Content of the template

The template is divided into four parts:

- Section I - Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- Section II - Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins
- Section III - General information on transboundary water management at the national level
- Section IV - Final questions

Country name: GREECE
I. Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

Methodology

1. Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

2. The step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water, should be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.¹

3. The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the area obtained by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both river and lake basins, and aquifers).

4. Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

5. An “arrangement for water cooperation” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

6. For an arrangement to be considered “operational” all the following criteria need to be in place in practice:

   (a) There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation (criterion 1);

   (b) There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level) (criterion 2);

   (c) Joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan have been agreed upon by the riparian countries (criterion 3);

   (d) There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information (criterion 4).

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

7. Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:

   (a) The country/ies with which the basin is shared;

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(b) The surface area of the basin (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in square kilometres (km²));

(c) Whether a map and/or a geographical information system (GIS) shapefile of the basin has been provided;

(d) Whether there is an arrangement in force for the basin;

(e) The verification of each of the four criteria to assess operationality;

(f) The surface area of the basin within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria.

8. In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or a portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</th>
<th>Type of entity</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Covered by an arrangement entirely, partly, no</th>
<th>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evros (Maritza) River Basin Area</td>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey</td>
<td>3,340</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Entirely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nestos River Basin Area</td>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Entirely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strymonas (Struma) River Basin Area</td>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria, North Macedonia</td>
<td>5,989</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Entirely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axios (Vardar) River Basin Area</td>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doirani (Dojran) Lake (sub-basin of Axios River Basin Area)</td>
<td>Sub-basin</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
<td>191.8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prespa Lakes Area</td>
<td>Basin</td>
<td>Greece, Albania</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b List sub-basins after the basin they belong to.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</th>
<th>It is a basin or a sub-basin?</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Covered by an arrangement entirely, partly, no</th>
<th>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no)</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aoos (Vijose) River Basin Area</td>
<td></td>
<td>Greece, Albania</td>
<td>2,361</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(A) Total surface area of transboundary basins/sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) (do not double count sub-basins)  

(B) Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) (do not double count sub-basins)  

<p>| 9,871 | 16,979 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the transboundary aquifer</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the aquifer(^c) (in km(^2)) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</th>
<th>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer(^d) (entirely, partly, no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</th>
<th>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</th>
<th>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</th>
<th>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</th>
<th>Surface area of the aquifer(^c) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paraevria area Delta Evros system</td>
<td>Greece, Turkey</td>
<td>225.17</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Potamoi Stavroupoli system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>2,416.34</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drosinio system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>976.53</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orestias system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey</td>
<td>835.16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soufli Didimoticho system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey</td>
<td>1,203.57</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^c\) For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively.

\(^d\) In the text of the agreement or arrangement or in the practice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the transboundary aquifer</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²)</th>
<th>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</th>
<th>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement entirely, partly, no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer entirely, partly, no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) Ref. to questions in sect. II</th>
<th>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agistro system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>153.58</td>
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<td>Menikio Falakro system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>1,007.61</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vrontou system</td>
<td>Greece, Bulgaria</td>
<td>436.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ano Poroia Beles system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria</td>
<td>287.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doirani system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
<td>100.6</td>
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<td>Eastern Paikou system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
<td>367.4</td>
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<td>Euzonon system (secondary)</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pontoherakleia Metamorfosi system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of the transboundary aquifer</td>
<td>Countries shared with</td>
<td>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) within the territory of the country</td>
<td>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</td>
<td>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement entirely, partly, no (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer(s) entirely, partly, no (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</td>
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<td>Great Sernia system</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prespa Florina subsystem</td>
<td>Greece, Albania and North Macedonia</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Entirely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Greece, Albania and North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prespa subsystem</td>
<td>Greece, Albania and North Macedonia</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Entirely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24.8</td>
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<td>Florina system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
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<td>Aridaia system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vora system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of the transboundary aquifer</td>
<td>Countries shared with</td>
<td>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) within the territory of the country</td>
<td>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</td>
<td>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
<td>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnounta – Bernou system</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veuhi Flampouro system</td>
<td>Greece, North Macedonia</td>
<td>163.3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesohellenic Aulaka System</td>
<td>Greece, Albania</td>
<td>2,810.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filiates–Goumenissa system</td>
<td>Greece, Albania</td>
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<td>Mourgana system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pogoniani system</td>
<td>Greece, Albania</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>139.80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²)</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,576.90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indicator value for the country

Surface waters:
Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes covered by an operational arrangement:
\[ \frac{A}{B} \times 100 = \frac{9871}{16979} \times 100 = 58.13\% \]

Aquifers:
Percentage of surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement:
\[ \frac{C}{D} \times 100 = \frac{139.8}{13576.90} \times 100 = 1.02\% \]

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2:
Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement:
\[ \left( \frac{A + C}{B + D} \right) \times 100 = \left( \frac{9871 + 139.8}{16979 + 13576.90} \right) = \frac{10,010.8}{30,555.9} \times 100 = 32.8\% \]

Spatial information
If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., “transboundary basins”) is available, please consider attaching them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in GIS should be sent.

See maps for Transboundary rivers at the end of each section, and for Groundwater bodies at the end of the entire Questionnaire

Additional information
If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

For the Prespa Florina system and Prespa subsystem groundwater bodies please refer to article 5 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, as well as to article 4(1)(b) and (e) of the Drin MoU.
Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., rivers, lakes or groundwater), whether bilateral or multilateral?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, list the bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [fill in]


- UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational uses of International Watercourses done at New York on 21/05/1997 [Law 3876/2010 (Government Gazette 159/A/20-09-2010)]

- Amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Madrid on 28/11/2003 [Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]


- Greek-Turkey Accord relative to the regulation of hydraulic works on both banks of the Maritza Evros River signed in Ankara on 20/06/1934 [Mandatory Law 225/1936 (Government Gazette 474/A/27-10-1936)].

- Accord between the Kingdom of Greece and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on hydroeconomy issues signed in Athens on 18/09/1959 [Legislative Decree 4012/1959 (Government Gazette 232/A/31-10-1959), regarding Axios River].

- Accord between Greece and Bulgaria ‘regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries’ signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].


