

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**



**7<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AND 3<sup>rd</sup> BIENNIAL REPORT  
UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**JANUARY 2018**

- Organised, in the context of MED EUWI, an International Workshop on “Water and Climate Change in Southeastern Europe: Understanding Impacts & Planning for Adaptation” in June 2008, in Tirana, Albania, targeting SE European Countries.
- Prepared a detailed Technical Background paper on “Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean” that was presented to and discussed with Water Directors of “Union for the Mediterranean” (UfM) countries during their Meeting organised by Greece/MED EUWI in Athens in July 2008. Consequently this Technical paper was presented and adopted by UfM Water Ministers at their Ministerial Conference on Water, in Jordan (Dead Sea), in 22 December 2008. This UfM Ministerial Conference on Water decided to elaborate a “Mediterranean Strategy on Water” to be adopted by the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Water to take place in 2010. The Strategy was decided to comprise four main themes, i.e. water governance, water demand management, water financing and adaptation of water resources to climate change. The Chapters on water governance and on adaptation of water resources to climate change have been compiled with the MEECC as their main author. Moreover, MED EUWI has provided overall technical and administrative assistance to the Union for the Mediterranean for the overall process of the elaboration of the Strategy. Unfortunately, to date, the draft Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean is still pending official adoption due to political reasons.
- Actively participated, during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul (16-22.3.09) at the Ministerial Roundtables on “Water and Climate” and “Integrated Management of Coastal Strips in relation with IWRM” where it made several practical proposals for achieving adaptation to climate change by operationally linking integrated water resources management with national adaptation strategies using as a catalyst education, public awareness and changes in consumption patterns.
- Aiming to additionally contribute to the elaboration of the above mentioned Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as well as to produce a “Mediterranean Statement” that will be fed and submitted to the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, December 2009, Greece/MED EUWI technically assists the organisation of the Joint Egyptian-Dutch Water Conference entitled “Towards the new Long Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean”, that will be held 2-3 November 2009, in Cairo, Egypt. The Conference, inter alia, will address the four themes of the Strategy, i.e. short water governance, water and climate change, water financing, and water demand management.
- Elaborated, in 2012, a brief overview of regional initiatives and programmes on climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean which has been used as background for regional institutions (e.g. UfM, EC) and Programmes (e.g. SWIM, GEF MAP UNEP Climate Variability and Change, etc.).
- Moreover, in 2012, established synergies with the GEF MAP/UNEP Climate Variability and Change Project (2012-2014) and with the AMCOW/GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (2012-2016).
- Elaborated, in 2013, an assessment of capacity building needs on climate change adaptation in North Africa.

#### **7.6.1.2 Regional cooperation on environmental protection within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Organisation (technology transfer activity and capacity building)**

Greece, as a member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), is actively engaged in efforts initiated by the Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC (PERMIS) to

promote cooperation and exchange of best practices for mitigation and adaptation of climate change, energy efficiency and green energy investments issues.

These priority issues are quoted in: i) “*Declaration of the Ministers in charge of energy of the BSEC Member States on the enhancement of the gas infrastructure development (Belgrade, 11 April 2012)*” (Annex VI to BS/ENM/R(2012)1), ii) “*Joint Belgrade Declaration on Climate Change and Green Economy - BSEC Contribution to Rio+20*” (23 April 2012) and iii) the “*Plan of Action of the BSEC Working Group on Energy for the period 2015-2017*”.

More specifically in the first document the Ministers agree to “*explore possibilities for improvement of investment opportunities in the energy sector of the BSEC Member States for upgrading infrastructure and promoting energy efficiency in the BSEC Region*”. In the second, they have expressed their determination “*to enhance cooperation among the BSEC Member States on promotion of policies and actions aimed at combating climate change*” and to “*encourage the Member States to develop their national green economy pathways and low carbon policies and enhance appropriate measures*”. In the last one they plan to focus on: “*I. Exchange of information on legislation in energy sector and national programs; II. Sustainable energy development; and the III. Development and improvement of energy infrastructure in the Black Sea region*”.

