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23223



UNIDO Project No: GF/ROM/02/020
Purchase Order No: 16000150

CONTRACT No. 2002/172
Amendment 1/2004

**Enabling Activities to Facilitate Early Action
in the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Romania**

**FIRST EFFECTS OF EARLY ACTIONS
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**

Bucharest, June 2005

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1. NIP
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1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nation Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) have awarded the project "Enabling Activities to Facilitate Early Action on the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Romania" to the National Research - Development Institute for Environment Protection (ICIM). The contract was signed in July 2002.

The objective of the project was to assist Romania to fulfill its obligations under the Stockholm Convention and prepare and endorse its National Implementation Plan (NIP) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

After the verification some additional works have been proved to be necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the project. These activities were not included in the project document, because the needs in their implementation have been emerged or identified only in the course of developing of the national Implementation Plan.

The report contains the presentation of activities provided for the Additional Contract to the Contract No: 2002/172, namely:

- 1) Adjustment of the National Implementation Plan according to the UNEP and WB Guideline.
- 2) Developing a methodology of NIP effectiveness evaluation.
- 3) Evaluation of the first effects of early actions in the implementation of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant in Romania.

2. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

2.1. NIP adjustment

The already elaborated NIP has been revised following the UNEP and WB Guidelines, which has been published only at the beginning of 2004.

A one-day workshop has been held to the participants to the former documentation.

The basical elements – key objectives, measures, instruments and actions set up and prioritized democratically in 2004. Only the organization by chapters and additional information about the existing situation have been given.

The NIP has been written initially in English language and after words translated into Romania language.

A complete form of revised NIP is presented in Volume 1.

2.2. Development of a methodology of NIP effectiveness evaluation

A report on this methodology has been elaborated in Romanian language and sent to all interested parties. Finally it was discussed in an workshop and translated into Romanian language.

The main purpose of this action is to respond to Articles 15 and 16 from Stockholm Convention. These Articles are related to reporting and effectiveness evaluation.

This methodology is to become a good tool to assist the Government of Romania to fulfill its obligations related to Art. 15 and Art. 16 of Stockholm Convention.

The methodology establishes the information flow and procedures for data collecting and processing in order to assess periodically the achievements as far as NIP concerns.

The Report on methodology is presented in Volume 2.

2.3. Evaluation of the first effects of early actions in the implementation of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The evaluation of the first effects of the first actions taken in the framework of NIP of Stockholm Convention is necessary in order to assess their efficiency and to make more specific the approach accepted in the NIP for implementing the obligations of Romania under the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

The main results of NIP are shown in the table below.

Regarding legislation:

- ❖ The former Government Decision 173 / 2000 concerning the special regime of control and management of polychlorinated byfenils and other similar compounds has been repealed and a new GD 291 / 2005 has been entered into force.

The former GD has some unrealistic provisions, incoherences with Stockholm Convention and CD 96 / 59 / CEE regarding the elimination of PCB and PCT. For instance, Art. Art. 17(4) says that the equipments with PCB in concentrations higher than 500 ppm and with volume larger than 5 dm³ must be planned to be eliminated before 2006 that is unrealistic. The new GD provides PCB elimination until 2010, as it is provided by CD 96 / 59 / CEE.

- ❖ By Emergency Ordinance 99 / 2004 modified by the Ordinance 1 / 2005 the old cars of the national fleet are possible to be replaced by the enhancement of the Government. A number of 15,000 old cars shall be replaced in 2005. Each owner can receive 30 million lei per hid old car if he accepts give it up. That amount of money is to represent the first installment for a new efficient car which technically correspond to the European standards. The money used as incentives for old cars replacement are extracted from the Environment Fund.

- ❖ According to the Government Decision 689 / 2004, beginning with the 1st of January 2005 only gasoline without lead is permitted on the market.
- ❖ Concerning the reduction of unintentional emission of POPs into water GD 351/2005 replacing GD 118 / 2002, presents a Programme for step elimination of discharging and losses of priority dangerous substances.

Regarding legislation:

There are two companies authorized to export PCB; PRO AIR CLEAN – Timișoara and SETCAR – Brăila. The first company has already exported 99.6 tonnes, whereas SETCAR has received the authorization to export 100 tonnes beginning with the end of July.

Two tonnes of PCB have been incinerated at PRO AIR CLEAN in 2005.

Regarding pesticides stockpile reduction:

Until now about 860 tonnes of pesticides have been exported, out of 1200 tonnes approved to be exported at this time.

Regarding dioxins emission reduction:

- By phasing out leaded gasoline it is expected the significant reduction of dioxins into atmosphere, namely from about 3,000 g TEQ in the year of 2003 to about 140 g TEQ in 2005.

The total emission of dioxins in 2003 was 3,218 g TEQ representing 2,70 percent of the whole amount of dioxins emissions in the same year.

- As far as hospital wastes are concerned a Protocol signed by the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, Ministry of Health and the National Authority for Control – National Environmental Guard states the step promoting of the sterilizing process of hospital waste. The Protocol defines the ways of supervising and controlling the existing hospital wastes incinerators. There is an Annex to the Protocol comprising an inventory of the hospital waste incinerators and a schedule of their closing dates.

