

Joint Expert Working Group for shared river basins between Bulgaria & Greece

Rules of Procedure

According to the Joint Declaration between the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister for Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia, on July 27th 2010, the two Parties, affirming their willingness to collaborate for the use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins, decided to establish a Joint Expert Working Group, focusing on cooperation on water and environment. The Greek Alternate National Representative and the members of the Working Group will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Composition of the Working Group

1. The Working Group shall have the following composition:

a) Bulgarian members:

-Ms. Atanaska Tuntova – Director of East Aegean River Basin Directorate, National Representative.

- Mr. Radoslav Georgiev – Director of West Aegean River Basin Directorate, National Representative.

- Mr. Dobri Dimitrov - Deputy Director General, National Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology, Alternate Representative.

- Six members to be communicated through diplomatic channels.

b) Greek members:

- Mr. Andreas Andreadakis, Special Secretary for Water, Special Secretariat for Water, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.
- Alternate National Representative to be communicated through diplomatic channels.
- Three representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.
- One representative from the Civil Protection Authority.
- One representative from the Water Authority of East Macedonia and Thrace.
- One representative from the Water Authority of Central Macedonia.
- One representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

c) Experts may also support on an ad hoc basis and attend Group's meetings.

Working Group's tasks

2. The responsibility of the Working Group shall be:

- a) To establish the basis for a commonly agreed method of obtaining, assessing and exchanging information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources and experience and know-how in the implementation of international agreements, EU legislation and pertinent national legal framework. In addition, exchange of information on the possible effects, including the extraction of inert material from river beds and river deposits, in accordance to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.
- b) To coordinate river basin management plans, in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2000/60/EC. In addition, to collaborate on the protection against harmful water impacts and on monitoring and addressing environmental problems in the field of water, according to EU law.
- c) To coordinate and cooperate for the implementation of a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated management plans for each of the

shared river basins. The focus shall be on protection and preparedness, according to the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2007/60/EC. Flood risk management plans shall address all aspects of flood risk management, focusing on prevention, protection, preparedness, including primarily flood forecast and early warning systems, for the Strymon/Struma, Nestos/Mesta, Ardas/Arda and Evros/Maritsa rivers, taking into account basin characteristics on each of the respective territories, according to the principles and recommendations set by the Directive 2007/60/EC.

Operational aspects

3. The Working Group shall meet on a regular basis, preferably during March/April and September/October each year. Intermediate meetings at a short notice may also be arranged when the need arises. The regular meetings will rotate among the two Parties.
4. The meetings shall be chaired by the National Representative of the Party in which they are held and co-chaired by the National Representative of the other Party.
5. The agenda of each meeting will be prepared by the members of the Working Group and agreed upon by the two Parties. Both Parties shall exchange documentation relating to the provisional agenda of any meeting at least four weeks prior to the date of the regular meeting, and the final provisional agenda at least one week prior to the date of the regular meeting.
6. The Working Group can decide to establish sub-working groups and to assign to them specific areas of study and exchange of scientific information and data.
7. The work of the Working Group will be carried out in English and any working documents will be produced in English, unless otherwise agreed. The Working

Group will decide which are to be considered key documents to be translated into the languages of the two Parties involved.

8. The Working Group shall reach its conclusions by consensus. The conclusions of each meeting shall be drawn in duplicate in English and are signed by the National Representatives.
9. Notwithstanding reporting obligations by each Party, the two Parties should coordinate in the dissemination of information to the wider public.
10. These Rules of Procedure may be amended by written mutual consent of the Parties. Proposals for amendment of these Rules shall be circulated at least four weeks prior to the date of the regular meeting.

Drama, Greece, 16 May 2011

The Greek National Representative

Prof. Andreas Andreadakis
Special Secretary for Water
Special Secretariat for Water
Ministry of Environment, Energy
and Climate Change

The Bulgarian National Representatives

Ms. Atanaska Tuntova
Director of East Aegean River Basin Directorate

Mr. Radoslav Georgiev
Director of West Aegean River Basin Directorate