**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND**

**THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

**FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 845 (1993)**

***Bearing*** in mind the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in particular, those referring to the obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State,

***Recalling*** the principle of the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States incorporated in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki,

***Reaffirming*** our mutual interest in the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in our region and in promoting good-neighbourly relations,

***Reaffirming*** also the existing frontier between us as an enduring international border,

***Recalling*** our obligation under the UN Charter and international law not to intervene, on any pretext or in any form, in the internal affairs of the other,

***Guided*** by the spirit and principles of democracy and fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights and dignity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a new Europe and pertinent acts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

***Desiring***to develop further our bilateral relations in all fields and to promote and consolidate a climate of good-neighbourliness, peaceful relations and mutual understanding,

***Reaffirming*** our common desire and goal to see the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a fully fledged member of both the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, provided it fulfils all the necessary and essential preconditions and criteria set by these Organisations,

***Acknowledging*** that reaching a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue is an essential element in the establishment and consolidation of good-neighbourly relations which constitute the fundamental cornerstone upon which the European vision and integration, as well as our collective security is built,

***Reaffirming*** thus our genuine and sincere desire to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue that will allow us to resolve all outstanding issues in a comprehensive manner so as to avoid potential points of tension in the future,

***Recognizing*** that Greece has on many critical instances actively supported the European integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including, inter alia, by ratifying the Stabilisation and Association Agreement in 2003, granting Candidate status to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2005 and concluding the Agreement for the Liberalisation of Visas with the EU in 2009,

***Noting*** in this regard that Greece has set as a priority for its EU Presidency during the first semester of 2014 the revitalisation and acceleration of the enlargement process of all countries of the Western Balkans, including that of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

***Recalling*** United Nations Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), by which the UN Security Council, inter alia, noted that the difference that had arisen over the name needed to be resolved in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region and urged the parties to continue their efforts under the auspices of the Secretary-General to arrive at a speedy settlement of the remaining issues between them,

***Recalling*** also Article 5 of the Interim Accord signed between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 13 September 1995, by which we agreed to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement on the difference described in that resolution and in Security Council resolution 817 (1993),

***Acknowledging*** the need to create and maintain a conducive climate and a positive and constructive momentum in the negotiations on the name issue under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and to avoid any actions or statements that risk undermining these,

**Have agreed as follows:**

We hereby reconfirm our common existing frontier as an enduring and inviolable international border,

We are fully committed to respecting the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the political independence of the other and shall refrain, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, from the threat or use of force, including the threat or use of force designed to violate our existing frontier,

We reaffirm that neither of us will assert or support claims to any part of the territory of the other or claims for a change of our existing frontier,

We agree to continue and intensify negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement on the difference described in that resolution and in Security Council resolution 817 (1993),

Towards this end and in order to develop and maintain a climate of mutual trust and confidence, we agree that it is necessary to fully uphold the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other under any pretext, including any claims to territory not within our existing respective borders, that we shall continue to prohibit hostile activities or propaganda by State-controlled agencies and discourage similar acts by private entities likely to incite violence, hatred or hostility against each other and that we will refrain from any actions or statements that risk to undermine the negotiations, including through the use of symbols constituting part of the historical or cultural patrimony of the other,

We further agree that in order to provide a fresh impetus to the substance of the negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, it is necessary to proceed on the basis of an agreed framework on the basic parameters of a solution which should include an agreement on the fact that any proposal should contain a clear and definitive qualifier regarding the name, which will leave no ambiguities as to the distinction between the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and regions in neighbouring countries, in particular, the region of Macedonia in northern Greece, and that the name agreed upon will be used by all erga omnes and for all purposes.