

THE POLITICAL DISCOURSE ON THE ALBANIAN-GREEK ‘SEA AGREEMENT’ DISPUTE

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ABSTRACT

The paper seeks to explore the political discourse on the Albanian-Greek maritime border’s dispute, particularly focusing on the coverage of the “Sea Agreement” debate. The two countries have been on a dispute on the sea border issue after the Albanian Constitutional Court nullified the 2009 mutual agreement due to territorial integrity violations. More than five years later the two countries have not settled the maritime borders yet. The purpose of this study is to shed light on the Albanian-Greek relations after the “sea border agreement” was mutually signed. In a broader context this study concentrates on depicting the relations among two countries after this episode happened. Meanwhile, in a specific context it aims to investigate the construction of meaning attached to this issue in political discourse. Given the fact that the event gave rise to an outstanding public debate, the study questions: How is discourse regarding the agreement? How are political elite’s interpretations of agreement? How this event affected the relations among two countries? The paper claims that the Greek government as a “dominant signifiers” has shaped the construction of political discourse about ‘sea agreement’ as well as has influenced the possible future scenarios for solution. Methodology used to conduct the analysis is discourse analysis based on a constructivist theoretical approach. The data include a group of texts, particularly political statements and speeches, as well as media articles.

Keywords: Albanian-Greek Relations, Sea Border Dispute, Political Elite’s Discourse, Discourse Analysis.