

Translated from French

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Note verbale

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Algiers and has the honour to draw its attention to Presidential Decree No. 18-96 of 20 March 2018 establishing an exclusive economic zone off the coast of Algeria, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Algeria on 21 March 2018, and to its note verbale No. 18/01056 of 25 November 2018 indicating the position of the Government of Algeria with regard to the list of geographical coordinates of the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Spain in the north-western Mediterranean, as set out in Royal Decree No. 236/2013 of 5 April 2013.

The Government of Algeria wishes to note that the delineation of the outer limits of the exclusive economic zones of Algeria and Spain, established under Presidential Decree No. 18-96 and Royal Decree No. 236/2013, effectively creates an area of maritime overlap between the two countries.

Thus, pending definitive delimitation of the maritime boundary separating the exclusive economic zones under the jurisdiction of each State, the Government of Algeria stresses that that area of overlap is contested under international law. Accordingly, Algeria and Spain are required, in accordance with international case law and State practice, to refrain, at this stage, from engaging in activities in that area in connection with their sovereign rights, including exploration and exploitation, and conservation and management of natural resources, whether living or non-living, as set forth in article 56 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Government of Algeria, bearing in mind the bonds of friendship and cooperative relations between our two countries, reiterates its complete readiness to work with the Government of Spain in order to find, through dialogue, an equitable solution in the form of an agreement establishing the outer limits of the exclusive economic zones of Algeria and Spain, in accordance with article 74 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain
Algiers

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Algiers the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Algiers, 20 June 2019