• Agreement between the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Union on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, signed in Pili on 02/02/2010 [Law 4453/2017 (Government Gazette 19/A/20-02-2017)].

• Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.


• 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, signed in Athens, on 14/05/2010 (regarding the Evros River).

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin, or group of basins (river, lake or aquifer)

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river or lake basin, or aquifer), sub-basin, part of a basin or a group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement where conditions are similar.\(^1\) In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins or parts thereof, for example, where you have agreements\(^2\) or arrangements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares transboundary waters, or

\(^1\) In principle, section II should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

\(^2\) In section II, “agreement” covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.
even prepare a joint report. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce this whole section with its questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

A. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: PRESPA LAKES

List of the riparian States: Greece, Albania and North Macedonia

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece’s portion share is approximately 90% for the Small Lake Prespa and 13.8% for the Great Lake Prespa.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force ✓
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force □
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians □

Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s)

- Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Agreement or arrangement is under development
No agreement or arrangement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

A.I. Agreement between the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Union on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

Yes ☑/No ☐ If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes ☑/No ☐ Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes ☑/No ☐ Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Greece, Albania, North Macedonia and the European Union

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes ☑/No ☐ If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement:

for Greece Prespa Florina subsystem and Prespa subsystem

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses ☐
A single water use or sector ☐
Several water uses or sectors ☑

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):
### Water uses or sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>☒</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport (e.g., navigation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy: hydropower and other energy types</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature protection</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please list):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sustainable development, economic and social development of local societies, including the development of integrated river basin plans*

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

#### Procedural and institutional issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>☒</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on planned measures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual assistance</td>
<td>☒</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Topics of cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>☒</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint vision and management objectives</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint significant water management issues</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental protection (ecosystem)</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quantity or allocation</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation in addressing floods</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation in addressing droughts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>☒</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Monitoring and exchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>☒</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint assessments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection and exchange</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint monitoring</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of joint pollution inventories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ☒
Common early warning and alarm procedures ☐
Exchange of experience between riparian States ☒
Exchange of information on planned measures ☒

**Joint planning and management**

Development of joint regulations on specific topics ☐
Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans ☒
Management of shared infrastructure ☐
Development of shared infrastructure ☐
Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes ☐
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes ☐
- Lack of financial resources ☐
- Insufficient human capacity ☐
- Insufficient technical capacity ☐
- Tense diplomatic relations ☐
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement ☐
- No significant difficulties ☐
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

The Prespa Park Area (established under the Declaration signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia) is the first transboundary protected area in south-eastern Europe that fosters environment cooperation in the region thereby contributing to its stability and prosperity.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):

Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. (O.J. Reference L 258, 04/10/2011, p. 2):


Law 4453/2017 for the Ratification of the Agreement by Greece:
http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wEsrrjP0JAlxBXdtvSoCrl48rztE3xwSGupH9LDgkF53Uixx942CdvqStOYNuqAGCF0HB9H6qSY1MQFkEHJwFqmqJSA5W1sluV-nRwO1oKqSe4BIOTSpEWYhszfP8SUqWb_zFijPfuztyxsBcvysIIWBFALRJGJEFCNJsXJF-maxcecaNf

Law 3405/2015:
http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHrZvzjSKBkq3dtvSoCrl48WEzaAxz7B3f5MXD0LzQTLWPU9yLzB5V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Jx3UnK1mF8NvtnJSr9cmWyJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUKJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K--td6SIu3PWa8Oym-eSBvaJH3rQen71UHt_yp8HP9qwerR2C_viu

Joint Statement regarding the Prespa Park, signed in Pili (Greece), on 27 November 2009, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia:
http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5ea8w0wVZlo%3d&tabid=406&language=el-GR

Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries ☐
- Bilateral commission ☐
- Basin commission ☒
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ☐
- Other (please describe):
  The Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC)

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No ☐
(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): Greece, Albania and North Macedonia

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): No

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

- A secretariat ☒

  If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): The Secretariat is at the moment under establishment and shall be a joint one with representatives from the three riparian States. For the 4 first years of its operation Greece has signalled its intention and willingness to host it.

- A subsidiary body or bodies ☒

  Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):

  Working Group on Water Management to be established very soon

  Other features (please list):

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?*

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange ☒
- Joint monitoring ☒
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ☒
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks ☒
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures ☒
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development ☒
- Control of implementation ☒

---

* This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
Settling of differences and conflicts
Consultations on planned measures
Exchange of information on best available technology
Participation in transboundary EIA
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Addressing hydromorphological alterations
Climate change adaptation
Joint communication strategy
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]
• completion of the regulatory framework of the watershed area, including spatial plans and protected area regulations and management plans
• the application of a programme of effective monitoring in order to observe, manage and control the state of the environment and the status of surface and ground waterbodies
• evaluate the results of ongoing actions
• identify and propose possible funding sources
• prepare and publish an annual report
• contribute to the mobilisation of resources of the Parties and the international community

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

Governance issues
Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

According to the Agreement, which is already in force since 29 May 2019, the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC), once operational, will meet twice a year

More than once per year ☐

Once per year ☑

Less than once per year ☐

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism?

As soon as its setting up is completed, in the next few months, the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) will expedite, at the earliest possible, the process of elaborating an Action Plan and Work Programme with priority activities to be carried out jointly by the Parties of the Agreement for delivering the objective of the Agreement.

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

Joint objectives have already been identified and agreed upon, at the political level, through the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, itself. Since the various Joint Bodies of the Prespa Park Agreement (e.g. the PPMC, Secretariat, Working Group on Water Management) are currently under establishment soon to be completed, the Drin Basin MoU framework (see below analytical point A.II) fosters interim discussions on elements and actions for a joint action plan especially for the Prespa Lakes area.
Therefore Questions 4 to 13 are answered below (see A.II) for the 'Drin: A strategic shared vision’, Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin


2.  (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?  
Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?  
Yes ☒/No ☐

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?  
Yes ☒/No ☐

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?  
(Please list): [five signatories to the Drin MoU]

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?  
Yes ☒/No ☐

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?  

