

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

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

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 Palaeolithic Period through the 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and of Byzantine ecclesiastical ethnological material through the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and of ecclesiastical ethnological material representing the Byzantine culture from approximately the 4<sup>th</sup> century through the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 United States of America and representatives of the Government of the Hellenic Republic 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.

8. The Government of the United States of America shall establish an appropriate webpage with links to the websites of Greek museums for the purpose of fostering interchange among peer institutions and other interested parties.

9. The Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate technical assistance in cultural resource management and site security to Greece, as appropriate under existing programs in the public and/or private sectors.

**ARTICLE III**

The obligations of both Governments and the activities carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each Government, as applicable, including the availability of funds.

**ARTICLE IV**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date on which the Governments shall have notified each other by diplomatic note that each has completed all the internal requirements for its entry into force. It shall remain in force for a period of five years.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended through an exchange of diplomatic notes.
3. The effectiveness of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to review in order to determine, before the expiration of the five-year period of this Memorandum of Understanding, whether it should be extended.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding.

**DONE** at Athens, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011, in duplicate, in the English and Greek languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC:**

