REGULATIONS AND LEGAL MECHANISMS AT EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL LEVEL TO ENSURE HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION

REGULAMENTE ȘI MECANISME JURIDICE LA NIVEL EUROPEAN ȘI NAȚIONAL PENTRU A ASIGURA AJUTORUL UMANITAR ȘI PROTECȚIA CIVILĂ

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Summary. *The topic of assuring and increasing the protection of human rights will always remain in force having a constant goal of development. As an imperious subject of discussion in the Republic of Moldova, I chose to talk about how the European system can be an example for us, even our leader as far as the subject of this research is concerned. The proposed goal is to research in parallel some national mechanisms, but also those of the European Union, in order to be able to make a critical analysis of the methods implemented by the European Union to protect human rights and some advice for national practice, with the aim of highlighting the importance of defense of human rights and the implementation of a modern, European mechanism to raise citizens' confidence in justice and to suppress their fear of fighting when their rights are violated. So, as a matter of fact, this paper will suggest legal mechanisms to protect and mainly to underline the impact of people's trust when their rights are properly legally protected.*

Keywords: *civil protection, European Union, human rights, humanitarian aid, legal mechanisms, regulations.*

INTRODUCTION

The importance given to human rights, especially the protection of human rights has always been one of the most important, but at the same time controversial topics. As we know, the European Union has given more importance to the defense and development of human rights protection than the Republic of Moldova, and to be more precise, the European Union has given much more time and effort to ensure civil protection and humanitarian aid to its citizens. From my point of view, this was one of the best moves made by the European Union, because it not only ensured greater protection, but also increased confidence considerably and this fact served as a strong example for our country and many others. This step taken by the European Union for its citizens served as a demonstration for countries that are not part of it, showing that each individual citizen and each country deserves help and attention, especially in difficult times, when it is impossible to find another solution. I underline the fact that legal mechanisms for the

defense of human rights are as necessary as any other legal mechanisms and should receive the same attention, even be as well developed and implemented. I will present the arguments that will support this thesis below.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In this paper-work I analyzed the Decision regarding the approval of the draft law for the ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and the European Union, on the other hand, regarding the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union, signed in Chisinau on September 29, 2023, also the humanitarian aid and civil protection in the European Union, in particular the method and the specific steps of granting this kind of aid. The cooperation of the European Union with UNICEF[1] was also analyzed in this paper-work.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

First of all, I would like to start with explaining the meaning of ensuring humanitarian aid and civil protection by the European Union. The European Union provides needs-based assistance to countries and populations, when major disasters or humanitarian emergencies occur. Together, the EU countries are among the world's leading donors of humanitarian aid, helping millions of people worldwide each year. This aid accounts for 1% of the EU's total annual budget – around €4 per EU citizen. EU humanitarian action is guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as enshrined in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. Through its humanitarian aid, the EU assists the most vulnerable populations with: food and nutrition, shelter, health care, water and sanitation, education in emergencies. As a matter of fact, when talking about responding to crises and emergencies worldwide are involved also the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre. Emergency relief can take the form of items such as food, shelter or equipment, deployment of specially equipped teams, or assessment and coordination by experts sent to the field. Also, the European Union has its own rescEU[2] reserve that include fleet of firefighting planes and helicopters, medical evacuation plan, stockpile of medical items and field hospitals, shelter, transport and logistics assets, energy supply items, reserves to respond to CBRN[3] risks. rescEU is 100% financed by the European Union, including costs for purchase, operation, and maintenance. Over the years, European Union gained more and more confidence around the world and this made possible the partnerships, for example the European Union has a partnership with UNICEF for over 20 years for every child in emergencies. This agreement increased humanitarian aid and civil protection mostly for children, which spread the truth much faster about the dire situation of many

[1] United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
[2] Reserve of European capacities to respond to emergencies
[3] Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk

children whose fundamental rights were being violated in the first place and who did not have any necessary protection, but the European Union in partnership with UNICEF made this fact possible. For example, the operational partnership included a project funded by EU Humanitarian Aid, where UNICEF supports local authorities to increase coverage and improve nutrition service quality for children in Madagascar. The project ensures at least 75% of 3,500 severely acutely malnourished children.

