



Climate Financing by Greece¹

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¹ Greece (2010). 5th National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, January 2010, 329 pp.

1. Introduction

This chapter contains information related to measures taken by Greece to give effect to its commitments under Article 4, paragraph 3 (financial resources), paragraph 4 (assistance in meeting costs of adaptation), and paragraph 5 (transfer of technologies). Paragraphs 7.2 to 7.4 contain information related to:

- A. Provision of “new and additional” financial resources.
- B. Assistance to developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.
- C. Provision of financial resources, including financial resources under Article 11 of the Kyoto Protocol.

while paragraph 7.5 contains information related to:

- D. Activities related to transfer of technology.
- E. Information under Article 10 of the Kyoto Protocol (related to transfer of technology issues).

Greece is committed, as both a UN and an EU Member State, to the global partnership to eradicate extreme poverty and contributes financially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through its bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, Greece provides financial resources to support national development initiatives and to address global developmental issues in the fields of sustainable development, health, environment, etc.

A substantial part of Greece’s ODA is channelled directly to institutions and/or policies aiming to address environmental issues at the global or regional level, while environmental sustainability is a cross-cutting objective of the programmes, projects and policies financed.

Overall responsibility for development cooperation lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the General Directorate for International Development Cooperation (Hellenic Aid /“YDAS”) coordinates programming, allocation and monitoring of development cooperation multilateral and bilateral funding.

Development cooperation funds are also channelled through other public bodies: the Ministry of Economy is responsible for Greece’s contributions to multilateral institutions, such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UNDP etc, while line Ministries are responsible for sectoral/thematic contributions to related United Nations Conventions and their Secretariats, i.e. the Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) is responsible for the allocation of annual official multilateral and multi-bilateral contributions to International Organisations, UN Convention Secretariats, Trust Funds and Agencies related to environmental issues.

2. ODA general trends

Greece's net bilateral and multilateral Official Development Aid (ODA) disbursements have indicated increasing trends in absolute terms and, in 2008, also as a percentage of the GNI. Greece's current goal is to progressively increase its ODA/GNI ratio to 0.51% by 2012.

In 2008, Greece's ODA totalled USD 708 million, of which USD 391 million were channeled as multilateral ODA, while bilateral ODA amounted to USD 317 million. The ratio of ODA/GNI stood at 0.21% in 2008, compared to 0.16% in the previous year, representing an increase, in absolute terms, of USD 207 million. This rise was due both to an increase of Greece's contribution to multilateral international organisations and to the rise of bilateral ODA.

3. Bilateral cooperation

Financial assistance administered by Greece through bilateral channels has shown increasing trends compared to 2007, totalling USD 317 million in 2008. Bilateral ODA stood in 2008 at 0.09% as a percentage of the GNI, versus 0.08% in 2007.

Climate change is an important dimension of Greece's bilateral development assistance and cooperation policy, particularly with respect to Least Developed Countries, most vulnerable to climate change because of their dependence on natural resources, high levels of poverty and weak infrastructure. Adaptation to climate change programmes in Least Developed Countries can greatly contribute to limiting threats against human security, while increasing the chances of achieving the MDGs.

It is noteworthy that aid directed by Greece towards Least Developed Countries has risen substantially over recent years. More specifically, aid to African countries rose by approximately 50% in 2008 compared to the previous year (USD 44.42 million versus USD 29.68 million in 2007), while aid to Sub-Saharan African countries registered a 48% increase (USD 24.96 million versus USD 16.86 million in 2007). These trends translate a shift in Greece's development cooperation financing priorities, aiming to intensify support towards Least Developed Countries, by providing new and additional funds in favour of the latter.

On a wider geographical basis, Greece provides grants to a number of developing countries and to countries with economies in transition aiming to support national development programmes in sectors related to climate change adaptation/mitigation, such as energy, water management etc., environmental sustainability being a cross-cutting objective of the aid provided.

Table 1. Bilateral development cooperation – Aid per sector per year (Flows in MUSD)

	Sector of aid	2006	2007	2008	Total
Mitigation (i.e. assistance for reduction of emissions from various sectors)	Energy	0.33	1.4	0.14	1.91
	Transport	13.94	0.45	5.65	20.04
	Forestry	0.11	-	-	0.11
	Agriculture	1.36	1.84	2.19	5.39
	Waste management	0.12	0.16	-	0.28

Adaptation (i.e. adapting to climate change for various sectors)	Industry	0.14	0.11	0.08	0.33
-	Capacity-building	2.25	14.08	0.37	16.70
-	Water management	0.91	2.62	0.76	4.29
-	Coastal zone management	0.77	2.71	1.97	5.45
-	Land use and Planning	0.22	-	0.24	0.46
-	Other vulnerability assessments	-	-	-	-
Total		20.15	23.41	11.40	54.96

