

Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on co-operation in the field of prevention and response to natural and man-made disasters.
Signed Athens, 21 FEB 2000

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AGREEMENT between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation on co-operation in the field of prevention and response to natural and man-made disasters

The Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation hereinafter referred to as Parties,

desiring to strengthen the traditional friendly relations between the two peoples in accordance with the Treaty on friendship and co-operation between the Hellenic Republic and the Russian Federation of 1 July, 1993,

recognizing that cooperation in the field of emergency prevention and response will contribute to well-being and safety of both states,

realizing the danger of emergencies for both countries,

mindful that exchange of scientific and technical information in the field of emergency prevention and response is of mutual interest,

proceeding from the interdependence of environmental systems of both countries, that requires an agreed policy in the field of emergency prevention and response, as well as environmental monitoring,

taking into account a possibility of emergencies that cannot be responded by means and resources of either Party and the need in co-ordinated actions by both States aimed at emergency prevention and response,

bearing in mind the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in the field of emergency prevention and response,

have agreed as follows.

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Definitions

The terms used in this Agreement shall have the following meanings:

a "requesting Party" means a Party requesting the other Party to send teams for providing assistance, equipment and support materials;

a "providing Party" means a Party meeting the request of the other Party to send teams for providing assistance, equipment and support materials;

a "competent body" means a body designated by each Party for coordination of activities related to the implementation of this agreement;

a "team for providing assistance" means a group of experts from the providing Party, including military personnel charged with providing assistance and equipped with all necessary means:

an "emergency situation" means a situation in a specific area brought about by an accident, dangerous natural phenomenon, catastrophe, natural or other disaster which may cause or have caused human losses, damage to health or natural environment, considerable material losses and disturbance of conditions of human activity;

an "emergency prevention" means a set of measures taken in advance and aimed at a maximum possible reduction of emergency risk, protection of health of population, diminishing a damage for natural environment and material losses in case of emergency;

an "emergency response" means emergency rescue and other urgent works carried out in case of emergency and aimed at saving human lives and protecting health of people, diminishing damage for natural environment and material losses, as well as localizing an emergency zone and suppressing dangerous factors inherent in such an emergency situation:

an "emergency zone" means an area in which an emergency situation arose;

"emergency rescue works" means actions aimed at saving people, material and cultural values, protecting natural environment in an emergency zone, localising an emergency situation and neutralising or suppressing to the lowest possible level dangerous factors inherent in it;

"equipment" means materials, technical and transportation means, equipment of a team providing assistance and personal kit of its members; "support materials" means materials intended for distribution among population suffered from an emergency.

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Competent bodies

The Parties shall designate the following competent bodies:

for the Hellenic Republic - the Ministry of Interior/General Secretariat for Civil Protection,

for the Russian Federation - the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.

in case of designating another competent body, the Parties will accordingly notify each other in writing through diplomatic channels.

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Forms of co-operation

Cooperation under this Agreement shall include:

arranging and carrying out of monitoring of dangerous technological and environmental processes, as well as natural phenomena;
 forecasting of emergencies and assessment of their consequences;
 organization of training of population to act in emergencies, including the first medical aid training;
 interaction between appropriate state structures involved in emergency response activities;
 assessment of a risk for environment and population due to possible pollution caused by industrial accidents, catastrophes or natural disasters;
 joint planning, development and implementation of research projects, exchange of scientific and technical publications and results of researching work;
 exchange of information, periodicals, methodological or any other publications, video and photo materials, as well as technologies;
 organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings as well as exercises and training sessions;
 preparation of joint publications and reports;
 training of specialists in the other Party's educational institutions, exchange of trainees, trainers, scientists and experts;
 interaction between the competent bodies of both Parties;
 mutual assistance in providing technical facilities and equipment;
 planning and carrying out of activities related to emergency prevention and response;
 mutual assistance in emergency response;
 any other activities related to emergency prevention and response as may be agreed by the competent bodies of the Parties.

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Co-operation between organizations and institutions

Parties may, as appropriate, promote co-operation between state bodies, governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, legal entities and physical persons acting in the field of emergency prevention and response.

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Joint commission

To implement this Agreement the competent bodies of both parties will establish a Joint Commission for co-operation in the field of emergency prevention and response and determine its composition, functions and working procedure.

Article 6. [\[back to top\]](#)**Terms of receiving representatives**

Either Party receiving representatives of the other Party coming to participate in the activities provided under this

Agreement but not related directly to assistance in emergency response shall cover all the expenses of their stay and movement within its national territory, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. Costs of transportation to and from the territory of the receiving Party shall be covered by the sending Party.

Article 7. [\[back to top\]](#)**Providing assistance**

The Parties shall be bodies entitled to request assistance in emergency response.

Assistance shall be provided pursuant to a request, by which the requesting Party shall provide information on a nature of the emergency and specify a type and volume of an assistance required.

The providing Party shall consider a request for assistance in the shortest possible time and inform the requesting Party on the possibility, volume and terms of its rendering.

The competent body of the requesting Party shall supervise the activities of teams for providing assistance through their leaders.

Article 8. [\[back to top\]](#)**Types of assistance**

Assistance in emergency response will be provided by way of sending teams for providing assistance, supporting materials, or in other requested form,

Teams for providing assistance shall conduct emergency rescue activities in an emergency zone.

