
Translated from French

Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

ShG/Secpol

No. 2019 – 0023876

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, and has the honour to refer to the communication from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Secretary-General transmitting two orders dated 11 December 2013 that establish the limits of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the western Channel.

France wishes to emphasize that delimitation of the areas appertaining to France and the United Kingdom in the western Channel is not yet complete. This is confirmed by the paragraph reproduced below from the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters of 20 April 2011, which establishes the delimitation of the exclusive economic zones of France and the United Kingdom and in that regard upholds the points established by the decisions of the Court of Arbitration of 30 June 1977 and 14 March 1978 and the agreement of 24 June 1982:

“I also have the honour to confirm that the foregoing is without prejudice to any discussions which might in due course take place concerning the boundary between the continental shelf appertaining to the United Kingdom and that appertaining to France, and/or concerning the boundary between the respective Exclusive Economic Zones of the United Kingdom and France, in the area West of Point N, as established by the said Decisions of the Court of Arbitration.”

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Secretariat

France has noted the adoption by the British Government of two orders dated 11 December 2013 establishing the limits of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf west of point N and, noting that these maritime areas are the subject of overlapping claims by the two States, objects to those limits. France also recalls its proposal that negotiations commence between the two countries on the delimitation of the maritime areas west of point N to an outer limit of 200 nautical miles measured from the coasts of the two countries.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General to register the present statement and to publish it on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in the Law of the Sea Bulletin, in the Law of the Sea Information Circular and in any other relevant United Nations publications.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretariat, Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 14 January 2019
