

**Notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the  
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System 2021-2030**

<i>Description of information to be included</i>	<i>Information</i>
<b>General information on the plan</b>	
Name of the plan or programme	Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System 2021-2030
Type and sector of plan (e.g., local land-use plan, national energy strategy)	National level, energy sector
Territorial coverage (e.g., regional, national)	National territory
Main content and purpose of the plan or programme (e.g., framework setting for projects, determination of use of land) and its links with other plans or programmes	<p>The Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System (NTS), prepared according to the European Directive EC/73/2009 on the common rules for the internal market in natural gas and in line with the objectives proposed in the <i>Energy Strategy of Romania 2020-2030 with 2050 outlook</i>, is compliant with the European energy policy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ensuring safety of gas supply;</li> <li>▪ increasing interconnectivity between the national gas transmission network and the European network;</li> <li>▪ increasing the flexibility of the national gas transmission network;</li> <li>▪ the liberalization of the gas market;</li> <li>▪ creating the integrated gas market in the European Union</li> <li>▪ ensuring the connection of third parties to the gas transmission system, according to specific regulations, within the limits of transmission capacities and compliant with the technological regimes;</li> <li>▪ the extension of the pipeline network up to the entrance to the localities certified as tourist resorts of national or local interest, when such localities are at a distance of maximum 25 km from the connection points of the transmission system operators;</li> <li>▪ ensuring the connection to the natural gas network of new investments which generate work places.</li> </ul> <p>The document presents the directions of development for the Romanian natural gas transmission network and the major projects intended to be implemented in the next 10 years.</p>

	<p>The aim is to achieve a maximum degree of transparency regarding the development of the National Gas Transmission System in order to offer the market players the possibility to be notified in advance of the existing and planned transmission capacities, so that, following public consultations, the decisions regarding the investments in the gas transmission network to be in line with the market requirements.</p> <p>The proposed developments are corroborated with the development of the storage system which has a complementary role in supporting the security, stability, optimization and flexibility of the National Natural Gas Transmission System.</p> <p>TRANSGAZ is a member of ENTSOG (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas), an entity where the company works together with all the EU gas transmission system operators in order to establish a common regulatory framework and a common strategy and vision for the development of the European gas transmission system to establish an integrated energy market.</p> <p>In this context, while preparing The Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System for 2021-2030, the coordination with the <i>Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)</i>, <i>Gas Regional Investment Plans (GRIPs)</i> and the development plans of the gas transmission operators in the region was aimed.</p>
Whether the plan or programme is binding	The Plan for the Development of the National Natural Gas Transmission System is a binding document, elaborated in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 123/2012 on electricity and natural gas, as amended, European Directive CE / 73/2009.
<b>Submitted documents</b>	
Draft plan or programme	The Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System for 2021-2030 is enclosed to the Notification.
Environmental Report	The Environmental Report is enclosed to the Notification.
Other documents	The appropriate assessment is enclosed to the Notification.
Languages into which documents are or will be translated	The enclosed documents are translated into English.
Description of the decision-making procedure and of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in the Party of origin	<p>The plan is currently under the strategic environmental assessment procedure (SEA), coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.</p> <p>The title holder of this plan is TRANSGAZ SA.</p> <p>The Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and</p>

