the permanent control of the degree of pollution, the residue will be turn to a good use and deposited in the appropriate place, avoiding the manufacturing of risky nondegradable substances, will repay the damage in case of pollution intensifying the actions against pollution while promoting ecological parties.*

**Key words:** *environment protection, competitive capacity*

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The continual degradation of the living environment implies the necessity of its permanent protection as it is a provocation, preoccupation and worry of the century.

Professor Bari said that:

„Now at the beginning of the 21-th century the future of civilization is modelled by some clear tendencies related to the environment, such as: population and temperature increase, decrease of running water resources and agricultural terrain per inhabitant, the decrease of wooded areas as well as the disappearance of animals and plants”<sup>1</sup>.

Nowadays pollution is a world wide issue, a permanent risk factor, the eradication of which means taking a wide range of supporting measures. These measures should be reciprocally correlated and benefiting from the active participation of all the states of the world.

Thus, as professor Suian states:

„Environment protection is one of the global issues for which more and more common and concerted actions on basis of agreed criteria”<sup>2</sup>.

In this context the pollution of all environments: soil, water and air are the consequences of an aggressive industrialization and urbanization. The excessive use a large variety of substances express the disrespect for people's and the planet's health”<sup>3</sup>.

Thus the E.U. actions promote environment protection.

The world economic crisis the negative impact of which various fields of activity suffer from sets to all the states the issue of counterbalancing its effects by fighting for a propitious and not polluting environment.

In this respect the E.U. in consensus among all member states about various actions of environment promotion and protection while guaranteeing that: “man is the master and not the victim of the major changes taking place on global level.”<sup>4</sup>.

„Thus the E.U. activity in of environment protection is based on launching a programme called „Environment 2010, Our Future, Our Choice”, in which the following needs are emphasized:

- climate changes attenuation and slowing down,
- wild flora and fauna protection,
- issues related to environment and health,
- conservation of natural resources and efficient administration of debris<sup>5</sup>.

All along the period of time to which this period refers, as well as the 5 preceding programmes during 30 years in which the standards had been established. The E.U. introduces a corresponding environment protection

<sup>1</sup> Bari I., Contemporary Global Issues, Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2003, p. 342.

<sup>2</sup> Suian P., World Globalization, Risoprint, Publishing House, Cluj Napoca, 2005, p. 37.

<sup>3</sup> Nicola T., Socio-ecological studies, Bucharest University Printing house, Craiova, 1997, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Fontaine P., Europe in 12 Lessons, The European Community Office, Luxemburg, 2007, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Idem, p. 25.

system. The issues are extremely varied and they refer to: sound pollution, desertification, habitat protection, exhaust gases, industrial accidents, water quality and setting up an information and assistance network in case of ecological disaster emergencies.

The concerns regarding the noxious effects of pollution on health have been examined in "The environment and health protection action plan for 2004-2010", which establishes the relationship between the environment and health.

Thus the European Regulations are flexible and meant to establish the same level of the E.U. territory.

The reviewing of the old laws related to chemical substances led to the replacement of the old laws on a new central data base. The central data base will be administered by the Central European Agency for chemical substances with the headquarters in Helsinki. Its purpose is to avoid the contamination of the soil, water and air in order to protect bio diversity and improve the health and the security of the citizens.

The E.U. maintains the competitive level of European industry while the reduction of consumption will contribute to the decrease of global warming process. The E.U. has a decisive role in putting into practice of the Kyoto Protocol regarding climate changes and atmosphere pollution.

As a E.U. member, Romania has adhered to the principles of protection and fights against environment pollution launched by the E.U. since 2007. Romania is promoting collaboration related environment protection with all the interested countries regardless of their level of development<sup>6</sup>.

At the basis of this strategy there is „the concept of durable development which is inkeeping with the requirements of the present without compromising the future.”<sup>7</sup>

Ecodevelopment becomes a new strategy with the purpose of improving the quality of life and the permanent protection of nature. In accordance with the principles of global development Romania has drawn up a series of measures against pollution and for the limitation of environment degradation. The purpose of these measures is the progress of Romania's economy to the level of European standards by bettering the quality of life and the protection of nature.

