

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

The Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Aiming to build and promote mutual cooperation between the two countries for the protection of their transboundary watercourses and lakes, called as Aaos (Viosa) river, the Drinos river and the Prespa lakes.

Taking into account the Convention concerning the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992,

Aware of the necessity to strengthen the national and bilateral action to prevent pollution of freshwater,
Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purpose of cooperation in the field of protection of transboundary watercourses and lakes, the Parties hereby establish a Permanent Greek - Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues.

Article 2

The tasks of the Commission are the following:

- 1) To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources.
- 2) To draw up inventories and exchange information on the pollution sources mentioned in point 1 of this article.
- 3) To define joint water - quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality.
- 4) To serve as a forum for the exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations that are likely to have a transboundary impact or to have an adverse effect on the quality of freshwaters.
- 5) To discuss and evaluate proposals relating to the hydraulic works the Parties might decide to carry out in collaboration with each other and supervise their application.
- 6) To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality.
- 7) To serve as an instance for exchange of information between the Parties on water policy issues.
- 8) To study proposals for the exchange of practical experience and technical knowledge in the field of freshwater, including exchange of hydrological and meteorological data and transfer of experience on water monitoring.
- 9) To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the Parties.

Article 3

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. The Commission may create sub - commissions composed from its members, substitute members or experts.

Article 4

1. The Commission conducts its ordinary meeting once a year. The heads of the delegations can also convoke, by mutual decision, extraordinary meetings.
2. The ordinary meeting is conducted alternatively in the territory of the Parties.

Article 5

The date and the agenda of the meeting are fixed through diplomatic channels.

Article 6

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

Article 7

1. The Commission adopts its decisions by consensus. 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.

Article 8

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 9

The Commission shall draw up its regulation in accordance with the present Agreement.

Article 10

Any dispute concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement will be settled through diplomatic channels.

Article 11

The Joint Greek - Albanian Commission on water issues of transboundary rivers, established by the Minutes signed at Gjirokaster on 22 November 1985, is abolished.

Article 12

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification by which a Party informs the other about the completion of its relevant internal procedures.
2. The present Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for successive five (5) years periods, unless one Party notifies the other Party, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate the Agreement at least ninety (90) days before the date of termination.

Done at Athens on 3.4.2003 in two original copies in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

