

ROMANIA

MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

DIRECTION OF GENERAL POLICE

POLICE TRAFFIC DIVISION

Not secret

Bucharest

No: 9959 from 04.11.2012

For

OPTAR (Organisation for Promoting Alternative Transport in Romania)

As a reply to your petition addressed to the Institution of the Prefect of Bucharest and submitted for solving to our unit and registered under the number above, through which you request the adoption for necessary measurements to protect the life and safety of the traffic participants who use the sidewalks and the cycle lanes established on them, we inform you that for the remedy of the mentioned issues the next measurements were adopted:

As a result of the checking of the viability of the cycle lanes, on routes mentioned in the petitions sent to the traffic police in advance, a number of deficiencies were identified both in the traffic signaling by markings as well as in the delimitation of the area designated for bicycle use and the area designated for pedestrians use. At the same time, it was noted that there are no crossings for the bicyclists, the curb is not properly lowered to street level, on the cycle lanes there are obstacles in the way of the bicycles (kiosks, pedestrians platforms, outdoor advertising panels, seasonal terraces, garbage bins, etc) or the space left for the circulation of the pedestrians is less than 1m wide. All these deficiencies were transmitted to the the Streets Administration, District Halls 1, 3, 5, 6 and RATB (Bucharest Public Transport Company) on the 22nd of September 2011.

The proposition to shut down the mentioned cycle lanes was submitted to the debate of the Bucharest Technical Committee for Traffic in the meeting on the 15th of September 2011, on which it was established that the Streets Administration would analyze the possibility of tracing cycle paths on the road surface, where these are impractical for cycling or walking (TN: the phrase is poorly written even in Romanian, basically what the Police were trying to say was that they will consider moving the badly designed cycle paths from the sidewalks onto the road surface) .

Between the 7th and the 25th of October 2011, the public institutions that were sent information about the deficiencies of the cycle lanes or about the obstacles found on them, replied to the

Police Traffic Division that a part of the mentioned issues OPTAR has indicated have been solved (the shutting down of the seasonal terraces, the rearranging of the ornamental flower pots) the rest of the issues being in the course of remedy (the rearranging of the benches, the newspaper stands or kiosks, the mounting of the bollards in the locations that they are missing from or where they have been destroyed, the development of properly lowering the curb to street level in the locations transmitted by the Traffic Police). At the same time, referring to the deteriorated markings, the Streets Administration informed us that they no longer can be executed on the basis of the performed contract since the "warranty of good executing " was retained from the commercial firm that has in its warranty these developments, because they did not follow the contractual clauses.

Given the fact that the Institutions from The Local Public Administration are carrying out the activities of raising the safety of the traffic participants who use the sidewalks and the cycle lanes established on them, and the Streets Administration will analyze the possibility of assigning a section of the roads to the cycle lanes in the sections were they are improper for the traffic of the bicyclists and the pedestrians, we do not consider a proper measure to shut down the cycle lanes until the completion of these activities.

Respectfully yours,
GENERAL MANAGER,
Police Questor
VIOREL VASILE