All water uses ☒

A single water use or sector ☐

Several water uses or sectors ☐

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

**Water uses or sectors**

Industry ☐

Agriculture ☐

Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐

Households ☐

Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐

Fisheries ☐

Tourism ☐

Nature protection ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]
(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

**Procedural and institutional issues**
- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

**Topics of cooperation**
- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**
- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**
- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure
- Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with
24

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

Recent adoption of a Strategic Action Programme

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):


3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries ☐
- Bilateral commission ☐
- Basin or similar commission ☐
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ☐
- Other (please describe): Drin Core Group

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): The five signatories to the Drin MoU

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): No

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?
No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

A secretariat ☑

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies ☑

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): Expert Working Groups on (i) Water Framework Directive; (ii) Monitoring and Information Exchange; (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Other features (please list): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?*

Identification of pollution sources

Data collection and exchange

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Setting emission limits

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

Surveillance and early warning of water related disease

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

Exchange of experience between riparian States ☑

Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations

Settling of differences and conflicts

Consultations on planned measures

Exchange of information on best available technology

Participation in transboundary EIA

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* This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of shared infrastructure</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing hydromorphological alterations</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint communication strategy</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity-building</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other tasks <em>(please list)</em>: [fill in]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governance issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected planning delays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of mechanism for implementing measures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of effective measures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unexpected extreme events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information and reliable forecasts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others <em>(please list and describe, as appropriate)</em>: [fill in]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than once per year</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once per year</td>
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<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than once per year</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]
(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please provide further details:

Strategic Action Plan for the sustainable management of the Drin river basin adopted on 24.4.2020

5. How is the transboundary basin—sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

- Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.
- Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality.
- Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals.
- Water-related species and habitats protection.
- Other measures (please describe): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:

- More than once per year ☐
- Once per year ☒
- Less than once per year ☐

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): Mostly through electronic means

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions ☒
- Research activities and application of best available techniques ☐
- Emission monitoring data ☐
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ☐
Point source pollution sources [ ]
Diffuse pollution sources [ ]
Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) [ ]
Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels) [ ]
Water abstractions [ ]
Climatological information [ ]
Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development [ ]
Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]
Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes [ ] No ☒

(f) Is the database publicly available?
Yes [ ] No ☒

*If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]*

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?
Frequency of exchanges [ ]
Timing of exchanges [ ]
Comparability of data and information [ ]
Limited spatial coverage [ ]
Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) [ ]
Other (*please describe*): [fill in]
Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*): *It facilitates the production of RBMPs*

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes [ ] No ☒

The joint monitoring is referred in article 3, Law 4453/2017, but it has not been activated yet. The main target of joint monitoring is to observe, control and manage the environmental state of the Lakes and their watershed. However the riparian countries already exchange data.

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hydrological Ecological Chemical

| Surface waters on the main watercourse | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Surface waters in part of the basin | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| please describe [fill in] | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☐

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies ☐

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling ☐

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network ☐

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters ☐

Please describe: [fill in]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

- Notification and communication ✔
- Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution □
- Other (please list): [fill in] □
- No measures □

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in] □

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes ✔/No □

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ✔/No □

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable)

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism □
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body □
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body □

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]

- Intergovernmental organizations □
- Private sectors organizations or associations □
- Water user groups or associations □
- Academic or research institutions □
- Other non-governmental organizations □
- General public □
- Other (please specify): [fill in] □

Availability of information to the public ✔
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans:

Public involvement

Other (please specify):

See the Greek National Report available under the Aarhus Convention at link: 
http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=AmjIxhhEE8w%3D&tabid=467&language=el-GR

and

http://www.ypeka.gr/Portals/0/Files/Perivallon/Perivallontiki%20Pliroforia/Aarhus_original_reportplan.pdf

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* Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
B. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: **EVROS RIVER**

List of the riparian States: **Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria**

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

**Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:** Greece’s portion share on the Evros River Basin is approximately 6.3%. Bulgaria has 66.2% and Turkey has 27.5%.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

**Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s)**

- Greek–Turkey Accord relative to the regulation of hydraulic works on both banks of the Maritza Evros River signed in Ankara on 20/06/1934 [Mandatory Law 225/1936 (Government Gazette 474/A/27-10-1936)].
- Accord between Greece and Bulgaria ‘regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries’ signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].
- 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, signed in Athens, on 14/05/2010 (regarding the Evros River).

Agreement or arrangement is under development [ ]

No agreement or arrangement [ ]

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

Replies to questions 2 and 3 relate to the Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

Yes [ ] No [x]

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes [ ] No [x]

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes [ ] No [x]

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Greece and Bulgaria

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes [x] No [ ]

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses [x]

A single water use or sector [ ]

Several water uses or sectors [ ]

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors
Industry
Agriculture
Transport (e.g., navigation)
Households
Energy: hydropower and other energy types
Fisheries
Tourism
Nature protection
Other (please list): Manufacturing

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

**Procedural and institutional issues**
- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

**Topics of cooperation**
- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**
- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures
Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Development of shared infrastructure

Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes

Lack of financial resources

Insufficient human capacity

Insufficient technical capacity

Tense diplomatic relations

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

In most meetings, adoption of conclusions by consensus.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable): [fill in]

a) Law 4393/1964:
http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC2zwFtG1hLmXKMFHdtvSoCrl8u_IHzLbdDJF5MD0IezQT1LPWU9vLzB8V68knBzL_cmTXKasO6FpVZ6Lx3UnK3mP8NxnxnJ5r9cmWcjWeskW97DvWS_18kAEhATukJb0x1ILdQ163nV9K26d6SiuQJ5HoEVF-_Ym67rqP3A48oifLzNgFa2FGOQTUyFrIz

b) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Bulgaria)
http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ERBCwBusdro%3d&tabid=406

c) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Turkey)
http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OTAH9XoBn88%3d&tabid=406&language=en-GR
3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?
   - Plenipotentiaries ☐
   - Bilateral commission ☐
   - Basin or similar commission ☐
   - Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ☒
   - Other (please describe): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☐ No ☒

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): Greece, Bulgaria

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): Turkey

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?
   - No cooperation ☐
   - They have observer status ☐
   - Other (please describe):

Joint Ministerial Declaration between Greece – Turkey signed in 14 May 2010 serves as pillar for the cooperation process with Turkey through the establishment of an ad hoc Joint Committee.

