

<https://www.skai.gr/news/greece/antipyriki-prostasia-o-xardalias-anakoinose-programma-mamouth-176-dis-stin-ellada-to-rosiko-beriev>

English translation:

## **Fire Protection: Hardalias announces 1.76 billion mammoth program – In Russia the Russian "beast" Beriev**

This is the largest weapons program for civilian use to date - The Russian "beast" Beriev, an amphibious aircraft, arrives in Greece on Friday

CATEGORY: Hellas

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A mammoth program, amounting to 1.76 billion euros, for the "shielding" of the fire protection of our country in view of the summer, Michalis Chrysochoidis and Nikos Hardalias announced on Tuesday. This is the largest civilian weapons program to date.

This program, called "AIGIS", will be discussed tomorrow, Wednesday, at the inter-ministerial meeting that is meeting for the first time, in order to make the relevant proposal to KYSEA and to proceed immediately.

For a breakthrough in the field of fire protection in our country and standard work, far from "retrospective regret" and to prevent new tragedies, the Minister of Defense described this year's planning of the Civil Protection for the fire period, the details of which were announced by Undersecretary of State for Civil Protection and Crisis Management at a press conference given at noon at the "Faros" Building in Maroussi.

The "AIGIS" program, among other things, envisages the replacement of all "old" cannons, while at the same time a reorganization program of the Fire Brigade will proceed, which envisages the hiring of 3,000 new permanent firefighters, in order to solve the problem of the high average age of staff and to strengthen the House on a regular basis, throughout the year, to achieve its objective.

In particular, in a meeting that Mr. Chrysochoidis had with Mr. Hardalias after the press conference, they discussed the proposal that will be forwarded tomorrow to KYSEA, for the acquisition of eight new modern CL-515 standard aircraft, which will replace the old cl- 215, while the CL-415 will be upgraded to CL-515.

At the same time, according to the armament plan of the Civil Protection, it is foreseen the purchase of a total of 36 new Air-Tractor amphibious aircraft, such as the six that the country has hired for this year to strengthen the fleet, which if the program is approved will be purchased by 2030. said Mr. Hardalias, it is estimated that in nine years the purchases provided by the program



Regarding this year's fire season, Mr. Hardalias pointed out that "at the heart of the planning are the rapid detection of the fire and the immediate response". In this context, the Undersecretary stressed, the air media play a key role.

For this reason, the fleet has been strengthened this year compared to last year, numbering a total of 69 helicopters and aircraft. The air means are distributed in 25 bases that cover the entire territory, while for the first time this year a heavy-duty helicopter (Etickson) is based in Thessaloniki, which will strengthen the operational capability in Northern Greece.

The new light aircraft "mini-canarder" (air-tractor), will be developed on three bases per pair (Tatoi, Anchialos and Andravida).