Under this framework the Hellenic contribution aims to assist, through the BSEC, the other Member State governments and non-state actors to fulfil the aforementioned commitments and to deliver increased ambition for the achievement of the Paris Agreement.

To that aim the Hellenic government, mainly through the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), endorses actions, that:

- ✓ support mainly the regional policy dialogue for green energy investments and the 2020 revision of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for identifying opportunities to close the 2030 emissions gap;
- ✓ concluded with and promote further the development of the “BSEC – Green Energy Network”, as a knowledge and green investment hub for the BSEC region;
- ✓ result to the organization of “Green Investment Forum” in Greece and to the other BSEC Member States.
- ✓ facilitate “knowledge transfer” and “capacity building” on Climate Change Policy issues;
- ✓ assist BSEC countries to design and implement new policies and actions to achieve their NDC pledges;
- ✓ contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;
- ✓ provide them tools for facilitating the development of their forward-looking scenarios and evaluating the effectiveness of their policy mixtures towards their commitments on climate change issues.

### ***The BSEC Green Energy Network***

#### ***Establishment***

The “BSEC – Green Energy Network” was launched as the consequence of an initiative undertaken by the Hellenic Government to establish a “Task Force on Green Energy Development”. This led PERMIS to invite KEPA for the development of the “BSEC – Green Energy Network” between administrative bodies and/or Centres and organizations mandated to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and policies

(BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2014)2). The network is coordinated by KEPA under the supervision of PERMIS.

This activity started after the decision of the Ministers of Energy of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), during their meeting at Nafplion (Greece, 12 Oct. 2010)<sup>22</sup>, to set up a Task Force with the aim to identify relevant issues within which regional cooperation can be most effective, and also to explore ways to promote green energy investments and innovative green energy projects (Declaration concerning “Green Energy Development Initiative” - BS/EN/WG/R(2010)2). In accordance with the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting in Nafplion (Greece) on 12 October 2010, a “Task Force on Green Energy Development” was set-up within the BSEC Working Group on Energy, with the aim to identify relevant issues within which regional cooperation can be most effective, and also to explore ways to promote green energy investments and innovative green energy projects.

The Task Force started working in April 2012; agreed on the creation of the aforementioned Network and decided to elaborate a BSEC Green Energy Strategy Paper (BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2012)1). In fact, the BSEC Economic Agenda 2012 provides for taking gradual steps to materialize the vision of transforming the BSEC Region into a model for clean energy by the year 2050.

During its meeting in Thessaloniki in December 2014, the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided to transfer the activities and functions of the Green Energy Development Task Force to the BSEC Working Group on Energy (BS/FM/R(2014)2 and Annex VII to BS/FM/R(2014)2). The Working Group on Energy decided to continue the work on the development of a Green Energy Strategy Paper (BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2014)2). Member States were invited to continue to contribute to the development of the document and assure the presence of their experts at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group.

Furthermore, the BSEC Green Energy Network was established by the decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs taken on 12 December 2014. The mandate of the Network is to facilitate exchanging information and sharing experience and know-how among national administrative bodies and/or centres and organizations mandated to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and policies in the BSEC Region. In accordance with the agreements reached in the Task Force on Green Energy Development and in the Working Group on Energy, the BSEC PERMIS invited the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens to develop the Network, under the supervision of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat, in terms of both partners and activities to be undertaken (BS/EN/WG/TF/R(2014)2).

The Network started to function in 2015 and is endeavouring to undertake and facilitate actions at international, regional and national levels with a view to developing, transferring and exchanging updated knowledge, including consultations for the development and assessment of specified green policy mixtures and actions.

Members of the Network are expected to organize and participate in regional/international activities, such as workshops, seminars and conferences. They can take advantage of the existing communication infrastructure of KEPA – scientific journals, periodical editions, newsletters – to increase the level of cooperation among them and their national stakeholders.

