
Translated from French

Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

ShG/Secpol

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The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to the communication from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to the Secretary-General transmitted to the United Nations on 11 December 2013 that establishes the limits of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the eastern Channel.

France wishes to emphasize that the delimitation of the areas appertaining to France and the United Kingdom in the eastern 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, recalls the points established by the decisions of the Court of Arbitration of 30 June 1977 and 17 March 1978 and the agreement of 27 June 1982.

It also has the honour to confirm that the core issue is without prejudice to any discussions which might in the course take place concerning the delimitation between the continental shelf appertaining to the United Kingdom and that appertaining to France and/or concerning the delimitation between the respective exclusive economic zones of the United Kingdom and France in the area west of Point N as established by the decisions of the Court of Arbitration.

United Kingdom and the Secretary-General
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France has noted the option of the British Government to refer to the 11 December 2013 establishment of the limits of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf east of point N and notes that these maritime areas are the subject of overlapping claims of the United States to those limits. France also recalls its proposal that negotiations commence between the two countries on the delimitation of the maritime areas east of point N to an outer limit of 200 nautical miles measured from the coasts of the two countries.