Source: MFA/Hellenic Aid, Directorate 3, September 2009

4. Multilateral contributions

Financial resources have been provided by Greece, both in line with its international engagements and on a voluntary basis, to a variety of multilateral institutions and programmes. Multilateral ODA totalled USD million 391 in 2008 rising significantly as a percentage of the GNI (0.12% versus 0.08% in 2007). Greece's overall ODA-eligible financial contributions towards Multilateral Organisations and programmes over recent years are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. ODA eligible financial contributions to multilateral institutions and programmes (2006-2008) (in MUSD)

Multilateral institutions and programmes	2006	2007	2008
WORLD BANK (IDA, MDRI, IBRD, IFC, MIGA)	42.45	9.18	79.51
UNDP	0.63	0.56	0.50
UNEP	2.4	0.92	0.98
UNFCCC	0.14	0.18	0.21
WHO	1.55	1.50	1.77
EC, EDF	163.92	218.12	238.87
AU	0.00	4.11	1.44
AOSIS	0.00	1.56	0.00
CARICOM	0.00	1.37	1.44
UNAIDS	0.75	0.00	1.44
GFATM	0.44	0.00	1.44
Other (BSTDB, BSEC, etc)	14.19	14.13	63.39.42
TOTAL	234.78	251.63	390.99

Source: MFA/Hellenic Aid, Directorate 3, September 2009

A substantial part of Greece's multilateral ODA is dedicated to organizations and/or programmes aiming to address global environmental issues and to support national sustainable development initiatives, including capacity-building activities related to technology transfer for limiting/reducing GHG emissions, implementation of the UNFCCC Convention and preparations for effective participation in the Kyoto Protocol.

Greece, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, has contributed to the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Replenishments. Contributions to United Nations Conventions and their Secretariats are channelled through other line Ministries, like MEECC. Over the period 2003-2008, MEECC has contributed annually an average amount of USD 85.000 to the UNFCCC Fund, with increasing trends.

Through its multilateral ODA, Greece is currently intensifying its efforts on financing adaptation to climate change programmes in Least Developed Countries and in regions that, due to their geographical location, are most vulnerable to climate change (Sub Saharan Africa and Small Island Developing States). In order to ensure optimal use of funds and prioritization of funding needs in the threatened regions, programmes financed by Greece are to be demand driven and implemented in coordination with regional organizations of the beneficiary countries concerned. In line with the Aid Effectiveness Agenda requirements, emphasis is given to predictability of funding on a medium term basis (2-4 years) and to ownership and accountability on behalf of development partners:

- Greece entered into a four year funding arrangement with the African Union (AU) (signed in New York, in September 2008) for climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes in African countries, proposed and implemented by the African Union, for a total amount of EUR 12 million to be disbursed on an annual basis. Financial contributions to the AU have started since 2007.
- Greece entered into a four year funding arrangement with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CARICOM CCC) (signed in New York, in September 2008) for climate change risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation programmes for a total amount of EUR 4 million to be disbursed on annual basis. Financial contributions to the CARICOM have started since 2007.
- A similar funding arrangement was signed in 2009 (New York, September 18) with the Indian Ocean Committee (IOC) with a total budget of EUR 4 million, to be disbursed annually, over four years.
- Greece has agreed (New York, September 22) to contribute EUR 2 million in 2010-2011 to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for a programme of improved climate information services for climate change adaptation in East and Central Africa.

An ad hoc contribution of MUSD 1.56 for programmes related to climate change adaptation/mitigation was also made to the Alliance Of Small Island States (AOSIS) in 2007.

All aforementioned funds represent new funding for climate change adaptation/mitigation programmes in favour of developing countries, which has been made available by Greece since 2007. Financing of these programmes does not imply a diversion of funds in Greece's ODA budget, since the total volume of the latter has registered an increase in 2008, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the GNI.

Finally, in the follow up of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Type II initiatives and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Greece leads, funds, coordinates and participates in the assessment of climate change impacts in African countries. This Type II initiative promoted by Greece (with a start up budget by MEECC of EUR 125.000) and implemented by the National Observatory of Athens (N.O.A), aims to contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC in Africa. In addition, Greece has granted the amount of EUR 160.000 to three more Type II initiatives related to integrated water

resources management and capacity building, in the Mediterranean, thus contributing to adaptation efforts of partner countries.

5. Environmental cooperation and transfer of technology:

5.1 Multilateral/Regional cooperation:

Mediterranean Component of the EU's Initiative 'Water for Life' (MED EUWI)

In the follow up of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Greek Government (Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change – MoE – and Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs – MoFA), supported by the 'Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean' (GWP-Med') Secretariat, has undertaken responsibility of leading the Mediterranean Component of the EU's Initiative 'Water for Life' (MED EUWI), launched in Johannesburg, in 2002.

