



## **Building a Common Secure and Democratic Future**

28-29 November 2016  
Brussels

Resolution No.11/AA/2016 (draft Resolution No.14/AA/2016) November 29, 2016, Brussels

### **Resolution of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the situation of Dniester river basin**

*Expressing concern* for the decreasing quality and quantity of water in the Dniester river basin, which is the main source of drinking water for **80 per cent of the population of the Republic of Moldova as well as the city of Odessa in Ukraine.**

*Firmly believing* that Moldova and Ukraine **must combine efforts** to solve the environmental problems in the Dniester river basin, generated in particular by the Novodnistrovsk hydropower complex in Ukraine, which is situated on the course of the Dniester river, and consequently contaminates and drains its water supply.

The EaP CSF declares the following:

- the construction of the Hydropower Station SHEAP for the Novodnistrovsk hydropower complex was prevented during the Soviet times on the basis of results of environmental studies, but in 2005 Ukraine initiated its construction **without consulting the project documentation with the Republic of Moldova;**
- the hydropower complex **produces negative consequences on the aquatic ecosystems of the Lower Dniester**, and diminishes the volume of water in Dniester river available for the population's drinking water supply;
- the commissioning of the first 3 SHEAP turbines has already caused serious problems for the Dniester river and more importantly has halved the water volume of the middle and lower Dniester. In addition, the pollution levels have become more severe, the natural self-cleaning capacity of the river has decreased considerably, and its temperature has changed, damaging the river's valuable fish supplies;
- the daily operation of the hydropower complex has reduced the number of spring floods, which are necessary for the normal functioning of coastal ecosystems and internationally recognized wetlands as well as for the breeding of protected species of birds and valuable regional fish species;
- the **Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development of the Dniester river basin** was drafted between 2005 and 2011. **This document covers the management of water resources of the Dniester river in a transboundary context, though it has yet to be ratified by Ukraine;**



## **Building a Common Secure and Democratic Future**

28-29 November 2016  
Brussels

- Ukraine continues to prepare plans for the installation of 4 additional SHEAP generators, besides the three existing ones, and plans to build six new hydropower complexes on upper course of Dniester river, which would cause the depreciation of the Dniester river, which is the main water source for the Republic of Moldova and the city of Odessa in Ukraine.

*Based on* the provisions of the European Union legislation and international conventions on water protection and management, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum:

- **Expresses** its concern about the deterioration of the environmental situation in the middle and lower courses of the Dniester river basin, as a result of the construction and operation of the Novodnestrovsk hydropower complex;
- **Attests** the lack of dialogue and willingness of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to solve this problem by ratifying the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development of the Dniester river basin signed in Rome on 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. The Republic of Moldova already ratified the Agreement. This Agreement would prompt the implementation of actions to restore the volume of water in the Dniester river, which is needed to supply the population of Moldova and the city of Odessa in Ukraine with drinking water and furthermore necessary for the proper functioning of aquatic ecosystems in the Dniester river.

**The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum calls on the international community:**

- **To actively encourage** the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to ratify the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable development of the Dniester river basin, signed by both parties in 2012, which would ensure transparent cooperation along the Dniester river for the purpose of effective transboundary water management and the provision of a sufficient water flow to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water to the population of Moldova and city of Odessa. The implementation of the Agreement by both parties will also lead to the effective protection and conservation of aquatic ecosystems in the river;
- **To insist on** the carrying out of an Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, in order to avoid a negative environmental impact of further hydropower projects in the Dniester river basin.