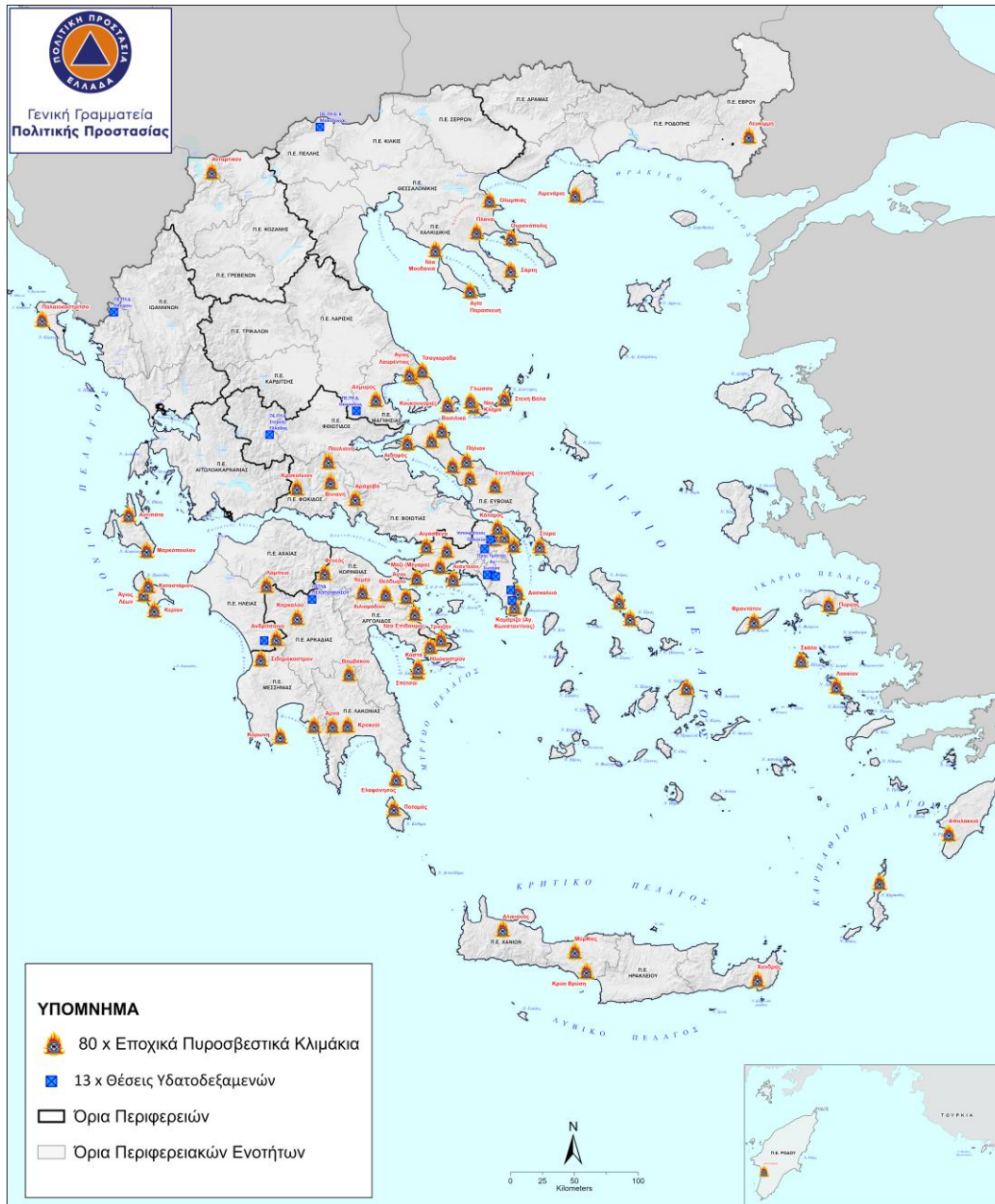
As part of the readiness for immediate response to the fire, and the supply of helicopters, a network of 40,000 liter water tanks was created, which are placed in 13 locations in the territory for water intake in areas far from the sea or lakes.

The ground forces this year number 820 forest patrols (compared to 764 last year) while they are reinforced with 80 seasonal fire brigades in high-risk areas (70 operated last year).

Mr. Hardalias placed special emphasis on the prevention and implementation of the operation "Dryades", which is already in progress for the cleaning of areas at high risk of causing fires, which were declared in advance in a state of emergency, precisely for this purpose. .

The company concerns cleaning works, removal of flammable material, as well as opening and maintenance of access roads for fire trucks in 18 areas of Attica: Kato Poseidonia and Dionysos Keratea of the Municipality of Lavreotiki, Avlaki and Chamolia of the Municipality of Markopoulia, Agia Tyria Municipality of Spata / Artemida and the Municipality of Rafina / Pikermi, as well as Dioni, Kallitechnoupoli of the Municipality of Rafina / Pikermi, Agios Andreas and Schinias - Courts of the Municipality of Marathon, Drosia - Dionysos - Ekali of the Municipality of Kionos, Vionos of Dionysos , Hippocrates State of the Municipality of Oropos, Thrakomakedones of the Municipality of Acharnes, Agia Sotiria, Settlement of TITAN, Porto Germeno and Agios Nektarios Vilion of the Municipality of Mandra / Eidyllia, as well as Pigeons of the Municipality of Salamina. To these were added three new areas within Attica: Tatoi, (said Mr. Hardalias had to be cleaned for 20 years), Hymettus and Hippocrates State and three others in the rest of Greece, (in Sheikh Sou, Ancient Olympia and in collaboration with the region in Halkidiki).

