


THE DESTRUCTION OF HALKIDIKI HAS BEGUN!



Since mid-June 2012, the Canadian company **Eldorado Gold**,
together with the Greek construction company **AKTOR**
and with the blessing of the **Greek State**,
started razing the ancient forest in Skouries
to turn it into a huge open-pit mine.

This pharaonic project **will turn Halkidiki into a wasteland**
and drain every single drop of water.



"Poverty is not having water to drink"

ALL TOGETHER TO SAVE HALKIDIKI!
Halkidiki People's Committees against Gold Mining



WOUNDS OF THE PAST, TOTAL DESTRUCTION IN THE FUTURE

► The “investment” planned by **Hellas Gold** (95% owned by Canadian company Eldorado Gold and 5% by AKTOR) is **not a mere continuation** of the long metal mining history of Halkidiki, as some try to present it, **but a barbaric intervention in a small, densely populated region with a rich natural and cultural environment.**

► The **scale of future plans is massive**, compared to past and present mining activities. 33 million tons were extracted in the past 2500 years, **while the plan is to extract 380 million tons in the next 25 years**, until the very last gram of metal is removed from the ground.

► **All mining activities** and installations are **located on an active seismic faultline** which has already caused two earthquakes of magnitude 7 on the Richter scale.

► **The upcoming disaster is of biblical proportions!** In addition to the existing, small-scale underground metal mining activities, **the plan is to develop a series of new, open pit mines as well as a metallurgy complex.** The processing of raw ore to produce pure metals **is the most polluting industrial activity in the world.**

► **The region's environment has already suffered considerable and irreversible damage from existing mining activities.** The companies responsible for this, as well as their directors, **were granted amnesty** through custom-tailored laws by the former deputy Minister of Finance, Christos Pachtas. **Furthermore, Hellas Gold was preemptively absolved of any responsibility, even for future damage.**

THE ANTICIPATED REVENUE FOR THE STATE IS ZERO

► **The Greek State won't receive a single euro** from the evisceration of Halkidiki, since the mines' sale contract to Hellas Gold and the law that ratified it **include no provision whatsoever for leasing or royalties.**

► The sale of the mines to Hellas Gold **in 2003, for the amount of €11 million which were never even paid to the Greek State, is a huge scandal for which Greece was condemned by the European Commission.** The former deputy Minister of Finance Christos Pachtas played a **key role** in this dark story. Today, **he continues serving the interests of gold miners** from his current position as mayor of the Aristotle municipality.

THE PLAN TO DESTROY HALKIDIKI

Mavres Petres

✘ **The only mine currently in operation.** Underground mining, entirely located underneath the village of Stratoniki and above the active seismic fault of Stratoni-Varvara.

Skouries

✘ **Development of an open pit and underground copper-gold mine**, with a crater more than 700m wide and 220m deep.

✘ **Destruction of 460 hectares of ancient forest**, meaning an area 7 times larger than the region's largest town, Ierissos, of 4,000 people.

✘ **Total draining of mountain Kakavos**, the largest aquifer in Halkidiki. Kakavos is the source of water of the entire Aristotle municipality but is also due to supply the whole of Halkidiki.

✘ **Transformation of the large torrent streams** of the region (Karatzas-Karolakkas, Lotsaniko) into toxic waste disposal dumps.

Olympiada

✘ **Reactivation of an underground mine**, which currently reaches 316m below sea level, and will be expanded to 650m below sea level.

✘ **Construction of a 9km-long underground tunnel to transport raw ore** from Olympiada to the processing plant, the longest tunnel in Greece. The tunnel will run through and drain the Stratoniko mountain, which is protected by the EU program Natura2000.



Gold and copper processing facilities

✘ **Development of an industrial complex** on the Thessaloniki - Stavros - Mount Athos provincial road, inside a forest and only 400m away from Stratoniki village and 700m away from the sea. The main chimney will be 60m high.

✘ **The "flash smelting" processing method**, which claims not to use cyanide, has never been used anywhere in the world to process the ore types found in Halkidiki.

✘ **Development of a sulphuric acid plant**, due to produce 450,000 tons per year, which will be piped into Stratoniki for storage and export.



The scale of mining activities announced in the Environmental Impact Study is intentionally understated in order to minimize the perceived environmental impact. It has already been revised upwards more than twofold!

☒ Industrial processing of ore from other areas of Greece and abroad.

☒ Establishment of a hazardous waste disposal facility in the bed of the Kokkinolakkas stream with a 90m-high dam and a capacity of 20 million tons.

Stratoni industrial harbor

☒ Construction of two new piers, with a respective length of 300 and 240m, for loading and offloading of cargo ships and tankers for

sulphuric acid.

☒ Construction of reservoirs for enriched ore and sulphuric acid on the Stratoni seafront.

Fisoka, Tsikara, Plavitsa...

and another 14 areas are the new mining "targets" which are already being intensively explored, with a goal to increase mining on a much larger scale than in Skouries and Olympiada.

WHAT INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS SAY



Water

- **Draining of mountain aquifers** will cause the water table to drop by 600m, causing desertification.
- **Surface and ground water will be contaminated** with sulphuric acid and heavy metals as a result of acid mine drainage.
- **The intensity and dangerousness of floods will increase.**
- **Deep mining in Olympiada will cause salinization** of the underground aquifer.

Forest

- **The region's ancient forests will incur permanent and irreversible damage,** destroying the landscape and its biodiversity.

Soil

- **The pollution from heavy metals carried in water will contaminate** the soil, flora, fauna and crops, even at a big distance from mining activities.

- **This region has the largest forest cover (92%) as well as the largest freshwater reserves in Halkidiki.**

- **15 million cubic meters are pumped and lost every year because of the existing mining activities in Halkidiki. This quantity could cover the needs of 275,000 people!**



Atmosphere

- **The atmosphere will be contaminated with airborne particles and heavy metals, in particular arsenic.** 3,116 tons of dust per hour will be generated by the Skouries mine alone. This toxic dust will travel over large distances, in a similar way to the sand dust from the Sahara desert.

Health

- **Contamination of the environment and food chain with heavy metals** (lead, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, copper) **will cause diseases such as** affections of the nervous system of children, anemia, kidney failure, gastroenteritis, nephritis, liver failure, hepatitis, cirrhosis, jaundice, cancer.



THESE SAME INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS HIGHLIGHT **THE OVERALL DEGRADATION OF THE REGION**

- ▶ **Transformation of the region**, from its current agricultural-touristic character, to a heavy industry area.
- ▶ **Massive-scale intervention** in a small and densely populated area whose main source of livelihoods is its exceptional natural beauty.
- ▶ **Depreciation of private property**. 31,700 hectares of land in north-east Halkidiki have been defined as an ore mining area, where national law prohibits the development of any activity which may impede mining.
- ▶ **Loss of a number of jobs much higher** than those created by the mining industry in all sectors of the local economy, with tourism being the first victim.
- ▶ **Farming, animal husbandry, forestry, beekeeping, fisheries**, as well as the possibility of food processing, will be subjected to fatal consequences.
- ▶ **Breakdown** of social fabric.



- **Thessaloniki Aristotle University**
 - > Rector's Council
 - > Environmental Council
 - > Faculty of Agriculture
- **Technical Chamber of Greece / Regional Department of Central Macedonia**
- **Technical Educational Institute of Thessaloniki / Department of Tourism Enterprises**

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