	<p>Forests is the authority responsible for the SEA procedure at national level and with the transboundary SEA procedure, as well.</p> <p>By the present Notification, Romania is applying the transboundary SEA procedure with the countries that are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Plan (Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Republic of Serbia).</p> <p>If the notified countries respond that they participate in the transboundary SEA procedure, Romania expects comments and points of views from the affected public and from the authorities of the Affected Parties.</p> <p>A public hearing will be organized online due to the pandemic requirements. After the SEA procedure is closed, the Romanian public authorities will adopt the Plan by the decision of the National Energy Regulatory Authority.</p>
Description of the phases of the planning procedure	<p>The planning procedure consists in the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elaboration of the Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System;</li> <li>- Conducting the SEA procedure at national level and in a transboundary context, as well;</li> <li>- Taking into account the results of the national and transboundary consultations;</li> <li>- Completion of the SEA procedure and issuance of the environmental approval;</li> <li>- Adoption of the Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System (NTS) by Decision of the National Energy Regulatory Authority (A.N.R.E.)</li> </ul>
Legal basis for the planning procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	<p>In accordance with art. 22 of the European Directive EC/73/2009 on common rules for the internal market in natural gas, transmission system operators shall submit to the regulatory authority a ten-year network development plan based on the current supply and demand and on the supply and demand forecasts, after prior consultation of all stakeholders.</p> <p>In the national legislation, Gas and Power Law no. 123/2012, as amended, establishes by art. 125 para. (6) that the Transmission System Operator has the obligation to draw up 10-year transmission system investment and development plans, according to the current state and future evolution of the natural gas consumption and sources, including imports and exports of natural gas.</p>
Description of the phases of the SEA procedure, including participation of the affected Party	<p>According to the national legislation in force (Governmental Decision no. 1076/2004) transposing the Directive 2001/42/CE, SNTGN Transgaz SA has completed the Environmental Report, the Appropriate</p>

	<p>Assessment and the Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System 2021-2030 and submitted them to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.</p> <p>These documents were been made available to the public on the web site of TRANSGAZ (<a href="https://www.transgaz.ro/ro/interes-public/anunturi">https://www.transgaz.ro/ro/interes-public/anunturi</a>), as well as on the web page of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (<a href="http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/planul-de-dezvoltare-a-sistemului-national-de-transport-gaze-naturale-2021-2030/3089">http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/planul-de-dezvoltare-a-sistemului-national-de-transport-gaze-naturale-2021-2030/3089</a>).</p> <p>The Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests notifies the countries that are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Plan (Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Serbia) and sends the proposed Plan for the Development of the National Natural Gas Transmission System, the Environmental Report and the Appropriate Assessment, asking whether the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Moldavian and Serbian party is interested to participate in the SEA procedure.</p> <p>In case of an affirmative answer, the notified countries are obliged to make available to its own public and authorities the received documentation, in order to ask for comments and opinions.</p> <p>All comments and opinions, if possible in an editable format, as well, shall be sent to the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests to be taken into account for the SEA procedure.</p> <p>The final decision on the Plan for the Development of the National Gas Transmission System 2021-2030 will be made available to the authorities of the affected parties.</p>
<p>Legal basis for the SEA procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)</p>	<p>Governmental Decision nr. 1076/2004 for setting up the environmental assessment procedure of certain plans and programmes</p>
<p>Present phase of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure</p>	<p>The SEA procedure has started in September 2019.</p> <p>During the SEA procedure, the Plan, the Environmental Report and the Appropriate Assessment has been developed, the final version of the Plan is now ready for consultation.</p> <p>The documents has been drawn up and were made available to the public for consultation and receiving comments, on the Ministry's of Environment, Water and Forests:</p> <p><a href="http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/planul-de-dezvoltare-a-sistemului-national-de-transport-gaze-naturale-2021-">http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/planul-de-dezvoltare-a-sistemului-national-de-transport-gaze-naturale-2021-</a></p>

	<p><u>2030/3089</u> and Transgaz <a href="https://www.transgaz.ro/ro/interes-public/anunturi">https://www.transgaz.ro/ro/interes-public/anunturi</a>.</p>
Time schedule of the foreseen continuation of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	Planned date for finalizing the SEA Procedure: Semester 4, 2021.
Process and timing of the possible adoption of the plan	Planned date for ANRE's approving of the Plan: Semester 4, 2021.
<b>Information on the public participation process in the Party of origin</b>	
<b>Opportunities for the public to participate:</b>	
Start and end dates for the public to provide comments on the environmental report and draft plan	The public can provide comments on the Environmental Report, the Appropriate Assessment study and the draft Plan according with the legal basis for the SEA procedure. The public hearing is envisaged to take place according with the legal basis of the SEA procedure.
How the public is informed of the public participation process	The public is informed at different stages of the SEA procedure through public announcements in mass-media and also on the web sites of the Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Forests and Transgaz. Also, information can be physically consulted at the head offices of the public authorities. The announcements include the time, the place of the public hearing and the documents which can be consulted and upon which comments can be made.
Whether a public hearing is organized and, if so, when	A public hearing will be organized and announced, in due time according with the legal basis of the SEA procedure.
How the public is informed about the adoption of the plan or programme and how the information specified in article 11, paragraph 2, is made available	At the adoption of the Plan, the Romanian public and authorities will be informed. The Plan will be made available to the public together with a statement summarizing how environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.
Expected time schedule for transmittal of comments and questions by the public of the affected Party on the draft plan or programme and on the full environmental report	Romania expects comments and questions from the public and the authorities of the affected Party on the draft environmental report, appropriate assessment and Plan until 20 <sup>th</sup> of May 2021. The comments and questions transmitted must be presented in English language.
Authority responsible for the planning procedure	The National Gas Transmission Company Transgaz SA, the technical operator of the national gas transmission system of Romania.
Authority/institution responsible for the adoption of the plan	The National Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE)