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?
   - A secretariat ☐

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

   - A subsidiary body or bodies ☒

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):

Working Groups and Sub-working Groups

Other features (please list): [fill in]
(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Surveillance and early warning of water-related disease
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settlement of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

---

6 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Governance issues

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate):

Lack of coordination in the dissemination of information

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, how frequently does it meet? In principle, twice a year

More than once per year ☑

Once per year ☐

Less than once per year ☐

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? In most meetings, adoption of conclusions by consensus.

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, please provide further details:

There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems, Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert
5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality.

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals.

Water-related species and habitats protection.

Other measures (please describe): pollution prevention measures.

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☑ / No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year ☐

Once per year ☑

Less than once per year ☐

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): In principle through electronic means.

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions ☑
- Research activities and application of best available techniques ☐
- Emission monitoring data ☐
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ☐
- Point source pollution sources ☐
- Diffuse pollution sources ☐
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☐
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels) ☐
- Water abstractions ☐
- Climatological information ☐
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ☐

Other subjects (please list): qualitative and quantitative data sharing on water, aquatic ecosystems.

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]
(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes □ No □

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes □ No □

*If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]*

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

- Frequency of exchanges
- Timing of exchanges
- Comparability of data and information
- Limited spatial coverage
- Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)
- Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? *(please describe)*: Facilitation of the production of RBMPs

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes □ No □

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in part of the basin</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>please describe [fill in]</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations □

*Please describe*: [fill in]

- Joint and agreed methodologies □
Please describe: [fill in]
Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]
Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]
Common agreed parameters

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?

Notification and communication ☒

Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]

No measures ☐

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

Notification and communication ☒

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ☒

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ☐

Joint climate change adaptation strategy ☐

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]

No measures ☐
If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures? [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?
Yes ☑/No ☐
If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☑/No ☐
If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan regarding the Evros River
Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism ☐
Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body ☐
Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body ☐
If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:
[fill in]

   Intergovernmental organizations ☐
   Private sectors organizations or associations ☐
   Water user groups or associations ☐
   Academic or research institutions ☐
   Other non-governmental organizations ☐
   General public ☐
   Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public ☑
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans? ☑
Public involvement ☐
Other (please specify): [fill in]

7 Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
Fig. 2 Evros River Basin
C. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: NESTOS RIVER

List of the riparian States: Greece, Bulgaria

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece’s portion share on the Nestos River Basin is approximately 42%. Bulgaria has 58%

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s) [if

- Accord between Greece and Bulgaria ‘regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries’ signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement or arrangement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to
question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.


2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?
   Yes ☒/No ☐
   If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?
   Yes ☒/No ☐
   Additional explanations?
   It covers allocation issues regarding water quantity subject matters (i.e. the percentage of water of the Nestos River that flows into Greek territory).
   Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?
   Yes ☐/No ☒
   Additional explanations? [fill in]
   Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
   (Please list): Greece and Bulgaria
   (b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?
   Yes ☒/No ☐
   If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]
   (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
      All water uses ☒
      A single water use or sector ☐
      Several water uses or sectors ☐
      If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):
      Water uses or sectors
      Industry ☐
      Agriculture ☐
      Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐
      Households ☐
      Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐
      Fisheries ☐
      Tourism ☐
Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

There was no specification about the water sector. The two Parties have agreed to exchange information regarding the quality and quantity situation of the Nestos waters. The exploitation right of the transboundary inflow waters for Greece was fixed to 29%. In addition, the Joint Ministerial Declaration of 27/07/2010 takes into consideration issues focussing on water and environment.

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin
management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Development of shared infrastructure
Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties

Other (please describe): The 1995 Agreement provides for the regular updating of the average water flow.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

There is collaboration between the riparian countries on the protection against harmful water impacts.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):

Law 2402/1996:
http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wGW8w3YEHdvt3tvSoC1rl8qch8zID7IMbtd9LGd6F53U1xx942CdyqsSOYNuqAGCF0HB9Hl6qSYtMQEkeEL.wnFqmgJSA5WShnV-nRwO1oQkSe4BfOTSpEWYbqzF8P8UqWb_zFjiIEhewbH0Nv2-65N3TLlaXrlvYoHH5Cxy7dR1EzHp

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☐/No ☐

Actually, there are two joint bodies and replies provided under question 3 refer to the second one:

- the Permanent Greek – Bulgarian Hydroeconomy Commission established by Law 2402/1996 (Government Gazette 98/A/04-06-1996); Ratification of Agreement, between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River,
the Joint Expert Working Group established by the 2010 Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria (signed in Sofia, in 27 July 2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries
- Basin or similar commission
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
- Other (please describe): Joint Expert Working Group established by the 2010 Joint Declaration

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
- Yes ☑/No ☐

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? Greece and Bulgaria

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): No

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

- A secretariat

  If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

- A subsidiary body or bodies

  Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

- Other features (please list): [fill in]
(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list): Cost allocation regarding monitoring expenses (efficiency improvement, construction, maintenance)

---

8 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
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.

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

Governance issues ☒

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays ☐

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources ☐

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures ☐

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures ☐

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events ☐

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts ☐

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, how frequently does it meet? Normally, twice a year. Intermediate meeting at a short notice may also be arranged when the need arises.

More than once per year ☒

Once per year ☐
(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? Exchange of information with regard to the production of RBMPs

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?
The relevant coastal State, Greece, is also a riparian state

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please provide further details: There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water, Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment held in Athens on the 8th of May 2014

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

- Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.
- Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality ☒
- Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals ☐
- Water-related species and habitats protection ☐
- Other measures (please describe): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:
- More than once per year ☐
- Once per year ☒
- Less than once per year ☐

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): In principle through electronic means

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?
- Environmental conditions ☒
- Research activities and application of best available techniques ☐
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emission monitoring data</th>
<th>☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point source pollution sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffuse pollution sources</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water abstractions</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climatological information</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Other subjects *(please list)*: | [fill in]
| Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: | [fill in]
| *(e)* Is there a shared database or information platform? | Yes ☐/No ☑ |
| *(f)* Is the database publicly available? | Yes ☐/No ☑ |
| *(g)* What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? | Frequency of exchanges ☐ |
| Timing of exchanges              | ☐ |
| Comparability of data and information | ☐ |
| Limited spatial coverage         | ☐ |
| Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) | ☐ |
| Other *(please describe)*: | [fill in]
| Additional comments: | [fill in]
| *(h)* What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? *(please describe)*: | [fill in]
| 7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? | Yes ☐/No ☑ |
| *(a)* If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover? | Hydrological | Ecological | Chemical |
| Border surface waters            | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Surface waters in the entire basin | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   Yes ☐/No ☑
   If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
   Yes ☐/No ☑
   If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (please list): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how? Through the consultation processes for the River Basin Management Plan

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]

- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans

Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Fig. 3 Nestos River Basin

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9 Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
D. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
AXIOS RIVER

List of the riparian States: Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Serbia, Greece shares flow water with North Macedonia.

