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REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

March 15, 2000

Mr. Andrew Vorkink
Country Director, Bulgaria
World Bank
1818 H. St. NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Vorkink:

As you know, Bulgaria has been actively involved in national and regional activities to reduce transboundary pollution in the Black Sea and in the Danube. In fact, Bulgaria is currently the sitting chair of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (ICPDR).

Bulgaria is also very much moving towards accession to the European Union. To this effect, we have recently passed laws which will lead to compliance with the EU Framework Directive on Water.

We have been working with staff from the World Bank to identify projects which will address the problems of transboundary nutrients in the Black Sea/Danube, to help us meet our commitments under the Danube and Black Sea Conventions, as well as to assist us in complying with EU regulations. We have identified a Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Reduction Project in the Danube River Basin which is eligible for financing under the GEF Operational programs for biodiversity and international waters. It falls under the proposed GEF/World Bank Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction.

We are writing to request your assistance in financing the GEF Wetland Restoration and Nutrient Reduction Project. This will serve as a pilot program which will then be replicated not only throughout Bulgaria, but in other countries of the region.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Minister: 

(Neno Dimov)