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## ACTIVITIES OF B.EN.A

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The **Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.)** was established on November 19, 1998 in Thessaloniki, Greece, as a non-governmental and non-profit entity. It is recognized by the Greek and E.U. law, under the act 22705/30.08.1999, by the court of Thessaloniki.

The primary goals of B.EN.A. are the following:

To examine and appraise the current problems of environmental protection on a regional, national and international basis. More specifically, B.EN.A. will concentrate upon the problems concerning the protection of people, animals and plants in the Balkan region from the harmful effects of chemicals or climatic changes.

To advise the regulatory bodies of the various Balkan countries about decisions concerning the evaluation of the risk of chemicals and physical agents.

To develop international cooperation on reducing transboundary pollution. Also, to engage in activities on transboundary pollution, as that affects public health.

To develop strategies and options for the environmental protection of the Balkan rivers, lakes and wetlands.

To develop the environmental quality management systems for the Balkan region.

To develop international programs for the restoration and the sustainable improvement of the ecological safety of cross-border regions. Finally,

To plan and organize conference and other activities on environmental issues.

Up to date B.EN.A. has submitted for funding several research proposals concerning measurements of water pollution levels in the Black Sea and Danube river. Other proposals covered air pollution levels in Belgrade, Sofia and Plovdiv. B.EN.A. has also organized several international conferences and workshops concerning environmental issues in the Balkan countries. The proceedings of the international conferences have been published in B.EN.A.'s official scientific journal "***International Journal on Environmental Protection and Ecology (JEPE)***". Other activities include the establishment of National Bureaus of B.EN.A. in all Balkan countries, the establishment of several international offices, and of two liaison offices. A contribution by TUBORG-Romania enabled B.EN.A. to establish scholarships for young Romanian scientists and to fund research work in Romania on environmental issues. Future activities include the establishment of two pilot training programs on new environmental professions in Constanza (Romania) and Plovdiv (Bulgaria).