The requesting Party shall inform the leaders of the teams for providing assistance on the situation in the emergency zone

and specific task and, when necessary, provide these teams with interpreters and means of communication. It also ensure

security, free-of charge medical assistance and shall co-ordinate their activities,

The equipment of teams for providing assistance should be sufficient for its autonomous actions in the emergency zone for 72

hours. Upon running out of supplies the requesting Party shall provide these teams with means required for their further work.

Article 9. [\[back to top\]](#)**Border crossing procedures for the teams for providing assistance and status of their stay in the state territory of the requesting party**

Members of the teams for providing assistance shall cross the state border of the requesting Party through the border

checkpoints open for international communication using appropriate passports. They may stay in the territory of the

requesting Party without visas and permits to stay. The team leader should have the list of the members of his team and an

appropriate document issued by the competent body of the providing Party confirming his authority.

The border crossing procedure and stay within the territory of the requesting Party for the search-dogs teams shall be

defined according to the state quarantine regulations of the requesting Party.

When staying in the state territory of the requesting Party, the members of the teams for providing assistance shall be

obliged to respect the legislation of this state. At the same time they shall be under the state jurisdiction of the

providing Party regarding labour legislation and related matters. In the case these teams include military personnel its activities shall be under the legislation of the providing Party regulating the status of military personnel.

Transportation of the teams for providing assistance and their equipment and support materials shall be done using road, railway, water or air transport.

The order of using the above-mentioned means of transportation shall be determined by the competent bodies of the Parties upon agreement with appropriate ministries and agencies.

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Bringing in and taking out equipment and support materials for providing assistance in case of emergency

Equipment and support materials brought in and taken out of the state territory for providing assistance in case of

emergency shall exempted from customs duties, charges and taxes.

The equipment and support materials shall be custom cleared using a simplified procedure and as a matter of priority

according to notifications, issued by the competent bodies of both Parties, indicating the composition of the teams for

providing assistance, lists of brought in and taken out equipment and support materials.

Teams for providing assistance shall be prohibited to transport any other goods except from their equipment and support materials, necessary for their mission.

Upon completion of work for providing assistance the equipment brought into the state territory of the requesting Party should be reexported. If due to special circumstances, taking out the equipment is impossible it can be handed over gratis as an assistance to a competent body of the requesting Party on agreed terms. In this case it is necessary to inform the competent body and the customs authorities of the requesting Party indicating the type, quantity and location of the equipment to be handed over. In case of necessity of urgent medical aid the required quantity of medical supplies containing narcotic substances can be

brought into the state territory of the requesting Party. In this case the leader of the team for providing assistance should present customs authorities of requesting and providing Parties with a declaration on medicines containing narcotic substances indicating their nomenclature and quantity.

The specified medicines shall not be subject to handing over to the requesting Party and shall be used only by qualified medical personnel under the control of the representatives of this Party.

The unused medicines containing narcotic substances shall be taken out under the customs control of the requesting Party according to the document confirming their nomenclature and quantity. For utilized medicines containing narcotic substances

the customs authorities of the requesting Party shall be presented with a certificate of their utilization signed by the leader and the physician of the team for providing assistance and certified by a representative of the competent body of the requesting Party.

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Utilization of aircraft

The competent body of the providing Party shall inform the competent body of the requesting Party on the decision to use aircraft for providing assistance, indicating their type and call signs, route, number of crew members, character of cargo, time and location of taking off and landing.

The requesting Party shall clear the flights to the designated point within its territory.

Flights shall be carried out under the rules established by the International Civil Aviation Organization and by the Parties to this Agreement.

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Reimbursement of expenses

The requesting Party shall reimburse to the providing Party the expenses related to providing assistance unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

The requesting Party may in any time cancel its request for providing assistance, but in this case the providing Party shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of its expenses.

Reimbursement of expenses shall be effected immediately upon receiving the claim of the providing Party unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

The providing Party shall insure members of the teams for providing assistance. The insurance expenses shall be included into the total expenses for providing assistance.

The providing Party shall be exempted from fees pertaining to the overfly, landing, parking in the airfield, taking-off, as well as for the radio-navigation services.

Issues related to reimbursement for fuel and maintenance of aircraft of the providing Party shall be handled on a case-by-case basis.

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Reimbursement of damage

The requesting Party shall cover the expenses related to injuries or death of members of the teams for providing assistance if they occur during the activities related to the implementation of the, present Agreement.

If a team member of the providing Party during the activities within the territory of the requesting Party related to the implementation of the present Agreement causes damage to a legal entity or physical person, this damage shall be reimbursed by the requesting Party according to the legal regulations applied in case of damage caused by its citizens providing assistance.

The damage caused by a member of the team deliberately or due to serious negligence shall be reimbursed by the providing Party.

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The information obtained as a result of activities under the present agreement, except for the information which cannot be divulged according to the state legislation of the Parties, shall be published and used on the basis of the routine procedure and regulations of each of the Parties, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the competent bodies of the Parties.

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Settlement of disputes

All disputes as to the interpretation and implementation of the present Agreement shall be settled by negotiations between the two Parties.

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Final provisions

The present Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of the last written notification that the Parties concerned have completed the relevant domestic formalities necessary for its entry into force.

The present Agreement shall be concluded for an indefinite term. Each of the Parties may denounce the present Agreement in

writing.

The present Agreement shall expire in six months after the date one of the Parties receives a notification on a decision to terminate it.

Termination of the present Agreement will not affect the activities conducted under the Agreement that are not completed before its termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties,

Done in *Athens* on *February 21 2000* in two copies, in the Greek, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

(signed)

For the Government
of the Hellenic Republic

(signed)

For the Government .
of the Russian Federation