**Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary**

**on Cooperation in the Field of Environment**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

*Recognizing* the rights and obligations of each country to protect the environment and nature and ensure rational use of natural resources;

*Aware* of the exceptional importance of environment and the protection of human health for present and future generations;

*Aware* of the responsibility to ensure environmental security and to prevent harmful transboundary impacts;

*Led* by the widely accepted norms of international law and multilateral environmental agreements by which the two countries are bound;

*Convinced* that long-term bilateral environmental cooperation is an important factor for further development of friendly relations between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

The Parties shall, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, develop bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection, in compliance with norms and standards of the European Union.

**Article 2**

The Parties shall cooperate in the following areas:

1. protection of nature, biological diversity, endemic and threatened plant and animal species and their habitats;
2. development and management of protected areas;
3. air pollution abatement;
4. noise control;
5. development of environmental technologies;
6. chemicals management;
7. waste management;
8. environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
9. implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
10. approximation of Moldova’s legislation on environment and nature protection to the regulation of the European Union ;
11. cooperation in implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR);
12. enhancement of transition into sustainability, helping the development of green economy;
13. greenhouse gas abatement, climate change adaptation;
14. cooperation in setting up national mechanisms for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

**Article 3**

Cooperation between the Parties shall be conducted through appropriate means, such as:

1. exchange of information and experience, professional literature and publications;
2. identification and implementation of joint programmes and projects in the areas of cooperation;
3. organization of seminars and expert meetings.

**Article 4**

The Parties may involve other government agencies, municipalities, academic institutions, professional or business organisations, foundations, associations, in accordance with the applicable laws and government policies of their countries that could enhance the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and for this purpose may encourage the development of direct contacts of these institutions.

**Article 5**

(1) In order to ensure efficient implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties will establish a Moldovan - Hungarian Working Group on Environment to:

1. elaborate working programs that include activities planned for a given period;
2. evaluate and monitor the implementation of working programs.

(2) The Moldovan - Hungarian Working Group on Environment will arrange meetings for specific issues related to the agreement provisions, alternately in the Republic of Moldova and in Hungary.

(3) Within three months after signing the present Memorandum of Understanding the Parties shall inform each other in written form of the names of the members of the Moldovan - Hungarian Working Group on Environment and the names of contact persons responsible for coordination of the activities of the Working Group.

**Article 6**

(1) Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of funds and personnel of the Parties and is to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country. Each Party shall cover participation costs of its representatives in all joint events; however, the host Party shall provide facilities and services required for carrying out joint meetings. Information to be transferred to the other Party shall be provided free of charge.

(2) In specific cases the Parties may agree otherwise on financing the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding based on the decision of the Moldovan - Hungarian Working Group on Environment.

(3) The Parties seek to identify external sources in order to finance joint projects and programmes.

**Article 7**

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed to affect the existing rights and obligations of the Parties under bilateral and multilateral international agreements.

**Article 8**

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled through mutual consultations or negotiations between the Parties.

**Article 9**

The results and information produced in the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding could be accessible to third parties in accordance with the respective legal regulations of the two countries and with the consent of the Parties.

**Article 10**

(1) This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

(2) These amendments shall enter into force according to the procedure established in paragraph 1 of article 11, of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article 11**

(1) This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the written notification through diplomatic channels, by which the Republic of Moldova informs Hungary about the completion of its internal procedures required for the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding.

(2) This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for additional five-year periods, unless either Party expresses its wish to terminate it by means of a written notice at least six months prior to expiration of its initial period of validity.

(3) Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the implementation of ongoing project activities or programs agreed upon prior to the date of the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at Chisinau, on this 7 day of March in the year of 2018 in two original copies, each of them in Romanian, Hungarian, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. Should any differences and conflicts arise while interpreting any of the Provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, the English version shall prevail.

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| **For the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment**  **of the Republic of Moldova** | **For the Ministry of Agriculture**  **of Hungary** |