The actions are mainly concerned with:

- decreasing polluting agents emission,
- sewage and capture of polluting agents,
- treating the polluting agents to reduce their noxious action.

„The issues may be looked upon synthetically while referring to the main economical branches which are a source of pollution of the environment”<sup>8</sup>. The intervention takes place in the following fields:

In industry and transportation pollution reduction is possible by the use of technological solutions concerning the long term effect on the environment as well as efficiency having in mind the long term effect upon the environment. This is done by the introduction of new technology, replacing the old one; sewage and capture of polluting agents at the source, purifying, neutralizing of the polluting agents. The emissions of toxic fumes during transportation may be reduced or eliminated by using high efficiency vehicles which use small amounts of fuel, choosing pure gasoline without lead, using alcohol instead, by the large scale introduction of the electric engine endowed with noble catalytic. A good example is Romania's participation to nonpolluting European projects. Romania is part of the ECORALIS project launched at Berlin on 29.05.2009 and is focused on environment protection, the development and improvement of the railway activity, a more efficient railway system would lead to environment protection.

ALLIANCE pro SCHIENE considers that this project is a basic environment protection instrument which could improve the competitiveness of Romanian railway system, as having more efficient energy is an economic issue.

Romania's participation to the ECORALIS project is a unique strategic opportunity. Romania is represented in this project by INTERGRAL CONSULTING R.D.- Bucharest, UP of Timișoara and the Timișoara CFR Regional. Our involvement with this European project demonstrates our capacity and interest in the E.U. priorities regarding environment and living conditions.<sup>9</sup>

2. In the field of the reduction of the polluting agents of the human segment which result from wrapping waste action is taken by making ecological wrappings, recycling them by dimensioning of home and industrial consumption prevents the degradation of the environment by gathering paper, glass, plastic and metal to be reused.

A good management of household industrial waste prevents and involvement limits the vitiation of the environment. This is done by:

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<sup>6</sup> Nicola T., , Bucharest University Printing house, Craiova, 2007, p. 111.

<sup>7</sup> Radulescu, Hortensia, The Prevention and fight against Environment Pollution, Eurobit Publishing House, Timișoara, 2003, p. 31.

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem, Bari I., p. 378.

<sup>9</sup> The Railway Club, The Railway Business Review, year 5, no.9, June 2009

- a smaller quantity of waste as well the improvement of the technological process,
- the partial or total reuse where the effluent is,
- the storage, sorting and redirecting it towards recycling plants,
- burning waste in specific instalations in order produce energy and reduce the bulk of effluent,
- organizing a network aimed at monitoring the environment factors and the effects upon the flora and fauna in the storage area of the household and industrial effluent.

3. In order to reduce the effects of atmosphere polluting agents, the polluting sources will be situated in close relation to the dominant winds in order to protect human settlements and crops.

The environment has a natural capacity to clean itself depends on the waste and on human intervention.

4. Protective curtains of vegetation and hedges will be planted to depollute the atmosphere by retaining gasses and powders and the absorption of depolluting agents from the soil. Hedges and protective curtains reduce sound and atmospheric pollution.

Another measure is fighting against deforestation.

5. The agricultural activities that could limit the vitiation the environment are:

- establishing the appropriate dosage of mineral and organic fertilisers,
- the use of selected pesticides with reduced remnant period,
- the deminishing of the amount of waste waters resulting from farming complexes,
- cultivation of species of plants and of animals that could resist rodents and bugs,
- agricultural and technical measures to achieve the best density per hectare,
- the purification and reuse of effluent by means of irrigation, according to the legal technical internal norms.

6. Food protection is achieved by using them fresh and with no additives, preservatives, dyes, strictly abiding by the storage conditions as well as the hygiene and duration of use.