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:
- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:

Greece’s portion share on the Axios River Basin is approximately 11.3%. The rest portion is shared among Bulgaria, Serbia and North Macedonia.

Doirani Lake belongs to the Axios River basin. Greece’s portion share on the Lake is approximately 69%. North Macedonia has 31%.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   - One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force [ ]
   - Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force [ ]
   - Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians [ ]

   Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s) Accord between the Kingdom of Greece and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on hydroeconomy issues signed in Athens on 18/09/1959 [Legislative Decree 4012/1959 (Government Gazette 232/A/31-10-1959), regarding Axios River
   - Agreement or arrangement is under development [ ]
   - No agreement or arrangement [ ]

   If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?
Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?
Yes ☐ No ☒
Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire
sub-basin?
Yes ☐ No ☒
Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): There has been a bilateral agreement between the Kingdom of
bound by the agreement are Greece and North Macedonia.

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin,
does it also cover aquifers?
Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

- All water uses ☒
- A single water use or sector ☐
- Several water uses or sectors ☐

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

**Water uses or sectors**
- Industry ☐
- Agriculture ☐
- Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐
- Households ☐
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐
- Fisheries ☐
- Tourism ☐
- Nature protection ☐
- Other (please list): [fill in] ☐

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or
arrangement?

- Procedural and institutional issues ☒
- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution ☒
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) ☒
- Consultation on planned measures ☐
- Mutual assistance ☒
### Topics of cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joint vision and management objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint significant water management issues</td>
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<td>Navigation</td>
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<td>Human health</td>
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<td>Environmental protection (ecosystem)</td>
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<td>Water quality</td>
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<td>Water quantity or allocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation in addressing floods</td>
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<td>Cooperation in addressing droughts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
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### Monitoring and exchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Selection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint assessments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection and exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint monitoring</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance of joint pollution inventories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaboration of joint water quality objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common early warning and alarm procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange of experience between riparian States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange of information on planned measures</td>
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### Joint planning and management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Selection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of joint regulations on specific topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin</td>
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<tr>
<td>management or action plans</td>
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<td>Management of shared infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of shared infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please list): [fill in]</td>
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</table>

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? *The ad hoc meetings were conducted in a spirit of cooperation*

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):

**Legislative Decree 4012/1959**

http://www.et.gr/ldoes-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wEWSKScYwAPsHdtvSoC irre8moyF6ARJ3CN5MXDOLzqQ1ILWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKazO6fpYVZ6Lx3UnK13nPBN5xnaJ5r9emW+3WgWdVwsWS_18kAEhATukJh0x1IId0163nV9K--td68iuaroRJUGG_yihsg_AUdYPTztSNARsxtrGf_pyqetWfu2

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes [X]/No []

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

**Where there is a joint body or mechanism**

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries
- Bilateral commission [X]
- Basin or similar commission
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes [X]/No []

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? **Greece, North Macedonia**

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): **No**

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?
A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features (please list): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?10

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of,

10 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list):

a) examination of the information communicated by the Contracting States concerning the measures to be taken and the proposed hydroeconomic works
b) preparation and submission of proposals on the measures to be taken and the work to be carried out including their technical and economic study
c) assessment of projects submitted, both on their effectiveness and expediency, technical and economic life, as well as consultation on their implementation
d) control and taking up of common works
f) exchange of experience in the field of hydroeconomics and hydrometeorological data
g) submission of proposals for friendly settlement of disputes

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

- Governance issues
  Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays
  Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of resources
  Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
  Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures
  Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events
  Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts
  Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☐ / No ☒

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

- More than once per year ☐
- Once per year ☐
(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?

Greece is both the relevant coastal State and a riparian State

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

Other measures (please describe): pollution prevention measures

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year ☒

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): In principle through electronic means

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts
Point source pollution sources
Diffuse pollution sources
Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
Water abstractions
Climatological information
Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development
Other subjects (please list): qualitative and quantitative data sharing on water, aquatic ecosystems

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]
(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes ☐/No ☒
(f) Is the database publicly available?
Yes ☐/No ☒
If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]
(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?
Frequency of exchanges ☐
Timing of exchanges ☐
Comparability of data and information ☐
Limited spatial coverage ☐
Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) ☐
Other (please describe): [fill in]
Additional comments: [fill in]
(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (please describe): Facilitates the production of RBMPs

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☐/No ☒
(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters in part of the basin</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   Yes ☐/No ☒

   If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
   Yes ☐/No ☒

   If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
    Notification and communication ☒
    Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐
    Other (please list): [fill in]

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☐

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies ☐

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Joint sampling ☐

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common monitoring network ☐

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common agreed parameters ☐

*Please describe:* [fill in]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]
11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (please list): [fill in]

No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]

- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public ☒

Consultation on planned measures or river basin
management plans\textsuperscript{11}  
Public involvement  
Other (please specify): [fill in]

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{Axios_River_Basin.png}
\caption{Axios River Basin}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{11} Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
E. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: AOOS RIVER

List of the riparian States: Greece and Albania

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece’s basin area extends to 2,361 Km². The whole basin area is 6,519 Km². So Greece’s percentage is 36%.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s): 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, signed in Athens on 03/04/2003 [Law 3405/2005 (Government Gazette 264/A/25-10-2005)].

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

- Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?
Additional explanations? It covers cooperation issues between Greece and Albania for the protection of their transboundary water sources and lakes, i.e. Aoos river, the Drinos river and the Prespa.

