

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

Prespa Meeting

Prespes, 9 October 2026

The Minister of Culture of the Hellenic Republic, the Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Albania and the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of North Macedonia met in Prespes on 9 October 2026 to discuss the protection and sustainable development of the Prespes region and to explore prospects for strengthened transboundary cooperation.

The Ministers recognised that the Prespes region constitutes a unique natural and cultural landscape of exceptional value. The lakes and surrounding ecosystems, the rich biodiversity, the archaeological and cultural heritage, the traditional settlements and the long history of human interaction with the natural environment form an interconnected whole whose significance extends beyond the regional level.

The Ministers emphasised that the shared natural and cultural heritage of Prespes provides a strong basis for closer cooperation among Greece, Albania and North Macedonia, and that its effective protection requires coordinated action and a common vision.

In this context, the Ministers agreed to move forward with the necessary preparations for a joint nomination of the Prespes region for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a Mixed Property, reflecting its outstanding cultural and natural values.

The Ministers agreed that the preparation of the joint nomination should be based on close cooperation among the three countries and should include the necessary scientific, technical and institutional work, in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

The Ministers welcomed the support and expertise provided in this process by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission and expressed their appreciation for the participation of representatives of these organisations in the meeting. They also welcomed the support of the European Union in advancing the preparatory work for the joint nomination.

The Ministers stressed that the joint nomination should contribute not only to the recognition of the exceptional values of Prespes, but also to strengthened cooperation for the protection, sustainable management and promotion of the region, for the benefit of its local communities and future generations.

The Ministers agreed to maintain close communication and to pursue the necessary follow-up actions, with a view to advancing the preparation of the joint nomination and identifying the appropriate framework for continued cooperation among the three countries.

The Ministers expressed their conviction that the joint effort for the protection and recognition of Prespes can serve as a meaningful example of constructive regional cooperation and of the role of shared cultural and natural heritage as a bridge between neighbouring countries and peoples.

**For the Republic of
Albania**

**For the Hellenic
Republic**

**For the Republic of North
Macedonia**

Blendi Gonxhja
Minister of Tourism,
Culture and Sports

Dr. Lina Mendoni
Minister of Culture

Sedat Sulejmani
Minister of Culture and
Tourism