They are welcome to contribute to enhancing the knowledge transfer and capacity building of their governments, updating them on the state of the emerging international “green policy” instruments.

<sup>22</sup> The ministerial conference was held in Nafplio, Peloponnese, in the framework of the Greek presidency of the BSEC, with the focal message being “The Black Sea turns Green.” At: [http://www.bsec-organization.org/bsecnews/BSECinMedia/Downloads/EMG%20\(13.10.2010\).pdf](http://www.bsec-organization.org/bsecnews/BSECinMedia/Downloads/EMG%20(13.10.2010).pdf)

It is expected that the Network will contribute, through knowledge dissemination, to encouraging market stakeholders to take advantage of existing international financing opportunities and convince regional and national banking institutions to enhance their “green” programs.

Finally, members of the Network will be facilitated through brokerage events to participate in internationally financed programs, like those of H2020 of the European Union, or to develop ad hoc “tailor made” consortia upon requests from the BSEC Member States.

### ***Recent activities***

#### ***October 2016***

BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Green Energy Network, coordinated by KEPA, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Green Energy Investment Forum as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on “Energy and Climate Change” that took place at the History Museum of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens during 12-14 October 2016, in Athens, Greece.

The Forum aimed to the promotion of green energy investments (policies, advanced technologies, finance, current trends and the considered in the market investment opportunities); this was the main content of the policy statements of the speakers.

Speakers were from the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), BSEC-PERMIS, the Embassies of Romania and Ukraine, the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC-PABSEC, the Hellenic Ministry Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic-Russian Chamber of Commerce; the Hellenic Association of Computer Engineers; the Hellenic Petroleum; the Bank of Greece; the Central Union of Municipalities (K.E.D.E.); the Enterprise Greece; the Institute of Energy for SE Europe (IENE); and AppArt.

The next two days were devoted to presentations of scientific papers and to the brokerage session of the event. The Conference was under the aegis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

#### ***December 2016***

During its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, the BSEC Working Group on Energy invited the Member States to nominate national governmental bodies, academia, research institutions, companies active in the area of Green Energy to participate in the BSEC Green Energy Network. It also invited Member States to express (if they had not done so already), their agreement with the inclusion in the Network of research institutes and universities which were interested to participate and to directly contact with KEPA (BS/WG/EN/R(2016)2).

The Working Group also: i) took note of the project proposals prepared by the BSEC Green Energy Network, under the coordination of KEPA, in consultation with the BSEC PERMIS, to be further elaborated and finalized, so as to be submitted for funding by international financial institutions and other donors. ii) welcomed the organization of the BSEC Green Energy Investment Forum on in Athens, by the BSEC Green Energy Network, and expressed its support for having an Investment Forum bi-annually, bringing together government officials responsible with the promotion of Green Energy, representatives of the banking sector, the business communities and NGOs. iii) took note of the intention of the KEPA to examine the development of a BSEC Green Energy Investment Fund, with the possible cooperation of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB) and the BSEC PERMIS, to be supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Green Environment Facility (GEF) funds.

#### ***June 2017***

During the meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Energy (15 June 2017) (BS/WG/EN/R(2017)1) the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan presented the list of organizations to be included in the BSEC Green Energy Network of Cooperation.

### ***October 2017***

BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Green Energy Network, coordinated by KEPA, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Energy Investment Forum as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on “Energy and Climate Change” that took place at the cultural center of NKUA “Kostis Palamas” building during October 11-13, 2017 in Athens, Greece.

The Forum again aimed to the promotion of green energy investments (policies, advanced technologies, finance, current trends and the considered in the market investment opportunities); this was the main content of the policy statements of the speakers.