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Greece and Albania

If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

- Industry
- Agriculture
- Transport (e.g., navigation)
- Households
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Nature protection
- Other (please list): [fill in]

What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
Joint significant water management issues
Navigation
Human health
Environmental protection (ecosystem)
Water quality
Water quantity or allocation
Cooperation in addressing floods
Cooperation in addressing droughts
Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**
Joint assessments
Data collection and exchange
Joint monitoring
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
Common early warning and alarm procedures
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**
Development of joint regulations on specific topics
Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Development of shared infrastructure
Other (*please list*): [fill in]

a) To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources
b) To draw up inventories and to exchange information on the pollution sources mentioned in point 1 of this article
c) To define joint quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality
d) 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
e) 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
f) To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality
g) To serve as an instance for exchange of information between the Parties on water policy issues

h) 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

i) To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the Parties

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

Both delegations agreed to create a sub commission aiming at their coordination, for the production of a single management plan related to the whole river basin district of the Aoos river.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):

Law 3405/2005

http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHrZvjsKBkq3dtvSoCrJhWEzaAz7BiF5MXD0L_yQTLMWPu9wLx88V68knBzJ_uTXKaO6fpVZ6jx3Unkl3uP8NxdnJ5r9enWzJWe verifies WS_18kAEhATUKJd0x1ILIdQ163eV9K--t6dOiac3PWAo8Qym-cSBvaJH2rOnr71UHt_yPShP9gwR2C_vit

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries ☐
Bilateral commission ☒
Basin or similar commission ☐
Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ☐
Other (please describe): Permanent Greek – Albanian Commission

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): Greece, Albania

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): No

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?
No cooperation ☐
They have observer status ☐
Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?
A secretariat ☐

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]
A subsidiary body or bodies ☐

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]
Other features (please list): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?12
Identification of pollution sources ☒
Data collection and exchange ☐
Joint monitoring ☐
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories ☐
Setting emission limits ☒
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ☒
Management and prevention of flood or drought risks ☐
Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures ☐
Surveillance and early warning of water related disease ☐

12 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Water allocation and/or flow regulation
Policy development
Control of implementation
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
Settling of differences and conflicts
Consultations on planned measures
Exchange of information on best available technology
Participation in transboundary EIA
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Addressing hydromorphological alterations
Climate change adaptation
Joint communication strategy
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

a) To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources
b) To draw up inventories and to exchange information on the pollution sources mentioned in point 1 of this article
c) To define joint quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality
d) 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
e) 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
f) To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality
g) To serve as an instance for exchange of information between the Parties on water policy issues
h) 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
i) To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the Parties

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

Governance issues [ ]

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays [ ]

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources [ ]

Please describe, if true:

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures [ ]

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures [ ]

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events [ ]

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts [ ]

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☒/No [ ]

If yes, how frequently does it meet? In principle, once a year [ ]

More than once per year [ ]

Once per year ☒

Less than once per year [ ]

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism?

The two riparian states work together in the spirit of cooperation and exchange of data and information.

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ☒/No [ ]

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No [ ]
However, the 2003 Agreement signed in Athens provides in its Article 2 that the joint body (i.e., the Permanent Greek–Albanian Commission) shall, inter alia, define joint water quality objectives and criteria and propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality.

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin—sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality.

Water quality protection, e.g., nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals.

Water-related species and habitats protection.

Other measures (please describe): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year ☐

Once per year ☐

Less than once per year ☒

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g., in connection with meetings of joint bodies): In principle through electronic means.

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions ☐

Research activities and application of best available techniques ☐

Emission monitoring data ☐

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ☐

Point source pollution sources ☒

Diffuse pollution sources ☒

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☒

Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels) ☐

Water abstractions ☐

Climatological information ☐

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ☒

Other subjects (please list): [fill in]
Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes ☐/No ☒

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes ☐/No ☐

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges ☐
Timing of exchanges ☐
Comparability of data and information ☐
Limited spatial coverage ☐
Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) ☐
Other (please describe): [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (please describe): Facilitates the production of RBMPs

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☐/No ☒

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☐

Please describe: [fill in]
Joint and agreed methodologies

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

Please describe: [fill in]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?

Notiﬁcation and communication ☒

Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]

No measures ☐

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

Notiﬁcation and communication ☒

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ☐

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ☐

Joint climate change adaptation strategy ☐

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]
No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?
   Yes ☑ No ☐

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   Yes ☑ No ☐

If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism ☐
Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body ☐
Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body ☐

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]

- Intergovernmental organizations ☐
- Private sectors organizations or associations ☐
- Water user groups or associations ☐
- Academic or research institutions ☐
- Other non-governmental organizations ☐
- General public ☐
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public ☑
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans

Public involvement ☐

Other (please specify): [fill in]

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13 Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
F. Name of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: STRYMONAS RIVER

List of the riparian States: Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia. Greece shares flow water with Bulgaria.

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

Percentage of your country’s territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins Greece’s portion share is approximately 35%. Bulgaria has 51% and the rest belongs to North Macedonia (14%).

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s)

- Accord between Greece and Bulgaria ‘regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries’ signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].
- Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.
Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?
   Yes ☐ No ☑
   If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
   Additional explanations? [fill in]
   Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?
   Yes ☐ No ☐
   Additional explanations? [fill in]
   Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? 
   (Please list): **Greece, Bulgaria**
   (b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?
   Yes ☐ No ☑
   If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]
   (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
   All water uses ☑
   A single water use or sector ☐
   Several water uses or sectors ☐
   *If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*
   **Water uses or sectors**
   Industry ☐
   Agriculture ☐
   Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐
   Households ☐
   Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐
   Fisheries ☐
   Tourism ☐
   Nature protection ☐
   Other (please list):
   (d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?
   **Procedural and institutional issues**
   Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution ☐
   Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) ☑
Consultation on planned measures
Mutual assistance

**Topics of cooperation**
- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**
- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**
- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
Insufficient technical capacity  

Tense diplomatic relations 

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement  

No significant difficulties  

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? In most meetings a consensus was reached.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):

a) Law 4393/1964:
   [http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QtC22wFtG1hLmXKMFMHdtvSoClrL8u_HZ#LbDjF5MXD0LzQTLPwpUy9vLyB8v68knBzIcmtXKaO6ypVZ6Lx3UnK3nP8XudqJ59cmWvJWelDvWS_m8kAeATUKji6cxlIDdQ163nV9K-ttd6SuQb5HoEVF.Ym679qP3A48oiltLzNgFa2FGOQTUyFrIz

b) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Bulgaria) which is attached to this report.