7. In order to preserve the areas of high ecological, biological and aesthetic value in Romania there are more than 1,200, 000 hectares which have been declared legally protected areas being biosphere and natural reservations, and natural parks<sup>10</sup>

The Reserves are protect the fauna, flora. They are geological, geomorphological and paleontological reserves which sometimes protect unique samples.

According to the Statistics Yearbook 1994 one may see the information below:

| Crt. no. | Legally protected areas      | No. | Surface,hectars |
|----------|------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1        | Biosphere reservations       | 3   | 702.300         |
| 2        | The Retezat reservation      | 1   | 54.400          |
| 3        | The Rodna reservation        | 1   | 56.700          |
| 4        | The Danube Delta reservation | 1   | 591.200         |
| 5        | natural parks                | 12  | 396.761         |
| 6        | natural reservations         | 571 | 1.512.006       |

In Romania environment protection is legal being achieved by means of a series of organizations .The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the leading forum while promoting an unpolluted environment. Other authorities are:

- the territorial town halls,
- persons fizic and juridic
- environment protection agencies in Bucharest and in every county.

The first law was law no. 9 which appeared in 1973, a frame law which places Romania among the first states involved in environment protection.

Law no 137 was published in 1995. Law no 5 appeared in 2000 and it concerns the fitting out of the national territory. Law no 462 regarding the regime of protected areas, conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.

By adopting these laws Romania responded to the European requirements regarding environment protection. A real network of protected areas and natural monuments appeared. Romania is also integrated in the international community's preoccupation regarding environment protection.

<sup>10</sup> Vişan Sanda., Angelescu Anca, Apostol Cristina, The Environment. Pollution and Protection, Second Edition, The Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2000, p. 325

In 1972 Romania took part in The World Conference at Stockholm and where The Environment Declaration, which is made up of 26 principles regarding the rights and obligations of the states concerning the environment as well as the ways and means of developing cooperation. World Environment Day was proclaimed on the 5th of July.

After 1990 Romania adhered to the concept of durable development which is in accordance with the present and is not compromising the future. The agreements to which Romania adhered are:

- Law no.98/1992 to protect The Black Sea against pollution, which has been signed in Bucharest.
- Law no. 6/1993 to prevent ship pollution which has been signed in London,
- Law no. 13/1993 protect wildlife and of natural habitats which has been signed in Berne,
- Law no. 78/1993 the physical protection of nuclear materials which has been signed in Vienna,
- Law no. 84/1993 regarding the protection of the ozone layer
- Law no. 24/1995 regarding which has been signed in Vienna and Montral,
- Law no. 14/1995 regarding the ratification of the agreement for the protection and durable use of the Danube River,
- Law no. 43/1995 regarding nuclear security which has been signed in Vienna,
- Law no.13/1998 regarding the conservation of migrating species and wild animals which has been signed in Bonn,
- Law no.86/2000 regarding the access to environment issues which has been signed in Aarhus,
- Law no. 3/2001 regarding the ratification of the Kyoto protocol on climate changes.

The following agreements are important: Rio+10 Earth Summit 2002, ten years after Rio, regarding the durable world development and Earth Summit 2002 from Johannesburg. These vital issues were looked upon from the point of view of economic reconciliation for a long and prosperous future.

### **Conclusions:**

One has to mention the fact that the basis of all the measures meant to indicate an unpolluted environment. The economic agents will act as a shield to reduce polluting agents, wastage of materials and energy, recycling of will be done using its residual energy. A new technology and the permanent control of the degree of pollution, the residue will be turned to a good use and deposited in the appropriate place, avoiding the manufacturing of risky nondegradable substances, will repay the damage in case of pollution intensifying the actions against pollution while promoting ecological parties.

„Acting like that ecodevelopment becomes a new strategy of the socio-economic development, the purpose of which is the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of nature.”<sup>11</sup>

Thus the fight against pollution makes the world hope for a better life and a brighter future as well as a guarantee for survival.

Not only the E.U but all the „world’s states will have to look upon pollution realistically abiding by the principle of precaution adopted in 1992 by the Rio Convention”<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibidem, Bari I., p.378.

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