Speakers were from UNAI, BSEC-PERMIS, the Embassies of Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC-PABSEC, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB); Minister of Economy and Development-Hellas; Hellenic Petroleum; the Public Natural gas Supply Corporation (DEPA); Network of Sustainable Greek Islands (DAFNI); the Institute of Energy for S.E. Europe (IENE); the Hellenic Association for Cogeneration of HEAT & Power; and the Renewable Energy Development Pro Consultants – Hellas.

The whole event is part of the PROMITHEASnet activities and is organized annually by the KEPA. The Conference was under the aegis of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

### ***November 2017***

BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Green Energy Network, coordinated by KEPA, organized a Green Energy Investment Forum at the BSEC PERMIS Headquarters in Istanbul on the 24th of November 2017. Representatives of BSEC Member States, Related Bodies and Observers, of international organizations and financial institutions participated in the event (BS/INFO.2017.0550).

Representatives of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Turkey, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Development Program presented their Green Investment policies on Energy Efficiency in the BSEC Member States.

Experts from KEPA made presentations under the session “Overcoming Behavioral Barriers in Energy Efficiency Policies - the HERON Project” about effective Energy Efficiency policies and optimum Energy Efficiency scenarios in three BSEC Member States.

Finally, the case of developing project proposals, in the frame of the Network activities, relevant to “smart Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB)” in three BSEC – Member States was considered in the perspective of encouraging them to benefit from the GCF funding capacities.

### ***Knowledge transfer and capacity building activities in the region***

During the last five years BSEC governments and non-state actors have been offered assistance on knowledge transfer and capacity building regarding climate change issues through the following activities:

1. **Projects** facilitated BSEC institutes in developing scenarios, designing policies and using new tools. More specifically:



- a. *PROMITHEAS-4: Knowledge transfer and research needs for preparing mitigation/adaptation policy portfolios* (Implementation period: 2011 – 2013) – **Funding source:** EU FP7. **Amount:** 1.000.000€. **Type:** Coordination and support. **Aim:** The development and evaluation of Mitigation/Adaptation (M/A) policy portfolios and the prioritization of research needs and gaps for twelve (12) countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) characterized as emerging economies. Sixteen (16) institutions from fourteen (14) countries (the twelve aforementioned ones plus Austria and Hellas) participated at the consortium with NKUA-KEPA as the coordinator.

In the framework of the PROMITHEAS-4 activities an *International case Study Seminar about Mitigation/Adaptation policy portfolios* was held during 3 – 7 December 2012 at the KEPA premises in Athens. It was a case study seminar for the countries of BSEC, Estonia and Kazakhstan, following the four months teleteaching courses of PROMITHEAS - 4. PROMITHEAS - 4 covered travel and accommodation expenses for 2 persons coming from beneficiary countries and with passing grades in these tele-teaching courses. Available information at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>.

- b. *HERON: Forward-looking socio-economic research on Energy Efficiency in EU countries (2015-2017)* – **Funding source:** EU HORIZON 2020. **Amount:** 958.750€. **Type:** Research and innovation project. **Aim:** Facilitate policy makers of multi-level governance in EU, to develop and monitor energy efficiency policies in building and transport sectors, through forward-looking socio-economic research in seven EU (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hellas, Italy, and United Kingdom) and one candidate (Serbia) countries. NKUA-KEPA was the coordinator of the project (Available information at: <http://heron-project.eu/>).

HERON – Decision Support Tool (methodology/software) developed by NKUA-KEPA in cooperation with App-Art for the software part, provides the policy makers with a user's-friendly software that facilitates them in the selection of the optimum combination of technologies and practices minimizing the negative impact of end-users behavior in the implementation of Energy Efficiency scenarios. HERON - DST outcomes were used as inputs to LEAP for developing scenarios and their respective policy mixtures for seven countries (six EU Member States and one candidate one). *The software was disseminated free of charge to all BSEC – MS through the BSEC – PERMIS while a special presentation was made during the “Green Energy Investment Forum” in Istanbul (Nov. 2017).*

