

No. 50726

**Greece
and
United States of America**

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the United States of America concerning the imposition of import restrictions on categories of archaeological and byzantine ecclesiastical ethnological material through the 15th century A.D. of the Hellenic Republic. Athens, 17 July 2011

Entry into force: *21 November 2011 by notification, in accordance with article IV*

Authentic texts: *English and Greek*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Greece, 24 April 2013*

**Grèce
et
États-Unis d'Amérique**

Mémorandum d'accord entre le Gouvernement de la République hellénique et le Gouvernement des États-Unis d'Amérique relatif à l'imposition de restrictions à l'importation de catégories de matériel archéologique et ethnologique ecclésiastique byzantin jusqu'au XV^e siècle après J.-C. de la République hellénique. Athènes, 17 juillet 2011

Entrée en vigueur : *21 novembre 2011 par notification, conformément à l'article IV*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et grec*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Grèce, 24 avril 2013*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
ON CATEGORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BYZANTINE
ECCLESIASTICAL ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL THROUGH THE
15TH CENTURY A.D.
OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

The Government of the Hellenic Republic (hereinafter also referred to as Greece) and the Government of the United States of America;

Acting pursuant to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States Party; and

Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological material of Greece representing the Upper Paleolithic Period through the 15th century A.D., and of Byzantine ecclesiastical ethnological material through the 15th century A.D.;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Government of the United States of America, in accordance with its legislation entitled the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, shall restrict the importation into the United States of archaeological material representing the Upper Paleolithic Period (beginning approximately 20,000 B.C.) through the 15th century A.D., and of ecclesiastical ethnological material representing the Byzantine culture from approximately the 4th century through the 15th century A.D., including categories of stone, metal, ceramic, bone and ivory, wood and glass artifacts, textile, papyrus, paintings (including wall paintings), mosaics and other material identified on a list to be promulgated by the United States Government (hereinafter referred to as the Designated List), unless the Government of the Hellenic Republic issues a license or other documentation which certifies that such exportation was not in violation of its laws.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall offer for return to the Government of the Hellenic Republic any material on the Designated List forfeited to the Government of the United States of America.

3. Such import restrictions shall become effective on the date the Designated List is published by the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S. Federal Register, the official United States Government publication providing fair public notice.

ARTICLE II

1. Representatives of the Government of the Hellenic Republic and representatives of the Government of the United States of America shall take appropriate steps to publicize this Memorandum of Understanding and the reasons for it through available outlets of communication.

2. The Government of the Hellenic Republic shall consider increasing the capacity of the existing units within the Hellenic Police to monitor and protect cultural heritage sites throughout the country, and shall also consider improving the existing regulations on the use of metal detectors.
3. The Government of the Hellenic Republic shall continue its best efforts to protect its archaeological and ethnological resources through the enhanced enforcement of its cultural heritage protection legislation.
4. The Government of the Hellenic Republic shall take the following steps with regard to registration and inventories:
 - a. continue to pursue registration of private and local municipal collections;
 - and
 - b. continue to inventory churches and their holdings.
5. Both Governments agree that, in order for United States import restrictions to be most successful in thwarting pillage, the Government of the Hellenic Republic shall endeavor to strengthen cooperation among states within the Mediterranean Region for the protection of the cultural patrimony of the region; and shall seek increased cooperation from other art-importing states to restrict illicit imports, in an effort to deter further pillage.
6. In order to enhance and promote the national sites inventory, the Government of the Hellenic Republic shall take the following steps with regard to archaeological surveys:

- a. encourage Greek archaeological teams to conduct additional survey projects;

and

- b. consider ways of increasing permits issued to foreign archaeological missions or schools for the purpose of allowing more surveys.

7. The Government of the United States of America recognizes that the Government of the Hellenic Republic has a long history of permitting the interchange of archaeological materials for cultural, exhibition, educational and scientific purposes to enable widespread public appreciation of and access to Greece's cultural heritage in accordance with the relevant Greek legislation. The Government of the Hellenic Republic agrees to use its best efforts to encourage further interchange through:

- a. consideration, as appropriate, of accommodating requests for extended loans beyond a five-year period to United States museums for cultural, educational, and scientific purposes through the existing renewal process, with assurances that a request for renewal will be given highest consideration;

and

- b. consideration, as appropriate, of broadening permissions to academicians and museum curators from abroad to photograph material in Greek museums, and of revising regulations that would reduce fees for the reproduction of images for use in cultural, educational, and scientific contexts.