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body or mechanism


(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries ☐
- Bilateral commission ☐
- Basin or similar commission ☐
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points ☐

Other (please describe): Joint Expert Working Group

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): Greece and Bulgaria
(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): No

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

- A secretariat
- If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]
- A subsidiary body or bodies
- Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]
- Other features (please list): Working Group and sub-Working Groups

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?14

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology

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14 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Participation in transboundary EIA
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Addressing hydromorphological alterations
Climate change adaptation
Joint communication strategy
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity-building
Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

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.

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

Governance issues
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, how frequently does it meet? In principle, twice a year. Intermediate meetings at a short notice may also be arranged when the need arises.

More than once per year ☑

Once per year ☐

Less than once per year ☐

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? Facilitation in the production of RBMPs

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please provide further details: There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water. Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment held in Athens on the 8th of May 2014

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality.

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals.

Water-related species and habitats protection.
Other measures (*please describe*): pollution prevention measures

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(b) If yes, how often:

- More than once per year ☐
- Once per year ☒
- Less than once per year ☐

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): *In principle through electronic means*

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions ☒
- Research activities and application of best available techniques ☐
- Emission monitoring data ☐
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ☐
- Point source pollution sources ☐
- Diffuse pollution sources ☐
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☐
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels) ☐
- Water abstractions ☐
- Climatological information ☐
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ☐
- Other subjects (*please list*): Hydrological and hydrotechnical data sharing

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes ☒/No ☐

*If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]*

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

- Frequency of exchanges ☐
- Timing of exchanges ☐
- Comparability of data and information ☐
- Limited spatial coverage ☐
Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial) ☐
Other *(please describe):* [fill in]
Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? *(please describe):* **Facilitation in the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   Yes ☐ / No ☒
   (a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters in part of the basin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please describe [fill in]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?
   National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☐
   *Please describe: [fill in]*
   Joint and agreed methodologies ☐
   *Please describe: [fill in]*
   Joint sampling ☐
   *Please describe: [fill in]*
   Common monitoring network ☐
   *Please describe: [fill in]*
   Common agreed parameters ☐
   *Please describe: [fill in]*

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
   Yes ☐ No ☒
   *If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]*

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
   Yes ☐ No ☒
   *If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]*

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
    - Notification and communication ☒
    - Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐
    - Other (please list): [fill in]
    - No measures ☐
    *If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]*

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?
    - Notification and communication ☒
    - Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ☒
    - Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ☐
    - Joint climate change adaptation strategy ☐
    - Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ☐
    - Other (please list): [fill in]
    - No measures ☐
    *If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]*

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?
    Yes ☐ No ☒
    *If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]*

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
    Yes ☒ No ☐
    *If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan regarding the Strymonas River*
    Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism ☐
Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body  

Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body  

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:  
[fill in]  

- Intergovernmental organizations  
- Private sectors organizations or associations  
- Water user groups or associations  
- Academic or research institutions  
- Other non-governmental organizations  
- General public  
- Other (please specify): [fill in]  

Availability of information to the public  

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans  

Public involvement  

Other (please specify): [fill in]  

\textsuperscript{15} Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
Fig. 6 Strymonas River Basin
III. Water management at the national level

In this section, you are requested to provide general information on water management at the national level as it relates to transboundary waters. Information on specific transboundary basins, sub-basins, part of basins and groups of basins, should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation, policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please briefly describe the main national laws, policies, action plans and strategies:

- UN Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters done at Aarhus on 25/06/1998 [Law 3422/2005 (Government Gazette 303/A/13-12-2005)]
- UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational uses of International Watercourses done at New York on 21/05/1997 [Law 3876/2010 (Government Gazette 159/A/20-09-2010)]
- Amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, done at Madrid on 28/11/2003 [Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]
• International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat done at Ramsar on 02/02/1971 [Legislative Decree 191/1974 (Government Gazette 350/A/20-11-1974)]

• Amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [Law 3835/2010 (Government Gazette 43/A/16-03-2010)]


• Joint Ministerial Decision 1649/45/2014 (Government Gazette 45/B/15-01-2014): Specialization on opinion procedures, public information and public participation during public consultations regarding environmental licensing projects and activities classified in Category A of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change No. 1958/2012 (Government Gazette A 21), in accordance with the provisions of Article 19, paragraph 9 of Law 4014/2011 (Government Gazette A 209) and any other relevant details.

(b) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

- Precautionary principle: Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Polluter pays principle: Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Sustainable development: Yes [ ] No [ ]
- User pays principle: Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, please briefly describe how these principles are implemented at the national level:

(c) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution? (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, for which sectors?

Industry ☒
Mining ☐
Energy ☐
Municipal ☐
Livestock raising ☐
Aquaculture ☐

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the licensing or permitting system, indicating whether the system provides for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): The permitting system provides for setting emission limits based on BAT for industry, municipal use and agricultural use.

If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

(d) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):

Monitoring of discharges ☒
Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water ☒
Monitoring of ecological impacts on water ☐
Conditions on permits ☒
Inspectorate ☐

Other means (please list): [fill in]

If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]

(e) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under “others”:

Legislative measures

Norm for uses of fertilizers ☒
Norms for uses of manure ☐
Permitting system ☐
Bans on or norms for use of pesticides ☒

Others (please list):
Norms for uses of plant protection products


Economic and financial measures

Monetary incentives

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)

Others (please list): [fill in]

Agricultural extension services

Technical measures

Source control measures

Crop rotation

Tillage control

Winter cover crops

Others (please list): [fill in]

Other measures

Buffer/filter strips

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others (please list):

Norms for wise agricultural practices given by Joint Ministerial Decision 1420/82031/2015 (Government Gazette 1709 B): Code of Good Agricultural Practices for water resources protection from nitrates of agriculture origin

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction

Monitoring and control of abstractions

Water rights are defined

Water allocation priorities are listed

Water-saving technologies

Advanced irrigation techniques

Demand management activities

Other means (please list)
(g) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please describe how: Through legislation, RBMPs, and EIA & SEA

(h) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please briefly describe the most important measures:


2. Do your national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please briefly describe the legislative basis, and any related implementing procedures.


