

*Second meeting of the Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment*

*12 October 2011, Sofia, Bulgaria*

The Second Meeting of the Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment (Joint Expert Working Group) established under the *Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic on Understanding and Cooperation in the Field of Use of Water Resources on the Respective Territories of the Shared River Basins Between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hellenic Republic signed on the 27th July 2010 (Joint Declaration)*, took place in Sofia, Bulgaria on the 12th October 2011.

The two delegations discussed and exchanged views on the following subjects:

- Legislation for implementing the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive
- Competent authorities and administrative structures for water management
- Progress in the implementation of the Water Framework directive through the River Basin management plans and in the implementation of the Floods Directive
- Monitoring of water quantitative and qualitative parameters and early warning systems for floods.
- Available historical hydrometeorological information necessary for the implementation of Directive 2007/60/EC

The Joint Expert Working Group:

- a) Agreed to exchange available written information on the above issues in the course of one month.
- b) Adopted a framework for action to facilitate cooperation on technical and organizational level for implementation of 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC in line with the deadlines for activities requiring international coordination as set by the aforementioned Directives and taking into account point 1.9. c) of the Joint Declaration.

In this vein, the Joint Expert Working Group agreed, according to paragraph 6 of its Rules of Procedure, to establish three sub-working groups with the following topics:

- Pricing policies
- Legislative and administrative issues
- Technical data, regarding issues requiring bilateral cooperation under Directives 2000/60/EC and 2007/60/EC, such as identification and characterization of water bodies, pressures and impacts, protected areas, existing and planned water uses/services in the shared river basins, water quality and quantity monitoring networks with a view to establish mutually accepted monitoring procedures and classification system, environmental objectives and possible exemptions, program of measures, existing meteorological and hydrological information..

It was decided that the number and tasks of the sub-working groups can be revised by mutual agreement upon proposal by the sub-working groups to the Joint Expert Working Group.

It was decided that the sub-working groups shall hold their first meeting within December 2011/January 2012.

The sub-working groups shall report on their work to the Joint Expert Working Group at the latter's third meeting.


During the first meeting of the sub-working groups will discuss their rules of procedure.

It was agreed that the Joint Expert Working Group will hold its Third meeting in Greece in March/April 2012.


Done in Sofia, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in two original copies in English language.

**For the Bulgarian Delegation**

  
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**For the Greek Delegation**

  
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