



Romania

Highlights in 2008

Since Romania joined the EU in 2007, it has been busy transposing EC Directives. Efforts to ensure timely and effective transposition should continue together with the implementation of key obligations under various Directives.

In the summer of 2008, Romania was seriously affected by floods and thousands of houses were damaged and several people killed. In response, the government adopted an action plan with the aim of preventing such natural disasters in the future. Further work is needed on developing a long-term

flood prevention strategy (currently under preparation), including allocation of responsibilities among the various stakeholders involved. In any case, Romania, along with all Member States, before 26 November 2009 will have to transpose, an EC law on the assessment and management of flood risks, which entered into force at the end of 2007, and gradually implement its requirements.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy was finalised in 2008 and indicators will be further developed to monitor implementation of the strategy over the period 2013-2030. In October 2008, the National Agency for Protected Natural Areas was legally established as a public institution, and its key mandate will be to administer protected areas at national level. This new agency was established to ensure smooth implementation of the management plans for each of the areas designated for protection. It is expected to become operational in the spring of 2009. In December 2008, together with the change of government, there have been institutional changes too: the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has now become the Ministry of Environment. The responsibilities of the new Ministry seem to have remained the same.

Climate change and energy

	Romania				EU-27 total	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006	target		
Total Kyoto GHG emissions						
– million tonnes (Mt) CO ₂ eq.	138.7	152.0	156.7	255.9 (by 2008-12)	5142.8	
– from energy supply and use, including transport (Mt CO ₂ eq.)	94.9	102.0	105.4		4098.7	
– from transport (Mt CO ₂ eq.)	9.4	11.9	12.4		992.3	
Total Kyoto GHG emissions					EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
– per capita (tonnes CO ₂ eq.)	6.2	7.0	7.2		10.4	3
– per GDP (tonnes CO ₂ eq. per 1000€ GDP)	3 438.2	2 850.3	2 716.5		495.7	26

	Romania				EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006	target		
– trend (% change compared to base year*)	-50.1%	-46.4%	-43.7%	-8.0% (by 2008-12)	-10.8%	5
– Projected 2010 emissions trend compared to base year*						
– with existing measures, Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks		-31.4%		-8.0%	-13.4%	
– with existing and additional measures, Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks		-35.3%		(by 2008-12)	-16.3%	
Average CO ₂ emissions from new passenger cars sold (grams CO ₂ /km)	n.a.	n.a. (2006)	153.7 (2007)	130 by 2012-15 for EU-27	157.5	10
Electricity produced from renewable energy sources (% gross electricity consumption)	28.8%	(2006) 31.4%	(2007) 26.9%	33.0% (by 2010)	15.6%	6
– from hydropower	28.8%	31.4%	26.8%		9.2%	
– from biomass			0.1%		3.0%	
Combined heat and power generation (% gross electricity generation)	n.a.	26.2%	18.0%	18% by 2010 for EU-15	10.9%	7
Energy consumption per capita (kg oil eq.)	1 654	1 814	1 894		3 694	1
Energy intensity - Energy consumption per 1000€ GDP (kg oil eq.)	1 460	1 167	1 128		202	26

* Base year for CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ is 1989 and for F-gases is 1989.

In 2006, Romania's greenhouse gas emissions were 44% lower than the base year level, achieving more than the targeted reduction of -8% for the period 2008-2012. Romania is projected to significantly overachieve its target and will meet the Kyoto Protocol's commitments even if it enjoys a strong economic development.

Following the adoption of the climate and energy package in December 2008, a 21% EU-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020 (compared

to 2005 levels) was agreed for power plants and large industrial emitters i.e. the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). Romania also agreed to a maximum increase of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 by 19% compared to 2005 levels in non-ETS sectors (e.g. buildings, road transport and farming). Furthermore, Romania has committed to achieving by 2020 a share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption of 24% (up from 18% in 2005).

Romania has the lowest energy consumption per capita in EU but one of the highest energy intensities. At the end of 2007 was adopted the Energy Strategy of Romania for 2007-2020, which aims to increase energy efficiency e.g. through promoting end-use energy efficiency and cogeneration and completing liberalisation of the electricity market.

By the end of 2008, 82% of all the actions in the National Action Plan on Climate Change (2005-2007) had been implemented. In order to ensure continuity, the uncompleted actions will be integrated into the new National Strategy on Climate Change which will be adopted in 2009.

Nature and biodiversity

	Romania					EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2006	2007	2008	target		
Natura 2000 area (sites designated under Habitats and Birds Directives) as % of terrestrial area		n.a.	13.2%	20.5%		17.0%	
Sufficiency of site designation under the Habitats Directive				81.8%	100%		
Area occupied by organic farming (% of Utilised Agricultural Area)	n.a.	0.8%	0.9%			4.2%	25
Freight transport (billion tkm)	33.3	79.9	82.1			EU total 2505.0	
– % road	42.9%	71.7%	72.5%			76.9%	11 of 26
– % rail	49.1%	18.1%	17.5%			17.4%	14 of 26

In April 2008, a Presidential Commission was established for “Listed Buildings, and Historical and Natural Sites”. It is to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, including buildings, and historical and natural sites. A coherent national approach is thus envisaged, in accordance with the relevant EU regulation and policies.

The European Commission took legal action against Romania in September 2008 for infringing biodiversity legislation. The European Commission found that despite some progress, Romania is still failing to designate sufficient protected areas for migratory and wild birds, and is therefore violating the EU’s Directive on the conservation of wild birds.

