

EVALUATION OF MERİÇ RIVER BASIN IN THE SCOPE OF EUROPEAN UNION WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

PREPARED BY SELİN SAĞLAM KÖŞKER

ANKARA-2014

EXPERTISE THESIS ABSTRACT

In the scope of this thesis, the problems faced in the Meriç River Basin, the relations between the three riparian countries and the attitudes of these countries towards the problems, whether the Tuna River Basin management can be an example for the Meriç River Basin and whether the related EU Directives and the sanctions of the EU legislation can be effective in solving the problems faced in the Meriç River Basin are examined.

In the first part of the work, basic concepts related to rivers are examined in detail to better understand the concepts related to transboundary waters used in the international documents and the concepts that are preferred using by the countries while defining the rivers other than national ones. Then, to understand better the Turkey's transboundary water policy and the attitudes of the riparian countries in the Meriç River Basin towards the transboundary water problems, basic doctrines related to utilizing the transboundary waters are studied.

In the second part of the thesis, the development process of the EU environment and water policy, the Water Framework Directive which is the basic document emerged at the end of this development period and the Flood Directive are evaluated within the scope of the transboundary waters. The Danube River Basin with the EU and the non-EU countries as riparian countries and a sample dispute experienced in the basin is examined. Also, the sanctions of the EU legislation which can be useful to force Bulgaria cooperate and the cases which can be sample for the Meriç River Basin are examined.

In the third part of the thesis, Turkey's transboundary waters and the transboundary water policy is discussed and as a candidate country to the EU, the EU progressive reports of Turkey and the provisions related to transboundary waters in other documents are examined.

In the fourth part, first of all, the general condition of the Meriç River Basin, the problems faced in the basin and the reasons of these problems defined. Then, the bilateral relations of the three riparian countries are examined in the scope of the bilateral agreements, meetings and the joint projects carried out in the basin.

Lastly, a review of the attitudes of the countries in the scope of doctrines and the evaluation of how effective can be the Flood Directive and WFD for the solution of the problems faced in the basin has been made. Also, whether the sanctions given in the scope of the decisions of court of justice of the european communities can be a sample case for the solutions of the problems in the Meriç River Basin.

Keywords: Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Transboundary Water, Basin, Evros, Maritsa, Danube