

**PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC ON THE
PROHIBITION AND PREVENTION OF THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT,
TRANSIT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY**

The Government of Republic of Turkey, represented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Government of the Hellenic Republic, represented by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports hereinafter referred to as "The Parties";

Having in mind that the protection of their cultural property through bilateral co-operation serves as an effective means towards the protection of the cultural heritage of mankind;

Whereas theft, illegal excavation, and illicit import, export, transit or transfer of ownership of cultural property pose serious threats on cultural heritage;

Have agreed the following:

Article 1

1. The Parties agree to improve cooperation between the two countries with the aim of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, transit and transfer of ownership of the cultural property illegally removed from their territories and restituting and returning this property to its country of origin. For the purposes of this Protocol, the Turkish cultural property shall be defined in accordance with the laws of Turkey and Greek cultural property shall be defined in accordance with the laws of Greece.

2. The Parties agree to cooperate in the combat of illicit trade of cultural property. More specifically, they agree:

a) to adopt preventive and remedial measures concerning theft, illegal excavation and illicit import, export, transit and transfer of cultural property in accordance with their laws and the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the "Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property";

b) to assist each other to locate and retrieve cultural objects which have been illegally removed from their territories, to the extent that such retrieval is not in contradiction with the laws of the country where the object is found.

Article 2

The Parties shall facilitate each other with regard to issues coming within their exclusive competence concerning national authorities such as the police or customs authorities.

Article 3

1. For the purposes of this Protocol, the Parties shall exchange information in time. The information shall include the following:

- a. Laws and regulations on the protection of cultural property especially with regard to the prevention of theft or illegal excavation and circulation of illegally excavated objects, illicit import, export, transit or transfer of ownership of cultural property and the restitution or return of cultural property to its country of origin as well as relevant policies and measures followed and implemented by the Parties.
 - b. Information on export bans and export certificates;
 - c. Information on organizations or agencies tasked with the protection of cultural property;
 - d. Information on seizures of cultural property which are of interest to the other Party.
 - e. Any other information deemed necessary by both Parties for the purposes of this Protocol.
2. All above aforementioned information shall be updated in time
 3. The information obtained for the purposes of this Protocol shall be confidential and will only be used by the Parties for purposes relating to the implementation of the present Protocol.

Article 4

The Parties shall strengthen exchanges and training of personnel in the field of the combat against illicit trade in cultural property.

Article 5

1. The Parties shall strengthen collaboration in further enhancing awareness of the general public, collectors, art dealers, museums and other cultural organizations with regard to threats posed by the illicit trade in cultural property.
2. The Parties shall inform each other in cases of cultural property, belonging to either of them, illegally appearing in the international cultural property market, and shall share information related to evaluating, registering, retrieving, and returning lost cultural property of the two countries when conducting relevant investigations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6

The Parties shall establish a consultation mechanism which will work on a regular basis, in order to resolve any differences arising from either the implementation of this Protocol or the application of the internal laws of the Parties.

Article 7

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of the last written notification by which the Parties shall inform each other of the completion of the internal procedures required for its entry into force. It shall remain in force for a period of one year and shall thereafter be

automatically renewed each time for a period of one year unless either Party submits a written prior notice to the other about its intention to terminate it six (6) months beforehand.

Article 8

This Protocol may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties at any time. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the legal procedure prescribed under Article 7 of this Protocol.

Article 9

No provisions of this Protocol shall affect rights and obligations of the Parties under other international agreements to which they are Parties.

Done in İstanbul on March 4, 2013 in two originals in the Turkish, Greek and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
HELLENIC REPUBLIC

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