Basic information

2010/0300(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Greece, Albania and FYROM Agreement: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area **Subject** 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements 3.70.20 Sustainable development **Geographical area** Albania Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Greece	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	ARSENIS Kriton (S&D)	01/12/2010

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3092	2011-05-23

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	POTOČNIK Janez

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/10/2010	Preparatory document	COM(2010)0606	Summary
13/12/2010	Legislative proposal published	16581/2010	Summary
18/01/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
23/03/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0078/2011	

10/05/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0191/2011	Summary
10/05/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/05/2011	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
23/05/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/10/2011	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/0300(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 192-p1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/7/04371

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE456.919	27/01/2011	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0078/2011	23/03/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0191/2011	10/05/2011	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	16581/2010	13/12/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2010)0606	25/10/2010	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2011/0646 OJ L 258 04.10.2011, p. 0001	Summary

EU/Greece, Albania and FYROM Agreement: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

2010/0300(NLE) - 25/10/2010 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (protected area shared by Greece, Albania and FYROM).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the EU has a long-standing legislation protecting its waters, starting in the 1970s and culminating in the 2000 Water Framework Directive (WFD), establishing the objective of protection of all waters (rivers, lakes, groundwaters and coastal waters) and providing for coordination of efforts within shared river basins, across administrative and political boundaries. Under the WFD, where river basins extend beyond the territory of the Union, Member States shall endeavour to establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-Member States, with the aim of achieving the objectives of the WFD throughout the river basin district. Where coordination takes the form of an international agreement, participation of the European Union as a Party is necessary to the extent that the agreement covers matters falling within the Union's competence.

The Commission received an authorisation from the Council in 2006, based on Articles 175 and 300(1) of the EC Treaty to participate, on behalf of the European Community with regard to the matters within the Community's field of competence, in the negotiations aiming at the conclusion of international river basin agreements in relation to river basins shared amongst others between Greece on the one hand and Albania, FYROM and/or Turkey on the other hand.

The Prespa Park Area was designated as a transboundary protected area under the Declaration of 2 February 2000 by the Prespa countries, and it is the first transboundary protected area in south-eastern Europe. The Prespa Lakes and their surroundings are a unique natural area with high ecological significance, which can only be preserved through a holistic approach at basin level.

Enhanced cooperation through international agreements similar to existing successful Conventions, such as those for the Protection of the Danube River and for the Protection of the Rhine River supports Member States in their efforts to fully and effectively implement EU water legislation and contributes to a common understanding and shared priorities with third countries for the use of available funding instruments. The Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area has been negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and FYROM and constitutes an upgrade of the existing cooperation in the area while holding the potential to contribute to the successful implementation of the WFD.

It is therefore appropriate for the Union to conclude the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 192 (1) in conjunction with Article 218 (6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposal aims to conclude the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

The Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area has been negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and FYROM and constitutes an upgrade of the existing cooperation in the area while holding the potential to contribute to the successful implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

The text of the Agreement to be concluded is set out in the Annex to this Decision. The main measures may be summarised as follows:

Objective of the Agreement: the Parties shall cooperate in order to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area, including the development of integrated river basin management plans, according to international and European Union standards.

Basic obligations: for the fulfilment of the objectives, the Parties shall take the necessary measures and apply best available techniques, individually and in cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit, and good faith, to:

- manage prudently the water quality and quantity of the Prespa Lakes giving special attention to the water level of both lakes;

- prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters in the Prespa Lakes Area;
- protect and conserve the biodiversity of the Area by protecting especially the endemic, rare, threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna and by restoring and managing sensitive habitats;
- protect the soil from erosion, depletion, infections and pollution;
- ensure, promote and control the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area;
- prevent introduction and breeding of alien animal and plant species;
- effectively regulate the activities which cause or may cause negative impact in the Prespa Lakes Area in order to prevent or minimise such effects.

To this end, the Parties shall **design and implement integrated management plans and programmes for the protection and sustainable development of the Area**; develop coherent strategies for spatial, urban and other land-use plans as well as protected area management plans; approve and apply faithfully the environmental standards and criteria for the watershed. They should also adopt and implement legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures.

Measures are also provides to **facilitate the regular exchange of ideas** among the Parties, conserve traditional architecture and monuments, develop and implement a joint strategy for the touristic development of the Area, and promote public awareness and environmental education as a means for reaching local solutions.

Cooperation: the Parties shall seek partners locally, nationally and internationally, and will especially cooperate with, inter alia: UNESCO and the Institutions of the European Union, etc. The Agreement also establishes the **Prespa Park Management Committee** which shall have the international legal capacity of a plurilateral institution necessary for the exercise of its functions, including keeping relations with donors in order to secure projects and donations, which will be used for the implementation of this Agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION: the implementation of the work plan of the Prespa Park Management Committee shall be financed by regular annual contributions of the Parties and from other sources.