These are just a few examples on the international plan that somehow help small countries as Republic of Moldova to close more partnerships with European Union in order to develop faster and help a lot of people. In the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova regarding the approval of the draft law for the ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and the European Union, on the other part, regarding the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Protection Mechanism Civil Agreement of the European Union, signed in Chisinau on September 29, 2023, where is stipulated the fact that the *final goal of concluding the Agreement is to strengthen the cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the member states of the European Union, as well as to facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of the systems of prevention, preparation and response to natural and man-made disasters. The conclusion of the Agreement will have a positive impact on the protection of the economic interests of the Republic of Moldova and will essentially contribute to increasing the security and safety of the population, as well as the environment. Another factor that will improve the economic aspect is the reduction of the reaction time to emergency and exceptional situations, which will contribute to the reduction of the amount of subsequent material damage.*

Another example of the steps that our country makes in order to develop the civil protection are stipulated in Law no. 271 of 09-11-1994 regarding civil protection, published on 29-12-1994 in Official Gazette No. 20 art. 231 in art.4 *the main tasks of the Civil Protection (1) the main tasks of the Civil Protection are:*

a) protection of the population and property under the conditions of exceptional situations;

b) the execution of rescue works and other works that cannot be postponed under the conditions of exceptional situations and upon liquidation of their effects;

c) the organization of the prior and multilateral preparation of the population, of the objects of the national economy, of the Civil Protection forces for carrying out actions in the event of the emergence of the danger of exceptional situations and under their conditions.

(2) Civil Protection, in accordance with its duties:

a) the organization of the necessary forces, capable of ensuring the reliable protection of the population and property under the conditions of exceptional situations, achieves their technical-material endowment and special training, keeps them in a permanent state of readiness for actions under the conditions of exceptional situations;

b) creates and maintains in a permanent state of readiness the command, notificati-

on and communications systems, organizes the control and supervision of the radiation, chemical, bacteriological and fire prevention situation on the territory of the republic;

c) accumulates the necessary fund of protection constructions, keeps them in a permanent state of preparation for the adoption of persons subject to danger;

d) accumulate and keep safe the means of protection, food products and medicines, technical-material, financial and other means, autonomous sources of electricity and water supply, provided for exceptional situations;

e) protect water sources and water supply systems, food products and food raw materials, feed, agricultural animals and plants from radioactive, chemical and bacteriological pollution, and the environment from pollution with radioactive, poisonous, strong, toxic substances and with bacteriological means;

One of the most recent examples is the following, since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, more than 700,000 people have taken refuge in the Republic of Moldova, and the country currently hosts more than 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. 18 EU member states and Norway offered assistance in goods to the Republic of Moldova through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Assistance consisted of shelter items, medical aid, food and energy supplies, among others. Given the scale of the needs, the European Commission has also mobilized medical equipment from rescEU medical stocks in Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands. The EU also finances humanitarian projects in Moldova to support vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, the local families hosting them, as well as vulnerable Moldovans in need. To this end, since the beginning of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, the EU has allocated 48 million euros for humanitarian assistance.

According to the information presented, I would like to firmly suggest that Republic of Moldova is trying to get close to the kind of humanitarian aid and civil protection that European Union has. Even though we do not have, at the moment the possibility to help in the same way as the European Union countries do, I believe that soon the situation will change, once we join the European Union.

CONCLUSION

In a clear line of ideas, I can specify that humanitarian aid together with civil protection will always be discussed topics both at the national and international level, which give each person a special impact. in my opinion, the Republic of Moldova has made and is making considerable efforts to improve the quality of the legal mechanisms for the protection of human rights, taking as an example the European Union and all the member states, it will succeed in rising to the level expected by its citizens.

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