

[Letter from Spain to the Secretary-General of 27 July 2018]

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

No. 216/FP/ac

The Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as depositary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, and has the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 12 July 2018 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation of the Government of Spain addressed to the Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Spain regarding Presidential Decree No. 18-96 of 2 Rajab A.H. 1439 (20 March A.D. 2018), declaring an exclusive economic zone off the Algerian coast.

The Government of Spain wishes to inform the Secretary-General of its disagreement with the list of coordinates of points marking the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Algeria, as contained in the annex to the aforementioned Presidential Decree No. 18-96 of 2 Rajab A.H. 1439 (20 March A.D. 2018), deposited on 4 April 2018 and transmitted as a circular of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, with reference number M.Z.N.135.2018.LOS, of 17 April 2018.

The Government of Spain will not consider those coordinates as the delimitation between the maritime areas of Algeria and Spain, because they are clearly disproportionate in relation to the equidistant median line between the Algerian and Spanish coasts. The Government of Spain hereby indicates its willingness to enter into negotiations with the Government of Algeria with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement on the outer limits of their respective exclusive economic zones, in accordance with article 74 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

United Nations Secretariat

Office of Legal Affairs

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

[Letter from Spain to Algeria of 12 July 2018]

Translated from Spanish

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and has the honour to refer to Presidential Decree No. 18-96 of 2 Rajab A.H. 1439 (20 March A.D. 2018), declaring an exclusive economic zone off the Algerian coast.

The Government of Spain, in the spirit of friendship and understanding which characterize its relations with Algeria, wishes to register its opposition to the delimitation of that exclusive economic zone, some sections of which are clearly disproportionate in relation to the equidistant median line between the territory of Algeria and the mainland and insular territory of Spain. These disproportionate limits create an area that overlaps with the exclusive economic zone of Spain in the north-western Mediterranean established by Royal Decree No. 236/2013 of 5 April 2013.

The Spanish Government considers that the equidistant line between the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured is the most equitable solution for delimiting, by mutual agreement, the exclusive economic zones between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, as established in article 74 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Therefore, the Government of Spain will not consider the proposed coordinates as the delimitation between the maritime areas of the two States, because those coordinates are clearly disproportionate in relation to the equidistant median line between the two coasts.

Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Madrid

