AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE, WATER AND
FORESTRY

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Croatia, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Expressing the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the Croatian and Turkish people and to develop cooperation to protect the environment, nature, water and forests,

Recognizing the significance of the sustainable development approach for the protection and improvement of the environment for the health and well-being of the present and future generations,

Noting the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation for the fulfillment of the regional and global responsibilities of both Parties on environmental protection,

Bearing in mind the need for close cooperation on educational, scientific, technical and technological aspects of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources and forest areas,

Emphasizing their will to obtain European Union membership and to this end, intending to incorporate the environmental Acquis Communautaire of the European Union into their national legislation,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

In order to reduce the environmental pollution and to protect the environment, nature, water and forest, the Parties shall cooperate through special programmes and projects dealing with the transfer of knowledge, experience and technology on the basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 2

Main areas of cooperation shall be the following:

- Nature protection, management and planning of protected areas and biosphere reserves:

- Harmonization of the national legislation with the environmental Acquis Communautaire of the European Union;
- Environmental impact assessment (esp. projects for infrastructure and industry) and strategic environmental assessment;

- Environmental pollution prevention and control;

- Prevention of, preparedness for and response to the effects of major industrial accidents;

- Integrated coastal zone management;

- Water pollution and management;

- Industrial, agricultural, domestic pollution and pollution from energy facilities;

- Afforestation techniques;

- Seedling product techniques;

- Range rehabilitation;

- Soil conservation;

- Watershed management and rehabilitation;

- Avalanche and landslide control techniques;

- Establishment and use of environmental information systems;

- National and regional environmental status reports;

- Environmental education;

- Waste management (domestic waste, hazardous waste, medical waste, special waste, packaging wastes, mining wastes and waste from energy facilities):

- Chemicals management;

- Renewable energy resources;

- Sustainable forest management;

- Land use planning;

- Combating soil erosion;

- Conservation of biological diversity;

- Climate change;
- Any other area deemed of common interest by the Parties.

**Article 3**

The Parties shall cooperate in the following forms on the areas enlisted in Article 2 of this Agreement:

- Joint scientific-technical researches /programs;
- Elaboration of cooperation projects;
- Exchange of scientific-technical information and documents on research and development activities and best environmental management practices;
- Exchange of experiences on transposition of legislation and implementation of EU Directives;
- Exchange of officials, experts, researchers and members of non-governmental organizations;
- Organization of training programs, meetings, conferences, symposia and study tours;
- Any other forms of cooperation deemed necessary by the Parties.

**Article 4**

The Parties shall promote the cooperation and collaboration between the governmental institutions, private sector, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders working in the field of environmental protection within the framework of this Agreement.

**Article 5**

Following the entry into force of this Agreement Parties shall establish the Turkish - Croatian Joint Committee for Environment, Nature, Water and Forests (hereafter the Committee), to be responsible for the management of cooperation activities under this Agreement.

The Committee shall perform its activity on the basis of its rules of procedures, which shall be approved at the first meeting of the Committee.

Committee shall be composed of maximum seven representatives of competent ministries and institutions of each of the Parties.

Each Party shall appoint the respective Co-chairman of the Committee within one month after the entry into force of this Agreement. First meeting of the Committee shall be held within six months after the entry into force of this Agreement.
The Committee shall prepare the bi-annual Working Programmes containing the concrete elaboration of cooperation activities envisaged under Article 2 of this Agreement. These bi-annual Working Programmes shall describe the scope of the cooperation activity, the deliveries and the delivery dates (if any), the products and outcomes, the level of funding and resources to be provided for each such activity by each Party and any other aspects of the activity that the coordinators may consider appropriate.

The Committee shall meet at least once a year alternately on the territory of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Croatia. The Committee may hold special meetings upon the request of one of the Parties on the territory of the initiator Party if not agreed differently.

**Article 6**

Upon mutual consent, the Parties may share the results of their cooperation with third Parties in conformity with their national legislation.

**Article 7**

Any dispute that may arise from interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved by negotiation between the Parties.

**Article 8**

This Agreement shall not be interpreted so as to prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements by which the Parties are bound.

**Article 9**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties have informed each other, through diplomatic channels, that their internal legal requirements for its entry have been fulfilled.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years, and thereafter it shall be automatically extended for further period of five (5) years unless terminated by either Party by giving written notification to the other Party through diplomatic channels, six (6) months prior the expiration of current period.

The Agreement may be amended upon the mutual consent of the Parties. Such amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the provision of paragraph 1 of this Article.

The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the activities agreed upon pursuant to this Agreement and initiated prior to such termination.
Done at………………,on…………… in two originals, each in the Turkish, Croatian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Prof. Dr. Veysel EROĞLU
Minister of Environment and Forestry

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Božo BISKUPIĆ
Minister of Culture