

Minutes of the Third Bulgarian-Turkish Expert Meeting
on the Implementation of the *Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources*

A meeting of Bulgarian and Turkish experts on the Implementation of the *Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources (Joint Declaration)*, signed on 20 March 2012 in Ankara, was held in Edirne, Turkey on 13-14 May 2014.

From the perspective of an EU member state and an EU candidate country, as well as in the context of the good neighbourly relations between Bulgarian and Turkey, the delegations shared the views on the importance of their bilateral cooperation in the area of water, particularly the implementation of the EU water legislation.

The focus of the discussions was on the implementation of Directive 2007/60/EC and Directive 2000/60/EC. The list of participants is enclosed herewith. The experts from two countries presented information, exchanged views and experience on:

1. Flood Directive

- Progress on the implementation of the FD in Bulgaria – definition of the areas with potential significant flood risks (art.5 of the FD) – methods, criteria and defined APSFR.
- Progress on the implementation of the FD in Turkey – pilot project.
- Information on the consequences of past floods along Maritsa and Tundzha rivers in Bulgaria and Turkey.
- Information related to flood protection facilities and proposals in the respective border areas of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.
- Information on flood hazard and flood risk maps (Article 6 of FD) stages, expected results.
- Early Warning Systems for Maritsa and Tundzha rivers on the territories of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey.

2. Water Framework Directive

- Status of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).
- Progress on the implementation of the WFD in Bulgaria – second planning cycle
 - Assessment of status of surface and groundwater bodies, information on the status, pressures and impact of transboundary SWBs, the intercalibration process
 - Information on monitoring programmes, environmental objectives and exemptions, programmes of measures in the first RBMPs
- Progress on the implementation of the WFD in Turkey
 - Harmonization of WFD
 - River basin management implementation in Turkey , development of River Basin Protection Action Plans
 - Conversion of River Basin Protection Action Plans into River Basin Management Plans

The two delegations agreed to:

- Share and exchange relevant information on preliminary flood risk assessment;
- Share the criteria and ensure appropriate harmonization in the preparation of flood hazard and flood risk maps;
- Continue coordination to implement Art.3 of the Joint Declaration
- Coordinate in the process of implementation of the WFD at the appropriate stages of implementation and taking into account the requirements of the Directive. The first steps to be undertaken will be on characterization of transboundary surface water bodies, and coordination on identification of transboundary ground water bodies in their respective territories.

In the context of the "Conversion of the Basin Protection Action Plans into River Basin Management Plans" Project the Turkish side invited the Bulgarian experts to participate in consultations. The Bulgarian side will send its response after acquiring sufficient information on the project.

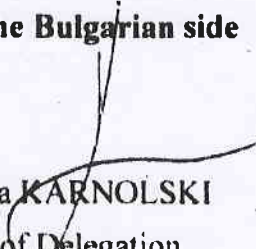
Both sides will further explore the need of establishing a technical working group to support the work of experts on the implementation of the Joint Declaration.

Experts from both sides underlined the importance of continuing their cooperation on water.

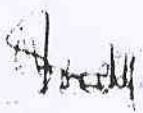
The next expert group meeting on the implementation of the *Joint Declaration of the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources*, shall be held in Bulgaria in the end of 2014, the exact date to be agreed via diplomatic channels.

Done in Edirne, on 14 May 2014 in two original copies in English language.

For the Bulgarian side

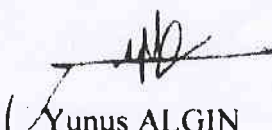


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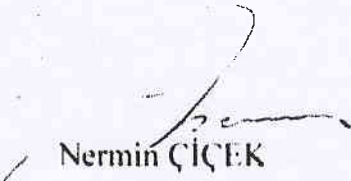


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For the Turkish side



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