Environment and health

	Romania				EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2005	2006	Ceiling		
Urban population exposure to air pollution by particles (annual mean concentration, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	53 (2004)	46.2	52.2	30.0	30.0	22 out of 23
Urban population exposure to air pollution by ozone (SOMO35 level, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{day}$)	n.a.	4 500	2 054	n.a.	4 417	2 out of 23
Air pollutant emissions (thousand tonnes)				(by 2010)	EU27 total	
– sulphur dioxides (SO_2)	439	831	863	918	7946	
– nitrogen oxides (NO_x)	305	323	326	437	11198	
– non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs)	265	332	353	523	9391	
– ammonia (NH_3)	206	204	199	210	4006	
	1990	Latest available year (2005)				
Water exploitation index	41.4%		12.5%		n.a.	3

Romania's capital city, Bucharest, intends to implement a noise-reduction action plan over the next five years. The acoustic map of the city was completed in 2007 and a draft noise-reduction action plan was finalised in June 2008. After a public debate it will be submitted for approval to the Bucharest city council.

The Programme for Renewal of the National Car Fleet, addressed to the general public, gives financial support to replace cars older than 10 years with new cars. The scheme continued in 2008 and will further continue in 2009 as well. On water management and the obligation to implement the Water Framework Directive and the directives on drinking water quality, the Integrated National

Water Monitoring System was reorganised along with the water quality evaluation system.

In June 2008, a government decision was drafted to apply the European Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Furthermore, the Code for Good Practice in Refrigeration was drafted in 2008 and is to be published in 2009. The Code will support improved standards of installation/service in the sector and provide legal requirements for design and maintenance procedures, objectives for environmental protection and health and safety, and other operational requirements.

Natural resources and waste

	Romania			Target	EU-27 average	rank in EU-27
	2000	2006	2007			
Municipal waste generated (kg per capita)	363	388	379		522	5
– % landfilled	83.2%	75.0%	74.9%		41.0%	18
– % incinerated	0	0	0		19.9%	
	2004	2005	2006			
Recycling of packaging waste (as % total packaging waste)	n.a.	23.0%	28.6%	55%-80% (by 2013)	56.5 %	25

In the summer of 2008, Romania suffered from serious floods due to heavy rains. In total, there were more than 10 000 people evacuated, 13 000 houses, 1400 bridges and 20 000 hectares of farmland were damaged, and several people died. In response, an action plan (2007-2009) for protection against floods was prepared, including identification of the necessary financial resources to secure its implementation. In addition, a long-term strategy for floods prevention is under preparation, and on this basis, priority projects will be selected and co-financed from structural funds. Romania also received support from the Civil Protection Mechanism, which is one of the main European instruments helping with operational response to major disasters.

A Government decree on packaging and waste derived from packaging is under preparation. The new legislative provisions aim to create a functional system for managing packaging and packaging waste.

Better regulation and implementation

	Romania			EU-27 total
	31/12/2006	31/12/2007	31/12/2008	
Infringements of EU environmental legislation	0	3	7	481

Bearing in mind that Romania joined the EU in 2007, the number of infringements is rather large, especially in the nature sector.

Use of market-based instruments

	Romania			EU-27 average
	2002	2005	2006	
Share of environmental taxes in total tax revenue	7.6%	7.2%	6.7%	6.4%

In July 2008, a pollution-based tax on cars was introduced to replace the former tax on the first registration of cars (effective from 2007 until July 2008). These amendments brought a fall in the number of new cars and boosted the import of second-hand cars. Therefore, the government decided via an emergency ordinance in December 2008 to triple the tax on second-hand cars, and to suspend it for new cars with Euro 4 engines of up to 2 000 cm. An infringement procedure was launched by the European Commission in 2008 with respect to the legality of this tax. Current discussions show that it is likely that the tax will be soon changed once again, which makes the legislative framework rather instable.

In 2008, a grant programme was approved by the government for companies investing more than €50 million in the production of electricity from renewable sources. The objective of the scheme is to promote sustainable regional development by decreasing electricity consumption and reducing pollution generated by complex burning installations. This scheme is open to all industries but targets the sector producing electricity and heat.

Environmental technologies

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) has developed a roadmap for implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP), which is currently under approval. It includes a series of actions aimed at boosting eco-innovation and developing the market for environmental technologies in Romania.

The public funds allocated for Research and Development increased to almost 0.75% of GDP in 2008. This percentage will increase to almost 0.9% of GDP in 2009, and should reach 1% of GDP in 2010. Within this framework, a LIFE+ project was approved by the European Commission which aims to test the Industrial Symbiosis concept in Romania, and benefits from the expertise of a company which implemented the UK's National Industrial Symbiosis Programme.

Outlook for 2009

In 2007, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development initiated a process of revising and updating the National Strategy on Climate Change and the National Action Plan. The revised strategy will cover the period 2008-12 and looks ahead to 2020. It is expected to be launched in 2009.

For the coming year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will maintain the same policy measures regarding sensitive farming areas, ecological farming, and environmental pressures as for 2007 and 2008. Focus will be put on launching projects under the umbrella of the National Plan for Rural Development, which is financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

A working group has been established under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment to draft an action plan on Green Public Procurement, which is expected to be adopted in 2009.

The Romanian government is planning measures for 2009 on organic farming, including financial incentives, technical assistance and awareness campaigns on the benefits of organic agriculture.

From January 2009, a green tax on plastic bags has been introduced (0.2 lei (€5 cent) for each plastic bag). The tax value is indicated on the product packaging in order to ensure that end-users have the appropriate information for an environmentally conscious decision.