Authority/institution responsible for the SEA decision (if applicable)	Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests - Romania
<b>Affected Parties</b>	
List of Parties to which notification has been sent	Bulgaria, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Republic of Serbia
<b>Point of contact for the transboundary procedure</b>	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure:	<b>The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests-Romania</b> Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control 12, Blvd. Libertatii, Sector 5 RO - 040129 BUCHAREST Telephone: +40 21 408 9595 Fax: +40 21 316 0421 E-mail: dorina.mocanu(at)mmediu.ro
<b>Deadlines for response to the notification</b>	
Deadline for responding to indicate whether the affected Party wishes to participate	The Affected Parties will inform Romania if they intend to participate in the SEA procedure until 05 <sup>th</sup> of May 2021.
Deadline for transmission of comments on the draft plan and the full environmental report by authorities of the affected Party (if different from above)	Romania expects <b>comments from the possibly affected Parties</b> on the draft environmental report, appropriate assessment and Plan until 20 <sup>th</sup> of May 2021. The comments and questions shall be submitted <b>in English and if possible in editable format.</b>
<b>Means of communication</b>	
Means by which letters from the Party of origin are sent (e.g., e-mail, fax, post, via embassy)	By e-mail to the following focal points for SEA Protocol  <b>For Bulgaria:</b> <b>Ms. Silviya DIMITROVA</b> Director of EIA, SEA and Pollution Prevention Directorate Ministry of Environment and Water 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd. 1000 SOFIA Telephone: +359 2 940 6219 Fax: +359 2 988 5316 E-mail: sdimitrova(at)moew.government.bg E-mails: minister(at)moew.government.bg edno_gishe(at)moew.government.bg kpetrova(at)moew.government.bg  <b>For Hungary:</b> <b>Mr. Dr. Hunor ORBÁN</b> Head Of Department Hungarian focal point to the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Protocol

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	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:dumitru.gorelco@madrm.gov.md">dumitru.gorelco(at)madrm.gov.md</a></p> <p><b>For Serbia</b>  <b>Mr. Miroslav TOSOVIC</b>  Head of the Group for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments Department  Ministry of Environmental Protection  1 Omladinskih Brigada Str.  11070 NEW BELGRADE  Telephone: +381 11 2690 977  Fax: +381 11 3132 547  E-mail: <a href="mailto:miroslav.tosovic@ekologija.gov.rs">miroslav.tosovic(at)ekologija.gov.rs</a></p>
<p>Means by which affected Parties are asked to send their letters</p>	<p>By e-mail to the following Romanian Focal Point:</p> <p><b>Ms. Dorina MOCANU</b>  Director  Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control  Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests  12, Blvd. Libertatii, Sector 5  RO- 040129 BUCHAREST  Telephone: +40 21 408 95 95  Fax: + 40 21 316 0421  E-mail: <a href="mailto:dorina.mocanu@mmediu.ro">dorina.mocanu(at)mmediu.ro</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Mihaela MACELARU</b>  Senior Councillor  Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control  Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests  12, Blvd. Libertatii, Sector 5  RO -040129 BUCHAREST  Telephone: +40 21 408 95 88  Fax: + 40 21 316 04 21  E-mail: <a href="mailto:mihaela.macelaru@mmediu.ro">mihaela.macelaru(at)mmediu.ro</a></p>