EU/Greece, Albania and FYROM Agreement: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

2010/0300(NLE) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

The European Parliament has given its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

EU/Greece, Albania and FYROM Agreement: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

2010/0300(NLE) - 23/05/2011 - Final act

PURPOSE : to conclude an Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (protected area shared by Greece, Albania and FYROM).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2011/646/EU concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

BACKGROUND : the EU has a long-standing legislation protecting its waters, starting in the 1970s and culminating in the 2000Water Framework Directive (WFD), establishing the objective of protection of all waters (rivers, lakes, groundwaters and coastal waters) and providing for coordination of efforts within shared river basins, across administrative and political boundaries. Under the WFD, where river basins extend beyond the territory of the Union, Member States shall endeavour to establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-Member States, with the aim of achieving the objectives of the WFD throughout the river basin district. Where coordination takes the form of an international agreement, participation of the European Union as a Party is necessary to the extent that the agreement covers matters falling within the Union's competence.

On 27 June 2006, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission, on behalf of the European Community, to negotiate the conclusion of international river basin agreements to improve cooperation in European river basins shared between certain Member States and third countries, notably Greece, on the one hand and Albania, FYROM and/or Turkey on the other.

The Prespa Lakes and their surroundings are a unique natural area with high ecological significance, which can only be preserved through a holistic approach at basin level.

An Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area has been negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and constitutes an upgrade of the existing cooperation in the area, while holding the potential to contribute to the successful implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

It is therefore appropriate for the Union to conclude the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

CONTENT : this council Decision concludes the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area on behalf of the Union.

The text of the Agreement negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia constitutes an upgrade of the existing cooperation in the area, while holding the potential to contribute to the successful implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

The main provisions may be summarised as follows :

Objective of the Agreement: the Parties shall cooperate in order to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area, including the development of integrated river basin management plans, according to international and European Union standards.

Basic obligations: for the fulfilment of the objectives, the Parties shall take the necessary measures and apply best available techniques, individually and in cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit, and good faith, to:

- manage prudently the water quality and quantity of the Prespa Lakes giving special attention to the water level of both lakes;
- prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters in the Prespa Lakes Area;
- protect and conserve the biodiversity of the Area by protecting especially the endemic, rare, threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna and by restoring and managing sensitive habitats;
- protect the soil from erosion, depletion, infections and pollution;
- ensure, promote and control the prudent use of natural resources and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area;
- prevent introduction and breeding of alien animal and plant species;
- effectively regulate the activities which cause or may cause negative impact in the Prespa Lakes Area in order to prevent or minimise such effects.

To this end, the Parties shall **design and implement integrated management plans and programmes for the protection and sustainable development of the Area**; develop coherent strategies for spatial, urban and other land-use plans as well as protected area management plans; approve and apply faithfully the environmental standards and criteria for the watershed. They should also adopt and implement legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures to ensure sustainable agriculture and low-impact animal breeding, the management of household and agricultural waste according to best available techniques, and the modernisation of road and communication networks and other social infrastructure in a manner consistent with the protection of biodiversity.

Measures are also provided to **facilitate the regular exchange of ideas** among the Parties, conserve traditional architecture and monuments, develop and implement a joint strategy for the touristic development of the Area, and promote public awareness and environmental education as a means for reaching local solutions. The Parties will organise a formal system for regular exchange of information in order to assist in achieving effective protection of the Prespa Park Area, including exchange of data on water, aquatic ecosystems, and important habitats and species.

Cooperation: the Parties shall seek partners locally, nationally and internationally, and will especially cooperate with, inter alia: UNESCO and the Institutions of the European Union, etc. The Agreement also establishes the **Prespa Park Management Committee** which shall have the international legal capacity of a plurilateral institution necessary for the exercise of its functions, including keeping relations with donors in order to secure projects and donations, which will be used for the implementation of this Agreement.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : the Decision will enter into force on 23/05/2011.

EU/Greece, Albania and FYROM Agreement: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

2010/0300(NLE) - 13/12/2010 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (protected area shared by Greece, Albania and FYROM).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy ("the EU Water Framework Directive"), where river basins extend beyond the territory of the Union, Member States should endeavour to establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-Member States, with the aim of achieving the objectives of the Directive throughout the river basin district.

On 27 June 2006, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission, on behalf of European Community, to negotiate the conclusion of international river basin agreements to improve cooperation in European river basins shared between certain Member States and third countries.

The Prespa Lakes and their surroundings are a unique natural area with high ecological significance, which can only be preserved through a holistic approach at basin level.

An Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area has been negotiated by the European Commission, Greece, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and constitutes an upgrade of the existing cooperation in the area, while holding the potential to contribute to the successful implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

It is now appropriate to conclude this Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASE: Article 192(1), in conjunction with point (a) of Article 218(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: with this draft decision, the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

For further details on the content of this Agreement please refer to the summary of the previous initial legislative document dated 25/10/2010.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the proposal has no implications for the Union’s budget.