



Prespa-Ohrid Update

February 2007

15 February 2007

Meeting of the Greek Euroregion Association in Kozani



A working meeting for the formalisation of the Greek Association of the Prespa-Ohrid Euroregion, the first after the new prefects assumed office, took place on 15 February 2007. The meeting was held at the General Secretariat of the Region of Western Macedonia in Kozani.

The Secretary General, the Special Adviser on Regional Development, the Prefects of Florina, Kastoria, Kozani as well as the Deputy Prefect of Grevena, a representative of the regional higher education institutions and EWI representatives led by the Director of the Regional Transfrontier Co-operation Projects participated at the meeting.

During the extensive discussion an agreement in principal was reached to formalize the Greek Euroregion Association, which will now consist of seven members. These bodies will include the Region of Western Macedonia, the four prefectures, the Municipality of Prespes and the University/Technological Education Institute (TEI) of Western Macedonia (as one member). Furthermore, it was proposed that Florina will be the seat of the Greek Euroregion Association and the Center for Inter-Balkan Cooperation (CIBC) will execute the role of the Secretariat.

All the participants concurred that the creation of a flexible structure with a manageable number of members will accelerate the process of the Euroregion formation and also make for speedier implementation of concrete cross-border activities. Moreover, the formalization of the Greek association as a legal entity was identified as the uppermost priority set for the immediate future, particularly since corresponding entities are already established in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



It was stressed by several participants that co-operation between the three sides is paramount for the development of the region and the Greek members hope their experiences can help their neighbors in the EU accession process.

The event received full media coverage.

Forthcoming Events March 2007

1 March: Prespa-Ohrid Euroregion Foundation Meeting in Ohrid

28 March: NGO Secretariats Meeting in Bitola (tbc.)