The MED EUWI represents a strategic partnership among all related stakeholders in the Mediterranean region, aiming at contributing to the implementation of the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets in the region, complementing at the same time all other relevant regional ongoing processes and initiatives. In this regard, it aims to assist national efforts and strategies of the Mediterranean partner countries (N.Africa, East Mediterranean, SE Europe) to achieve their commitments under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Johannesburg targets on water supply and sanitation (WSS) and on integrated water resources management (IWRM) by 2015.

The MED EUWI is an open ended partnership, open to all actors in the region sharing the same visions and goals and wishing to practically and actively contribute to the achievement of the water related MDG and WSSD targets in the Mediterranean, a unique but also vulnerable area both from an environmental and a political point of view. Cooperation between countries, within the MED EUWI, can thus significantly contribute to poverty eradication, enhancement of livelihoods and sustainable economic development, providing a catalyst for peace and security in the region.

Its main aim is to assist the design of better, demand-driven and output-oriented water programmes in the region, and to facilitate the effective coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds, through identification of gaps.

In this respect, synergies and complementarity are systematically sought and ensured between MED EUWI and any other related new Initiatives that are launched in the Mediterranean; To this end, MED EUWI represents the 'water pillar' of the new Initiative launched by the European Commission in 2005 to "De-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020 – Horizon 2020" which represents, consequently, an instrument for the EU to identify funding priorities in the Mediterranean countries for the period 2007-2013. Moreover, coordination and cooperation is also ensured with the new GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean (2007-2012).

So far, the MED EUWI has managed to receive a very wide acceptance as it is acknowledged by all Mediterranean partners as a key “platform” in the region aiming to meet the international commitments on water ensuring at the same time aid effectiveness.

The means to achieve its targets mainly rely on the achievement of effective “donor coordination” at country level. In this regard, a strategic process entitled “Country Dialogues” was initiated in late 2005 with Lebanon. This process constitutes a multi-stakeholder one, led by the countries themselves and aiming to assist formulation of national Roadmaps for meeting the MDG and WSSD water targets, as well as defining and prioritizing the interventions required and the funding needed. In this process, Greece and the EU Commission are in close collaboration with OECD’s EAP Task Force. In this respect, the implementation of MED EUWI and in particular the “Country Dialogues” are directly linked to the implementation to the Decisions of the Joint OECD EPOC/DAC Ministerial Meeting of April 2006 (i.e. the adopted ‘Framework for Common Action Around Shared Goals’). In particular, the Country Dialogue of Egypt initiated in November 2006, is also referenced as one of the key elements included in the Protocol on economic and technical cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hellenic Republic, signed at Ministerial level in June 2006.

In terms of funding, MEECC supports the MED EUWI with a core annual budget reaching approximately 100.000 € to cover “horizontal” activities. In 2006, a co-funding by the EU Commission (EuropeAid Cooperation Office) was activated to financially support selected MED EUWI activities, for 2 years (2006-2008), with the amount of approximately 1,070 million €. Moreover, the MED EUWI has managed to mobilize and coordinate considerable additional funding for the region. Key contributors in the process include, apart from the EC, bilateral EU ODA, the World Bank, the GEF, Development Banks, UNEP UCC etc.

In the context of the MED EUWI, increasing emphasis is being given to assisting the efforts of Mediterranean countries to build their adaptation capacities to the changing climate conditions in the Region. More specifically, Greece/MEECC, through the MED EUWI, has:

- Prepared a Position Paper on “Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean” in December 2007 that has been widely distributed and discussed among Med partners aiming to provide a background of the current condition regarding impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean with emphasis on water resources, to assist Med countries with a systematic framework for developing national adaptation strategies linked with national IWRM plans as well as to promote a harmonised regional approach to address adaptation to climate change, under the MED EUWI umbrella.
- Organised, together with the European Commission, the Mediterranean Action Plan/United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), a Side-Event on “Addressing Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in the Mediterranean” during the 16th Session of the UN Commission for Sustainable

Development. The Side-Event, that was attended by more than 40 participants, aimed at addressing issues pertaining to the specificities of the Mediterranean which, already a water-scarce region, is expected to face even more challenges with regard to its water resources in the near future due to the looming climate crisis (e.g. increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods and other extreme weather conditions that lead to increased water supply demand gap, desertification, infrastructure damage, loss of land due to landslides, saltwater intrusion due to sea-level rise, health issues, etc.), jeopardising the region's overall well-being.