2. **Editions** allowed the dissemination of information about green energy investments per BSEC Member State and presented the efforts of these countries towards climate change issues. More specifically, these editions are:
  - a. “*Energy View of BSEC Countries 2008*», biennial, published since 2009.
  - b. “*Special edition on Climate Change policies: Energy View of BSEC Countries 2012*”, published in 2012 under the framework of the PROMITHEAS-4 activities.
3. The **PROMITHEAS Newsletter** (bimonthly) allows BSEC entities (Ministries, agencies, research centres, universities, academia, consultants, SMEs etc.) activated in energy and climate change issues to be informed about recent developments on these issues and to present their relevant activities and policies. KEPA prepares and disseminates the PROMITHEAS newsletter to approximately 26,000 recipients in 170 countries for the last ten years.

4. The **Scientific Journal** (bilingual (in English and Russian)) titled “*Euro-Asian Journal of Sustainable Energy Development*” allows, mainly but not exclusively, to the scientific potential of EU and BSEC Member States (MS) to present their research work on climate change, energy and sustainable development issues. The journal is published by KEPA since 2008 and receives ISSN numbers for printed and electronic versions.
5. The **PROMITHEAS Network on Energy and Climate Change policy issues** allows to scientific entities of the BSEC region to interact, exchange views and cooperate on research issues for climate change, energy and sustainable development. Also, in the frame of the network activities, consortia are formed and submit research proposals to funding mechanisms such as HORIZON 2020, Europaid etc. KEPA is the coordinator of the PROMITHEASnet, The Energy and Climate Policy Network, which consists of participants from 16 countries mainly coming from the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Central Asia regions (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hellas, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). There is one member from the Mediterranean (Lebanon). It was established in 2005 as a BSEC Project Development Fund (PDF) project with NKUA-KEPA as the coordinator. It aims to promote cooperation between EU and BSEC relevant institutions and, through this, to enhance bonds of scientific cooperation, knowledge transfer and dissemination, to contribute to economic issues relevant to its contents and to regional stability and economic development (see at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>).
6. A number of **events** are organized for reinforcing the skills of the scientific and research potential of the BSEC region. These are:

- a. *Annual International Conference on Energy and Climate Change* (Implementation period: 2008-2017) – **Funding source:** self-funded, sponsored by funding agencies (banks) and energy companies, registration fees from attendees. **Aim:** This Conference started as an activity of a FP6 funded project and has developed into an annual International Conference for scientists and researchers working in energy and climate change policy issues. It is hosted by the oldest university of Greece, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA); organized by the NKUA-KEPA, coordinator of the PROMITHEAS Network and set under the aegis of the BSEC Organization and of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI). KEPA is member of UNAI since year 2011.

The Conference, starting from 2013, is scheduled to promote the Green Economy issue and following its structure to bring together members and representatives from the scientific community, governmental authorities, members of parliaments, market stakeholders, banking officers and representatives from international and regional organizations. The last two years the Conference is divided into three (3) main parts.

The “*Green Energy Investments Forum*” on the first day, is organized in cooperation with the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (**BSEC PERMIS**) and aims to reinforce the regional and extroverted cooperation among educational institutes, market forces, banks and governments for “green energy” issues.

The second “*Scientific papers*” is devoted to peer – viewed presentations and discussions, as in all previous years. Scientists and researchers mainly from EU and BSEC countries participate and present their work.

Finally, the third is shaped as a “*Brokerage session*” that brings together scientists, policy makers and market stakeholders and facilitate them to present their activities (projects and programs), discuss about funding opportunities, especially in the



context of Horizon 2020 calls and finally to increase the cross-interaction on innovative ideas and cooperation on common importance topics.

Proceedings receive ISBN numbers for printed and electronic version.

The Hellenic Government in addition to the annually organized forum in Athens supports the organization of biannual forum in all BSEC- MS during their Chairmanship in Office of BSEC, as a concrete contribution to knowledge transfer and green investment facilitation for all BSEC – MS.

