



Launch of the Project to Renew the National Sustainable Development Strategy Summons National Leadership and Great Public Interest



National
Strategy
for
Sustainable
Development

Bucharest, 22 January 2008— The United Nations Development Programme in Romania launched the project: “The National Strategy for Sustainable Development Horizon 2030”. The event took place at the Romanian Academy in the presence of key note speaker Mr. Traian Băsescu, President of Romania and it was moderated by Mr. Ionel Haiduc, President of the Romanian Academy. Other guest speakers were UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Mr. Thore Hansen, Governor of Romanian National Bank, Mr. Mugur Isarescu, and the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr. Atilla Korodi.

The project to renew Romania’s National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) in order to align it with the new EU member state priorities is a joint undertaking of the Romanian Government through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and of UNDP through the National Centre for Sustainable Development.

From its launch, the new NSDS was hailed as a critical policy tool to ensure realistic commitments and coherence in public policy in the long run, as the implementation, monitoring and revision of the Strategy becomes an explicit responsibility of the government.

“This strategy should convey a new attitude towards the citizen. It should be realistic and the citizens must be the most active in shaping their own prospects,” said President Traian Băsescu in his speech. “So, I commend this Romania-UNDP project for scheduling consultations with experts and NGOs, and especially for extending these consultations to all 8 development regions.”

The strategy sets policy objectives and identifies corresponding means of implementation towards specific targets in three stages: 2013, 2020 and 2030. In the short term, it will integrate the strategies and operational programmes currently under way at regional and national level. In the medium-long term, the NSDS will address Romania’s distinct needs emerging from the logic and targets of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS, 2006).

“Romania’s strategic target for 2020 will be to attain the EU-27 average level of the year 2007 in terms of sustainable development indicators; the aim for 2030 will be to bridge the gap to the average EU level at that time,” said Mr. Thore Hansen, UNDP Deputy RR in his opening remarks.



Traian Băsescu, President of Romania (left) and Thore Hansen, UNDP Deputy RR (right), addressing a large audience, and the NSDS National Public Debate Council (centre) at the launch in the Aula Magna of the Romanian Academy.

The launch was followed by the first meeting of the National Forum for Public Debate, a multidisciplinary group constituted as the main decision-making body of the drafting process. In accordance with the agreed action plan, EU recommendations and UNDP practice, successive draft documents will be prepared by a Drafting Group and a Scientific Council designated by the Romanian Academy of Sciences. The Council will advance the draft through monthly sessions. A later version will be discussed by stakeholders at the level of development regions. The final draft document will be endorsed by the Government and submitted to the European Commission in July 2008. It is envisaged that the NSDS will also be passed into law by the Romanian Parliament.

The launch garnered great public interest thanks to wide media coverage which included a live broadcast, reports in the evening news the other national TV networks, several national and local newspapers, online wires and public forums. Euractiv (www.euractiv.ro) will continue to cover and feature updates throughout the entire process.

To follow the progress of the NSDS project please contact:
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