- 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.
- Submitted a project proposal in the context of the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean” that was launched at the Paris Summit on 14 July 2008, that aims to support a “Multistakeholder Cooperation for the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean with emphasis on water”. This project proposal focuses, inter alia, on assisting, in practical terms, Mediterranean countries to build greater resilience of their water resources to climate change impacts.
- 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 Euro-Mediterranean countries during their Meeting organised by Greece/MED EUWI in Athens in July 2009. Consequently this Technical paper was presented and adopted by Euro-Mediterranean Water Ministers at their Ministerial Conference on Water, in Jordan (Dead Sea), in 22 December 2008. This Ministerial Euro Mediterranean Conference on Water decided to elaborate a “Mediterranean Strategy on Water” to be adopted by the next Conference to take place in Barcelona, 12-14 April 2010. Following up to this decision, it was agreed by the first Meeting of the “Water Expert Group” (Athens, 7-8.9.09) that MED EUWI will provide the technical support for the elaboration of the Strategy's text that will focus on four themes, i.e. water governance, water demand management, financing and adaptation of water resources to climate change.
- Actively participated, during the 5th 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.

Regional cooperation on environmental protection within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Organisation

On the regional level, Greece, as a member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), is actively engaged in efforts made by BSEC member states in order to promote cooperation and exchange of best practises for the protection of the Black Sea marine and coastal environment. To this end, BSEC Member States have elaborated a general cooperation framework, the BSEC Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, the main directions of which include:

- Harmonizing environmental legislation among the BSEC Member States, based on best practices and transfer of technology and taking into account the EU relevant legislative framework;
- Strengthening cooperation in the Black Sea basin in the fields of pollution prevention and biodiversity conservation, with particular attention to the areas not covered by the Bucharest Convention;
- Promoting the use of economic incentives and tools in the field of environmental protection, in order to leverage funding for projects of mutual interest;
- Promoting the development of innovative, environmentally friendly and resource saving technologies;

Environmental Cooperation between BSEC member states is promoted through high level meetings but also through the nomination of national focal points with the participation of experts on environmental protection, as well as investment programmes directed at the preservation of the region’s environment and the development of green technologies.

Cooperation also aims at intensifying control of the transboundary spreading of dangerous substances in the environment of the Black Sea region and at providing state-of-the-art mechanisms for integrated management of river ecosystems in the BSEC region. In this respect, joint scientific-technical research programmes and projects, exchange of officials, experts, researchers and members of the civil society, as well as training programmes, meetings, conferences and symposia are regularly organised.

On the international level, the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection cooperates with international organisations such as UNEP and International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as with the European Commission’s General Directorate Environment (i.e., in relation to the EU Water Initiative). The BSEC Working Group on Environment also closely follows regional environmental initiatives, supporting the activities of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

and of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (the Black Sea Commission-BSC), in implementing the Bucharest Convention (1992) requirements on the protection of the Black Sea environment.

Programmes and projects currently implemented in the field of environmental protection within the BSEC include:

The BSEC Information Exchange System on Environmental Protection (since April 2007). The issue remains on the agenda of the Working Group on Environmental Protection and the system is soon expected to be operational.

A working paper on Possible Means of Strengthening Cooperation between the BSEC and other International Organizations on Issues related to the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea Marine Environment, elaborated by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

A number of projects approved by the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection, which have been funded by the BSEC Project Development Fund, including:

“Improvement of the scientific background for assuring sustainable development in the Black Sea coastal zone – pre-feasibility study”;

“Revitalization of urban ecosystems through vascular plants: assessment of technogenic pollution impact – Garden City”;

“Study of the capabilities and requirements of the operational monitoring of air pollution levels
Financing projects in the fields of RES and environmental protection through the BSEC Hellenic Development Fund (BSEC-HDF):

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives undertaken by the BSEC, Greece will be financing RES and EE projects and projects in the field of environmental protection through the BSEC Hellenic Development Fund (BSEC-HDF).

The BSEC-HDF is a special fund, established in April 2008, as a voluntary contribution from the Hellenic Republic. The BSEC-HDF will be endowed with an initial amount of 2.000.000 Euros for a period of four years, as of 2008. The Fund aims at supporting BSEC efforts to strengthen regional cooperation among its member states and enhance its project-oriented approach, targeting the following specific key areas: transport, renewable energy sources (RES), environmental protection, business cooperation and trade facilitation, tourism and culture. Grant financing provided by the BSEC-HDF will be considered as BSEC grants.

The first call for proposals of the BSEC-HDF, to be launched before end 2009, will be exclusively focused in the area of RES and EE. Proposals eligible to be funded by the BSEC HDF could include small scale infrastructure projects, networks and capacity building initiatives that promote innovation and regional cooperation in the specific area.

5.2 Bilateral cooperation

Hellenic Aid finances projects in a number of developing countries, aiming to facilitate the access to, or transfer of environmentally sound technologies and to promote the use of RES in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition.