

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries
29 May 1991(1)

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium,

Desiring to establish the common boundary between their respective parts of the continental shelf, taking full account of the current rules of international law on international boundaries in order to achieve an equitable solution,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The boundary between that part of the continental shelf which appertains to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that part which appertains to the Kingdom of Belgium shall be a line composed of loxodromes joining in the sequence given the points defined as follows by their coordinates:

1. 51° 33' 28" N 02° 14' 18" E
2. 51° 36' 47" N 02° 15' 12" E
3. 51° 48' 18" N 02° 28' 54" E

The positions of the points in this article are defined by latitude and longitude on European Datum (1st Adjustment 1950).

2. The dividing line has been drawn by way of illustration on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 2

1. If any single geological mineral oil or natural gas structure or field, or any single geological structure or field of any other mineral deposit extends across the boundary and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of the boundary is exploitable, wholly or in part, from the other side of the boundary, the Contracting Parties shall seek to reach agreement as to the exploitation of such structure or field.

2. In this article the term "mineral" is used in its most general, extensive and comprehensive sense and includes all non-living substances occurring on, in or under the ground, irrespective of chemical or physical state.

Article 3

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which the two Governments exchange notifications of their acceptance of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Brussels the 29th day of May 1991, in the English, French and Dutch languages, the three texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: R.J. O'Neill

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium: Mark Eyskens

Exchange of Letters between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Belgium relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries

No. I(2)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
Brussels to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Brussels
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels

29 May 1991

Dear Ambassador,

On the occasion of the signature today of the Agreement relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between our two countries, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

"The terminal point of delimitation, in the northeast, of the continental shelf between Belgium and the United Kingdom is, according to the terms of the Agreement signed today, the point of which the coordinates are 51° 48' 18"N 02° 28' 54" E.

The coordinates of this point will be modified, if necessary, once the delimitation of the continental shelf between Belgium and the Netherlands has been effected.

Belgium undertakes that such a modification will not prejudice the acquired rights of the United Kingdom and makes clear that this point will be situated on the line of delimitation of the continental shelf between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands which was laid down in the Agreement of 6 October 1965.(3)

This exchange of letters forms an integral part of the Agreement signed to day."

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mark Eyskens

No. 2

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Brussels to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development
Cooperation, Brussels

British Embassy, Brussels

29 May 1991

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which in translation reads as follows:

[As translation No. 1]

I have the honour to inform you that my Government has taken note of the contents of your letter.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

R.J. O'Neill

Endnotes

1 (Note - Note)

Date of entry into force : 14 May 1993

Registered by UK: 21 April 1995, No. 31712

[Original: Dutch, English and French]

2 (Note - Note)

original in french. unofficial translation

3 (Note - Note)

Agreement of 6 October 1965: Treaty Series No. 23 (1967), Cmd. 3253