

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREEK-ALBANIAN PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY FRESHWATER ISSUES'

The Greek-Albanian Permanent Commission on the transboundary freshwater issues, established under Article 1 of the Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania, signed in Athens on 3.4.2003, held its first Meeting on April 10, 2008 in Tirana.

Both delegations expressed their will to pursue their collaboration on the protection of their transboundary watercourses and lakes.

During the meeting the following items have been discussed and the following conclusions upon them have been reached by the Commission :

1. Adoption of the Regulation of the Commission.

An ad-hoc working group prepared a draft Regulation according to Article 9 of the Agreement, which has been approved by the Commission as its Regulation and signed by the two Heads of Delegation. This Regulation is attached as Annex I to the present Agreed Minutes.

2. Exchange of information and views regarding the joint management of Aous/Vjosa river basin district.

Both Parties stressed the importance of the protection and sustainable use of the Aous/Vjosa river basin. In this respect the Greek side presented data on the status and characteristics of the Aous river.

Both delegations agreed to create a sub commission on the basis of article 3, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, aiming at their coordination, for the production of a single management plan related to the whole river basin district.

3. Exchange of information and views regarding the Prespa Lakes.

Both Parties stressed the importance of the "Declaration on the creation of the Prespa Park and the environmental protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Lakes and their surroundings", of February second of the year 2000. It was also decided that a study be prepared concerning the monitoring of the environmental parameters of the Prespa Lakes. The sub commission established under paragraph 2 of the present Agreed Minutes is also mandated to define the technical parameters of this study.

4. Other issues

The Albanian side presented its concern on the need for the reparation of the floating border signs. It also raised the issue of irrigation in the region of Korça, especially the need for the use of waters from Little Prespa, as well as the need of harmonisation of fishing periods.

It has been decided that the sub commission established under paragraph 2 of the present Agreed Minutes, will meet in Ioannina, in the course of next autumn. The exact dates will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

It has been agreed that the next meeting of the Commission will take place in Athens during the first trimester of the year 2009. The exact dates will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Done in Tirana, on April 10, 2008 in two copies in the English language.

The Head of the Greek Delegation



Prokopios D. Mantzouranis

The Head of the Albanian Delegation



Ledita Hysi

ANNEX I**REGULATION OF THE PERMANENT GREEK-ALBANIAN COMMISSION
ON TRANSBOUNDARY FRESHWATER ISSUES**

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the Establishment of the Permanent Greek-Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues done in Athens on 3 April 2003 (hereinafter "The Agreement"), the Commission on its first regular session held in Tirana, April 10, 2008, has adopted the present Regulation.

Article 1

The Commission performs the tasks referred in article 2 of the Agreement.

Article 2

1. The Commission is composed of the delegations of the Parties. Each delegation comprises 9 (nine) members from each Party. Each member may have its substitute. National experts may also support every delegation. Each party nominates one delegation member as the head of the delegation.

2. If appropriate, the Commission may create sub-commissions composed from its members, substitute members or experts.

Article 3

1. The Commission conducts its ordinary meeting once a year. The heads of the delegations may also convoke, by mutual decision, extraordinary meetings.

2. The ordinary meeting is conducted alternatively in the territory of the Parties. The head of the delegation of the hosting Party shall chair the meeting.

Article 4

Each head of delegation may propose agenda items. The final date and agenda of the meeting are fixed through diplomatic channels.

Article 5

The working languages of the Commission are Greek, Albanian and English

Article 6

1. The Commission adopts its decisions by consensus. To this end, the matters under discussion are considered concluded when both heads of delegation agree on the same conclusion. If consensus cannot be reached on a specific question, the matter will be referred to the governments of the Parties.

2. The agreed minutes of each meeting are dressed in duplicate in the English language. They are signed by the two heads of delegations.

3. The Commission's conclusions become effective once approved by both Governments. The relevant approval will be notified respectively through diplomatic channels.

1.07

AM

Article 7

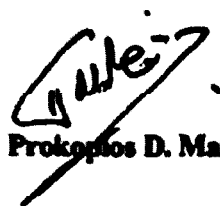
Each of the Parties affords its delegation's expenditures. Both Parties afford in equal parts the other expenditures connected with the Commission's work, if it is not decided otherwise.

Article 8

This Regulation may be amended by mutual agreement at any meeting of the Commission. Proposals for amendment should be forwarded to the other Party at least 3 weeks before such a meeting.

Done at Tirana on 10 April 2008, in two original copies in the English language, annexed to the Agreed minutes of the first meeting of the Permanent Greek-Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues.

The Head of the Greek Delegation



Prokopios D. Mantzouranis

The Head of the Albanian Delegation



Ledia Hysi

ANNEX II**Greek Delegation of the Permanent Greek – Albanian Commission on Transboundary Freshwater**

1. **Mr. P.D. Mantzouranis, Head of the delegation, Director General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;**
2. **Mr. Vassilios N. Patronas, Head of the Special Legal Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;**
3. **Mr. Ioannis Tzovas – Mourouzis, First Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;**
4. **Mr. Ch. Farmakia, Head of the Economic sector of the Greek Embassy, First Counsellor for Economic Affairs**
5. **Mrs. Paraskevi Kaburoglou, Second Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/B2 Directorate for Economic relations with South-eastern Europe, CIS and BSEC;**
6. **Mr. Alexandros Kolliopoulos, Alternate Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Special Legal Service;**
7. **Mr. S. Liondos, First Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Greek Embassy**
8. **Mr. Constantinos Christodoulou, Head of Monitoring and Management Unit, Ministry of Economy and Finance/Managing Authority of the Greece – Albania neighbourhood programme;**
9. **Mr. Dimitrios K. Baltogiannis, Head of the Directorate General, Region of Epirus;**
10. **Mr. Dimitrios Spyralis, Director of Pigai Aaos Hydroelectric Power Plant, Public Power Corporation/Operation Department.**