

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Tiberiu Bărbulețiu, Daciana Octavia Sârbu and Sándor Kónya-Hamar
on putting an end to the destruction of the ecosystem of the Danube Delta

Lapse date: 11.10.2007

0057/2007

Written declaration on putting an end to the destruction of the ecosystem of the Danube Delta

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Article 4 of the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats,
 - having regard to the EU-Ukraine Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and Action Plan, under which Ukraine is expected to comply with European standards, including those in the environmental field,
- A. whereas the Danube Delta Nature Reserve is a unique ecosystem, included on UNESCO's World Heritage list, which is home to some 4000 plant and animal species of enormous value,
 - B. whereas Ukraine has built and opened to navigation the Bâstroe canal, crossing the Danube Delta biosphere reservation, with serious consequences in terms of damage to an entire fragile ecosystem,
 - C. whereas the Bâstroe canal will damage the habitat as a whole by eliminating 1500 hectares of the delta, thus endangering numerous unique species and habitats and altering a hydrological system which now supplies drinking water and water for irrigation and fishing,
 - D. whereas the building of the Bâstroe canal contravenes Ukraine's undertakings to the EU regarding sustainable development and jeopardises the Union's existing investments in Ukraine in the area of environmental protection,
1. Calls on the Commission and Council, in the framework of the negotiations for a new and extended EU-Ukraine cooperation agreement, to press Ukraine to close the Bâstroe canal and, as a last resort, to be prepared to suspend Community aid to Ukraine for a certain period;
 2. Urges the Commission and Council to call on Ukraine to take measures to reduce or compensate any environmental damage that may already have been caused by the building works for the Bâstroe canal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Parliaments of the Member States.