

Dr. Persanyi Miklos
Minister for the Environment and Water Management
Ministry for the Environment and Water Management

Budapest, 10. October 2006

Dear Minister,

Ref. Hungary's role in the environmental permitting procedures for the Rosia Montana gold mine proposal

Upon the request of several environmental NGOs, the Hungarian government confirmed in 2002 that it would activate the Espoo Convention on a transboundary EIA for the environmental permitting procedures regarding the Rosia Montana gold mine proposal.

We have noted the Ministry for the Environment's reply to the EIA Report and trust that in light of its findings the Hungarian government will take all measures to ensure that the Romanian authorities will not grant the respective environmental accord.

The reason for us writing to you today however, is that we have received two very disturbing news from our Romanian NGO partners which we would like to bring to your urgent attention.

Firstly, according to the attached document the environmental authorities in Alba Iulia and Sibiu recently decided that the Urbanistic Zoning Plans for both; the 'Rosia Montana Modified Industrial Development Area' and for the 'Rosia Montana Historic Centre' can be favourably approved **without** the application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure (SEA procedure). The SEA Directive has been in force in Romania since December 2004. We consider the Romanian environmental authorities' decision to be in breach of the SEA Directive. It violates our right to participate in the decision making procedure whilst at the same time it takes away your role to be notified and consulted under the provisions of the Espoo Convention.

Given the important role of the environmental permitting procedure for the Urbanistic Zoning Plans and given that Hungary is a potentially affected party by the implementation of the above-mentioned plans, we urge you to request the Romanian authorities for the Environment and for External Affairs to immediately notify you about Rosia Montana Gold Corporation's application for the above mentioned environmental permits. Importantly we would like you to express your right and will to participate in these permitting procedures under the Espoo Convention and the SEA procedure.

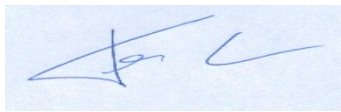
Secondly, our Romanian NGO partners have informed us that on 21.09.2006 Rosia Montana Gold Corporation officially submitted a request for obtaining an environmental accord to deforest a surface of 255ha for the Rosia Montana Gold mine proposal.¹ Under Annex 1 point

¹ You can find the official announcement of the request on
<http://www.apm-alba.ro/Anut/anunt%20sea/anunt%20forestier%201.htm>

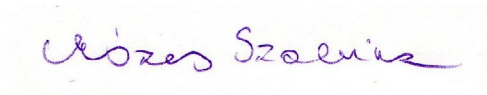
17 of the Espoo Convention on a transboundary EIA, the deforestation of large areas is listed as an activity likely to have negative transboundary impacts. Under the applicable legal provisions, the Romanian ministry for the Environment thus and now has to inform its Hungarian counterpart about this request and to give it the possibility to participate in the respective EIA procedure. Given the official date of the requests' submission this notification should have already reached you. In light of Hungary's role in the in the environmental permitting procedures for the Rosia Montana gold mine proposal we would like you to confirm your active participation in the EIA procedure for the deforestation and to inform us about the means for the Hungarian public to participate.

We look forward to reading your reply at your earliest convenience and remain

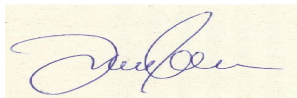
Yours sincerely,



Farkas István
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége



Mózes Szabina
Greenpeace Magyarország Egyesület



Jávor Benedek
Védegylet