

**JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN THE**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND**

**THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

Acknowledge that the cooperation in the field of environment and climate change between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Turkey can serve as an important pillar of the dialogue and cooperation process between the two countries, as well as throughout the whole Mediterranean region.

Recall that the two countries have ratified the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention, 1979) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio De Janeiro, 1992).

Recall that the two countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation on environmental protection in Ankara on January the 20th of 2000.

Mindful that Greece is a member state of the European Union (EU) and is committed to implement EU Legislation to all policies pertaining to nature and water resources and that Turkey is a negotiating country for accession to the EU.

Decide to establish and operate a system of permanent cooperation for the sustainable development of the Evros / Meric basin to improve living standards in the riverine areas, to prudently use environmental resources, to conserve natural and cultural heritage and to strengthen the friendship ties between Greek and Turkish people.

Consider water management measures and their implementation, benefiting both countries in a way that each country reduces pollution and ensures the necessary water quantity and quality to address both human needs along the river and the ecological needs of the Evros / Meric Delta.

Take necessary measures to manage the flood problem in the Evros / Meric basin inviting all countries sharing the river basin to participate, and apply best available techniques including the establishment of flood early warning system.

Work towards commonly agreed management techniques for the conservation of the wider Evros / Meric Delta Ecoregion, as appropriate.

Decide to establish an ad hoc Joint Committee within two months following the signing of this Joint Declaration in order to exchange relevant information aiming at establishing, if possible, a single management plan or, at least, a single flood risk management plan for Evros / Meric river, ensuring coordination between the different management plans and measures.

Take necessary measures and apply best available techniques to protect the marine environment.

Take necessary measures to protect biodiversity.

Work together to adapt to climate change and reduce its adverse impact, on the basis of common and differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

In giving effect to this Joint Declaration the Parties shall proceed in accordance to their national legislation and international obligations and on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and good faith.

This Joint Declaration was signed in Athens, on May 14, 2010.

H.E. Tina Birbili
The Minister for Environment,
Energy and Climate Change of the
Hellenic Republic

H.E. Veysel Eroğlu
The Minister for Environment and
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