If not, do other measures provide for transboundary EIA? [fill in]

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in cooperating on transboundary waters?

- Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks ☒
- Lack of relevant data and information ☒
- Difficulties in data and information exchange ☒
- Sectoral fragmentation at the national level ☐
- Language barrier ☐
2. What have been the main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters?

- Improved water management
- Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water
- Adoption of cooperative arrangements
- Adoption of joint plans and programmes
- Long-lasting and sustained cooperation
- Financial support for joint activities
- Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation
- Better knowledge and understanding
- Dispute avoidance
- Stakeholder engagement

Please list other achievements, keys to achieving success, and/or provide concrete examples: [fill in]

3. Please indicate which institutions were consulted during the completion of the questionnaire

- Joint body or mechanism
- Other riparian or aquifer countries
- National water management authority
- Environment agency/authority
- Basin authority (national)
- Local or provincial government
- Geological survey (national)
- Non-water specific ministries, e.g. foreign affairs, finance, forestry and energy
- Civil society organizations
- Water user associations
- Private sector

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the process by which the questionnaire was completed:

4. If you have any other comments please add them here (insert comments): [fill in]

5. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (please insert): [fill in]
Date: 15/07/2020 (initial submission); 5/02/2021 (revised submission)

Signature:

Ms Maria Gkini, Director for the Protection and Management of the Aquatic Environment, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.
Fig. 7: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 12 (Thrace)
Fig. 8: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 11 (East Macedonia)

Fig. 9: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 10 (Central Macedonia)
Fig. 10: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 09 (West Macedonia)
Fig. 11: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 05 (Epirus)
JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF USE OF WATER RESOURCES ON THE
RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES OF THE SHARED RIVER
BASINS BETWEEN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic, Ms Tina Birbili and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms Nona Karadjova, hereinafter referred as “the Parties”,

After taking into account that Water is not just a commercial product but, rather, a natural heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such,

Recognising the need for action to avoid long term deterioration of freshwater status,

Expressing the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the Greek and Bulgarian people and to encourage the cooperation between the two Parties in order to preserve and protect the water resources of the shared river basins,

Confirming the readiness of both Parties to recognize and when necessary update all existing bilateral agreements and accords between the countries on the use and protection of waters of rivers flowing through the territories of both countries, in order to bring the bilateral relations in this field in a qualitatively higher level, on the principles of mutual interest, mutual benefit, respect of sovereignty of each country and the relevant obligations stemming from International Conventions and EU legislation,

Considering that the two countries are member states of the European Union and are committed to implement EU legislation concerning policies related to nature and water resources and more specifically the provision of Directives 2000/60 EC and 2007/60/EC,
Aiming to increase, enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of water management and protection of the transboundary river basins shared between the two countries,

The Ministers of both countries declare full understanding and readiness of cooperation and collaboration by signing the present Joint Declaration, by which:

1. The Parties declare their readiness and understanding for continuous dialogue and cooperation in the field of water and environmental protection at all relevant levels between institutions and administrations of both countries, as a form of promotion and development of their bilateral relations.

2. The Parties express their readiness to exchange all relevant information in their own judgement in the field of water under a reciprocal operative or periodic exchange to the extent it is expressly set in international instruments, EU legal acts and relevant updated bilateral agreements and accords.

3. The main direction of bilateral cooperation between the Parties shall be coordinated and implemented on the basis and within the framework of the relevant national legislation of both countries in accordance with EU Directives on water and through dialogue, negotiations and seeking of equal and mutual understanding of all common issues on coordination and cooperation in the field of water and environment, in the light also of the Common Implementation Strategy, set up by the EU.

4. In order to manage in a sustainable manner and preserve water resources on the respective territories of shared river basins, the Parties shall cooperate though regular exchange of information, concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources, experience and know-how in the implementation of international agreements, EU legislation and the relevant national legal framework in the field of water management and use. Moreover, each Party shall inform the other on the possible effects, including of the extraction of inert material from the rivers, in accordance with the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

5. Taking into account the goal of sustainable management of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins, the Parties shall coordinate the river basin management plans, in accordance
with the principles and recommendations set by the Directive 2000/60/EC.

6. In order to prevent floods and harmful water impact, the Parties shall coordinate and cooperate to implement a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated plans for each of the shared river basins, focusing on protection and preparedness, in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by the Directive 2007/60 EC. Flood risk management plans shall address all aspects of flood risk management, focusing on prevention, protection, preparedness, including flood forecast and early warning systems and taking into account the characteristics of the river basins, in accordance with the principles and recommendation set by the Directive 2007/60 EC.

7. Use and provision of water for purposes such as drinking, industrial, hydropower, agricultural and ecosystem protection shall be organized on the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive, mutual benefit, required reciprocity and state sovereignty.

8. The Parties confirm their common desire to further develop bilateral relations between Greece and Bulgaria in the field of water by, in particular, the establishment and maintenance of early warning systems for floods on the Strymon/Struma, Nestos/Mesta, Ardas/Arda and Evros/Maritsa rivers on each of the respective territories under the criteria and in accordance with the requirements of the EU flood directive, the protection against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water in accordance with relevant EU legislation.

9. To ensure the expert and institutional collaboration on the implementation of the present Declaration, the Parties shall establish a Joint Expert Working Group on cooperation on water and environment as follows:
   a) Within 3 (three) months following the signing of the Declaration each Party shall designate a National Representative to be responsible for the management of cooperation activities under this Declaration from the side of each party.
   b) Each Party shall inform the other Party regarding the names of the National Representative and the alternate National Representative.
   c) The Joint Expert Working Group upon its first official meeting shall agree on its rules of procedure and shall adopt a joint Working Programme containing specific cooperation activities.
d) National Representatives shall co-chair the meetings of Joint Expert Working Group to be convened twice a year in order to discuss the activities under the present Declaration.

10. The Parties commit to use all forms of cooperation in the field of water and environmental protection which can further develop in favorable direction the bilateral relations between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria.

Upon mutual consent the Parties may share the results of their cooperation with third Parties in conformity with their national legislation and with international law.

Signed in Sofia, on 27th July, 2010 in 2 (two) original copies in Greek, Bulgarian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Tina Birbili
Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic

Nona Karadjova
Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria

of the Hellenic Republic