Available information at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>.

- b. *International Training Seminar on Climate Change Policies* (Implementation period: 2013) – **Funding source:** self-funded/registration fees from attendees. **Aim:** Organised by NKUA-KEPA in cooperation with the US center of Stockholm Environment Institute in Massachusetts and developer of LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning system), the “International Training Seminar on Climate Change policies” was an one-week training activity aiming to offer to policy makers a holistic approach in designing climate change policy strategies through the development and evaluation of policy mixtures. Trainees got updated on global policy trends, reliable data collection, scenarios development and selection of policy mixtures with the use of LEAP and their evaluation with the use of AMS method. The training seminar was attended by policy and decision makers (employees of ministries and agencies, consultants), economists, engineers, project managers, researchers on energy and climate change policy from Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece, India, Kuwait, Portugal, Romania, and South Africa and took place in the premises of University of Athens on the second week of November 2013. Both LEAP and AMS have been used for the development and evaluation of M/A policy portfolios for twelve (12) countries of Black Sea and Central Asia. Available information at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>

### 7.6.1.3 The H2020 CB/MEP programme of capacity building (capacity building activity)

The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution. Horizon 2020 was endorsed during the Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in November 2006 and is one of the key initiatives endorsed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) since its launch in Paris in 2008.

To implement and monitor actions three working groups were created to address:

- Specific Investments for Pollution Reduction (PR);
- Capacity Building (CB) for achieving H2020 objectives;
- Review, Monitoring and Research (RMR).

Greece is a member of the consortium of the Capacity Building component of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for the de-pollution of Mediterranean Sea and participates actively in the process of identification of areas within the scope of H2020 where regional capacity building would add value.

UNECE:

‘Environment for Europe’ process, UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (incl. chairing the UNECE Steering Group on Education for Sustainable Development since 2005)

Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC):

International training seminars are organized on Climate Change policies. For more details please refer to paragraph 7.6.1.2.

Drin Dialogue Process and Western Balkans:

The Drin Dialogue Process aims at developing a Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin basin and enhancing Transboundary cooperation, including on climate change adaptation in relation to management of water and natural resources. In this regard, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change as well as the ministries of the riparian countries of the extended Drin Basin with competence on water resources management signed in Tirana on 25 November 2011 the Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin.

Adriatic-Ionian Initiative & EU Strategy of the Adriatic-Ionian

The main focus is the impact of climate change on Marine biodiversity & Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

**9.3.5.3 Activities-Responsibilities on Bilateral level**

The main focus is to increase the cohesion between national environmental & climate change policy goals and development assistance & cooperation objectives. Greece (MoEE) has signed and ratified “Memoranda of Understanding” and “Agreements” with neighbouring countries, like Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria and Cyprus, for cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development with an emphasis on capacity building and sharing of experiences, covering, inter alia, climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g. MoU with Cyprus-Sept. 2010, Joint Declaration with Turkey-May 2010).

**9.3.5.4 Governmental initiatives: The case of the Countries of the Africa Region**

Greece’s long-standing cooperation with countries of the African region is channeled through a number of different processes and is especially characterized by the social, economic, commercial, cultural and environmental links induced by sharing the Mediterranean Sea. The different levels of cooperation between Greece and the African countries can be summarized as cooperation at international level, cooperation at regional level, with emphasis on the Mediterranean region, and cooperation at bilateral level. It should be noted that there also exists cooperation between the European Union (EU) and African countries, especially at the international level but also at the regional level, where Greece, as a Member State of the EU, is also actively involved.

Cooperation on environmental issues: Climate change

Africa is a region particularly vulnerable to environmental changes. A fundamental issue related to environmental changes is currently climate change and its related consequences in terms of water scarcity, land degradation and desertification. The capacity of Africa to deal with the consequences of environmental changes is to a large extent limited. Within a globalised world, international cooperation should put emphasis in assisting African countries