

DECLARATION REGARDING COOPERATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL WATER ISSUES IN THE PRUT RIVER BASIN

On the basis of:

- The importance of the Prut River basin, covering an area of 27,540 km², which is one of the 3 longest tributaries of the Danube River. Prut, Sava and Tisza are the three longest river courses of the Danube tributaries, all between approx. 950 and 1000 km long.
- The strong transboundary character of the Prut River basin is enhanced by the fact that its main river course has always marked important borders in history. Today, for 711 km, it forms the border between Romania and the Republic of Moldova, and for a length of 31 km, it forms the border between Romania and Ukraine. The candidate status for EU membership of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova gives a perspective to deepen the cooperation between the 3 countries.
- The important previous milestones (see in Annex) for the regulatory development of the cooperation in the management of the river basin and in particular the progresses in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the riparian countries, with the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), including their programmes of measures in the 3 national shares of the Prut basin.
- The bilateral governmental agreements on water management (see in Annex), established previously between the 3 countries.
- The international coordination platform set up at Danube River basin scale, managed by the International Commission for the Protection of the River Danube (ICPDR), the 3 countries sharing the Prut River Basin, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (subsequently called the Prut countries), wishing to further improve their cooperation on the management of international water management issues in the sub-basin through working on the future establishment and animation of specific Prut experts group in order to best tackle transboundary challenges.

Tentative objectives and initial targets, to be further worked out by the working groups under ICPDR before decision making in the frame of the bilateral government agreements, would be as follows:

Improved water governance

- Development of a bi or triologue of the Prut River basin management at experts' level under ICPDR in order to prepare decision making in the frame of the bilateral countries water agreements and further develop and harmonise the RBMPs in the 3 national shares of the Prut basin.

Increased knowledge and shared data and information on the basin in a context of adaptation to climate change

- Develop integrated information on the Prut River basin, from simple basin description to be published on the ICPDR web site, up to common mapping and roof report on the whole Prut basin.
- Develop cooperation on monitoring and in particular of the shared water bodies on the main river course.
- Develop cooperation on the management of flood risk and water scarcity, including data sharing through the web prioritising when possible real time data on hydrological situation.
- Develop common knowledge on aquatic biodiversity and harmonise the development of water-related protected areas in particular in the lower Prut.

Harmonised and synergized control systems

- Develop cooperation between the responsible authorities with the perspective to develop prevention and early warning on accidental water pollution risk.

Increased public participation and common awareness rising activities

- Develop joint actions and best practices exchanges on strengthening public participation and awareness rising activities among the population of the riparian localities.

Improved participation into EU Programmes

- Strengthen cooperation on coordinating, monitoring, and assessing the participation to available and applicable EU programmes.

At Kyiv, on 20 October 2023, commemorating the anniversary of the Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Danube River Protection Convention), signed in Sofia on 29 June 1994.



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ANNEX

Previous regulatory achievements on the road of international cooperation for the management of the Prut River basin since the independence of the riparian countries from the Soviet Union:

Ratification by the 3 Prut countries of the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1996.

Ratification of the Danube River Protection Convention on June 29 1994 in Sofia (Bulgaria), which forms the overall legal instrument for co-operation on transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin with the objective to ensure that **surface waters and groundwater are managed and used sustainably and equitably** within the Danube River Basin.

Intergovernmental Agreement MD-UA on joint boundary waters management and protection (Chişinău, 23 November 1994).

Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Ukraine for cooperation in the field of transboundary water management (Galaţi, 30 September 1997).

Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova regarding cooperation on the protection and sustainable use of the Prut and the Danube rivers (Chişinău, 28 June 2010).

Adoption of the EU Water Framework Directive on 23 October 2000 including article 3 Coordination of administrative arrangements within river basin districts and article 13 River basin management plans.

Trilateral on-line conference for a trialogue on RBMP harmonisation organized by EUWI+ project on 29 June 2021.

Elaboration and adoption by Romania of 3 successive 6-years RBMP cycles for both Siret and Prut river sub-basins in 2009, 2015 and 2021 (http://www.mmediu.ro/app/webroot/uploads/files/PMBH_Actualizat_Text_AB_APB.pdf).

Elaboration with EUWI+ support and adoption by Moldova on 29 June 2022 of the second cycle RBMP for the hydrographical District Danube-Prut and Black Sea (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=132734&lang=ro).