Mr. Hardalias stressed that the operation "Dryades" is not the responsibility of the Civil Protection, but in order for the fire protection work to proceed immediately, he took responsibility.



*Map of seasonal outposts*

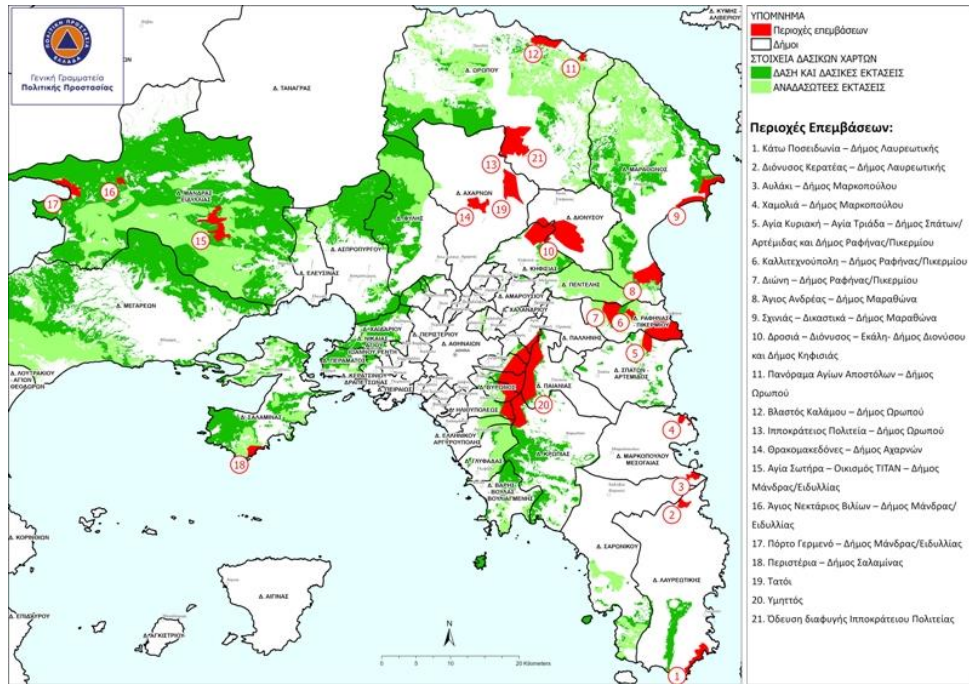
Regarding the means at the disposal of the state mechanism this year, everything has been omitted and they are in their bases based on the new design. The last one arrives in Greece on Friday, which is the Russian "beast" Beriev, an amphibious aircraft, which has the ability to carry 12 tons of water or retardant liquid and will be used in very difficult situations to stop the fire, as it has the possibility of gradual dropping and at a distance of at least kilometers at the front.

One of the actions in the context of prevention is the prohibition of the approach of Schinias Marathon with cars all summer and the cleaning of the pine forest of the beach. The Civil Protection, as the Deputy Minister said, is in consultation with the Municipality, in order to put buses, which will pick up the visitors from the parking lot, possibly at the Marathon Swimming Pool and will transport them to the beach.

Mr. Hardalias, regarding the cleaning of private lands by their owners, on the occasion of the recent large fire in Geraneia, said that a discussion has begun with the Ministry of Interior to formulate a legal framework that provides for severe penalties for offenders.



Mr. Chrysochoidis, referring to this year's preparation, underlined that "we now have a new approach - focusing on prevention, preparedness and the effort to intervene before the evil occurs". "The aim of all of us is, as far as possible, to prevent danger. Not the retrospective regret for what could have happened ", stressed the Minister of Citizen Protection and added: " And I would like to take this opportunity to point it out and emphasize it once again: A lot of attention from everyone in the summer! We do not light fires in the countryside for any reason! It is up to us, it is up to us to keep our forests safe, but above all our citizens, our fellow human beings completely safe. "



Map of Fire Protection Intervention Areas

Source: ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