

**Convention between France and Spain on the delimitation of the territorial sea and the contiguous zone in the Bay of Biscay (Golfe de Gascogne/Golfo de Vizcaya) (with map),  
29 January 1974(1)**

The President of the French Republic,  
The Head of the Spanish State,  
Desiring to delimit the French territorial sea and the Spanish territorial sea and contiguous zone,  
Bearing in mind the Convention of 14 July 1959 between France and Spain relating to fishing in the Bidassoa (Bidassoa) River and in Figuer (Higuer) Bay,  
Have resolved to conclude a Convention and for that purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:  
The President of the French Republic: Mr. Jean-Pierre Cabouat, Minister Plenipotentiary;  
The Head of the Spanish State: Mr. Antonio Poch, Minister Plenipotentiary,  
who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

**Article 1.**

This Convention shall apply in the Bay of Biscay north of Figuer (Higuer) Bay to a distance of 12 miles, measured from the French and Spanish baselines.

**Article 2.**

1. In the area specified in article 1, the line delimiting the French territorial sea with respect to both the Spanish territorial sea and contiguous zone shall be composed of two geodetic lines defined as follows:
  - (a) The first geodetic line follows the meridian, passing through point M at the mid-point of a line AD joining Cape Higuer (Erdico point) in Spain to SainteAnne or Tombeau point in France.  
This line extends from point M northwards to point P situated at a distance of six miles from point M.
  - (b) The second geodetic line follows the arc of a great circle joining point P and point Q equidistant from the French and Spanish baselines and at a distance of 12 miles therefrom.
2. The boundary established in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria and data is shown on French sea-chart No. 174, updated in 1973, which is annexed hereto.'

**Article 3.**

The line MP marks the boundary between the French and Spanish territorial seas. The line PQ marks the boundary between the French territorial sea, on the one hand, and the Spanish contiguous zone and subjacent continental shelf on the other. It is agreed that, should Spain extend the breadth of its territorial sea to 12 miles, the line MPQ would become the boundary between the respective territorial seas of the two States.

**Article 4.**

1. The markers identifying the points mentioned in article 2, paragraph 1 (a), of this Convention are those set up pursuant to the Convention of 14 July 1959 between France and Spain relating to fishing in the Bidassoa (Bidassoa) River and in Figuer (Higuer) Bay.
2. Markers identifying the points designated in this Convention by the letters P and Q will be installed.

**Article 5.**

This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Madrid. It shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention.

DONE at Paris on 29 January 1914, in duplicate in the French and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the French Republic: [Signed] J.-P. CABOUAT

For the Spanish State: [Signed] A. POCH

### Endnotes

#### 1 (Note - Note)

Came into force on 5 April 1975 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Madrid, in accordance with article 5

*Registered by France: 19 February 1976, No. 14592*

*Authentic texts: French and Spanish*