

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *Sustainable development means meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By adopting the strategy of sustainable development as a major element of its field of action - that is the concern for nature and resource inheritance of future generations, environmental policy is permanently connected to global environmental trends. This article sets as a goal to bring into discussion the most important aspects of the phenomenon of sustainable development and environmental policy evolution and the changes recorded over time.*

Key words: *sustainable development, environment, protection.*

1. Introduction

Since ancient times, man has tried to shape nature whose laws must be observed in order to survive. Gaining the ability to transform nature, man doesn't have the time to question common sense, in normal development and life balance. He noticed rather late the creation and creator of his environment which ensures the existence of biological and also the intellectual.

Without Environmental Protection, Sustainable Development cannot be carried out. The idea of sustainable development grew from numerous environmental movements in earlier decades. Summits such as the Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil, 1992, were major international meetings meant to bring sustainable development to the mainstream. However, the record on moving towards sustainability so far appears to have been quite poor. The concept of sustainability means many different things to different people, and a

large part of humanity around the world still live without access to basic necessities.

"Sustainable development" - meeting the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations - is a fundamental objective, recognized by treaties signed worldwide. To achieve this objective it is necessary that economic, social and environmental policies should be addressed in a spirit of synergy at all levels.

Although concerns in this area were older, only the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001 agreed on a strategy for sustainable development, providing a third dimension, the environment, the Lisbon strategy and establishing a new approach to this policy.

This strategy is basically a continuation of the efforts made to achieve sustainable development goals under the 5th Community Action Programme (1992-2000), "Towards sustainability", which recognizes that environmental protection is fundamental to

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the future development of the Community. The Community Strategy is an integral part of the 6th Environment Action Programme "Our Future, Our Choice", which sets the priorities for 2001-2010.

It is based on the principle that economic, social and environmental policies should be examined in a coordinated way and be taken into account in the decision-making process. The conference in Gothenburg, in 2001, brought about the adoption of sustainable development as long-term EU strategy, which focuses on sustainable development policies in the economic, social and environmental fields. The Council of Europe has identified a number of objectives and measures in the four priority areas of future EU development policy: combating climate change, sustainable development, public health, the accountable management of natural resources.

2. The Romanian strategy on environmental protection and sustainable development

The Romanian strategy on environmental protection and sustainable development: In Romania, as in other countries, environmental problems are very acute, especially because of intense local pollution of the environment by industry and agriculture.

Without environmental protection there cannot be sustainable development. Environmental strategy is found therefore in its essential details in the national strategy for sustainable development of Romania.

Changes that have occurred in the evolution of environmental factors, economic and social changes the country underwent in recent years, development of national strategy for sustainable development, issuing of government regulations related to environmental

protection, activities to develop sectorial strategies underway, new conventions and international agreements to which Romania became a party, documents and regulations on regional and international environmental issues, etc. have made it necessary, every year, to update environmental strategy in Romania, including their main provisions and the correct strategic objectives. Therefore, environmental strategy and other strategies, have a dynamic character. The environmental strategy targets were set short term (until 2004), medium (to 2010) and long (2020), based on general principles and criteria considered when setting priorities for action to be taken to protect the environment. Increasing the number and complexity of problems related to pollution was imperative to review the existing tasks in the field and making new ones. Thus, environmental actions are defined in close connection with economic development policy, with social and economic forecasts on medium and long term.

Society, the economy should work and environmental protection must be achieved at any cost. In fact natural capital, social capital and economic capital are often complementary. Forests, for example, provide not only the raw material for paper (which can be substituted quite easily), but they maintain biodiversity.

Environmental policy is designed to form the general policy of state with responsibility for setting strategies, goals and priorities, methods and means involved in the actions taken nationally to prevent and combat pollution, conservation and environmental sustainability. Environmental policy is closely linked to and conditioned by economic policy and legislative administrative-financial policy, a correlation based on a national and international incentives relationships as they represent both theoretical and practical relationships.

In order to align national environmental policies and objectives to Community standards, our country as the initial candidate had to identify priority areas of action, must set key objectives to be achieved by the accession date and time set for adoption, transposition and implementing the environmental acquis. The evolution of environmental policy is reflected in both the objectives and priorities and the large number of instruments of implementation, grouped into three types: legislative instruments (represented by existing environmental legislation), technical tools (as environmental quality standards and the best available technology) economic-financial instruments (represented by the LIFE program and the Cohesion Fund) as well as supporting the tools (the tools that complement the standard acting as an incentive to adopt environmental protection measures).

The Romanian Government, sitting in plenary session on 12th of November 2008, discussed and approved the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the years 2013-2020-2030.

The strategy sets targets for moving, in a reasonable and realistic time frame, to a new development model, specific to the European Union that is widely shared worldwide, namely the model of “sustainable development” oriented towards the continuous improvement of people's lives and of their relationships in harmony with the natural environment.

The commitments that Romania undertook as a Member State of the European Union are thus going to be fulfilled in conformity with the Treaty of Accession, the effective implementation of the principles and objectives of the Lisbon Strategy and the renewed (2006) Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union.

Having discussed the project at the national and regional level, with the active involvement of stakeholders and with the conceptual support of the Romanian Academy, the Strategy proposes a vision of Romania's development in the next two decades, with objectives that transcend political preferences and the election cycles:

- Horizon 2013: To incorporate the principles and practices of sustainable development in all the programmes and public policies of Romania as an EU Member State.
- Horizon 2020: To reach the current average level of the UE countries for the main indicators of sustainable development.
- Horizon 2030: To get significantly close to the average performance of the EU Member States for that year in terms of sustainable development indicators.

The objectives set in the Strategy, following discussions at the national and regional level, aim to maintain, strengthen, expand and adapt the structural configuration and functional capacity of the natural capital as the foundation for maintaining and enhancing its ability to support social development and economic growth pressure against the foreseeable impact of climate change.

This Strategy sets out a vision for the sustainable development of Romania in the next two decades, with goals that go beyond electoral cycles and cyclical political preferences. Therefore, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development was submitted for adoption by the Romanian Parliament, and the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as those regarding the consultation of civil society and of the citizens, are regulated by law.

This strategy assumes that achieving accelerated development in the medium and long term in all three essential components (economic, social and

environmental) is not only one of the possible options, but is a prerequisite for the gradual reduction of the gaps that still separate Romania from the European Union in terms of average quality of life, in the shortest possible horizon of time, and therefore to ensure a real cohesion, at both national and European Union level.

3. Conclusions.

Environmental policy aims to promote a harmonious and balanced development of economic activities throughout the Community, a non-inflationary sustainable growth and protection of the environment, a high degree of convergence of economic performance, a high level of employment and social protection, and increase quality of life, economic and social cohesion and solidarity among Member States".

Given that a healthy environment is essential for prosperity and quality of life and the reality of the damage and costs caused by pollution and climate change are considerable, the Romanian Government promotes de-coupling the impact and environmental degradation by promoting economic growth – efficiency and high standards of environmental interpretation as a challenge to innovation, creating new markets and business opportunities.

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