

Agreement between Albania and Italy for the determination of the continental shelf of each of the two countries, 18 December 1992

Starting from the desire to determine the division line of the border between the respective areas of the continental shelf in the Adriatic Sea and in the Otranto Channel, on which each of the two countries respectively exercises sovereign rights with the aim of exploring for and exploiting natural resources;

Deciding that the border division between the two zones of the continental shelf be determined on the basis of the principle of equidistance that is expressed by the median line;

Reconfirming the request that the exploitation of the respective continental shelf should not impair the ecological equilibrium of the sea that waters the shores of the two countries, and their determination to cooperate on this purpose as well as in harmony with what is decided in the Declaration on the Adriatic Sea, signed in Ancona on 13 July 1993;

Both Contracting Parties agreed to conclude the following Agreement:

Article I

1. Applying the principle of equidistance that is expressed in the median line, which is mentioned in the introduction to this Agreement, the division line between the two zones of the continental shelf of each of the two countries is determined from the lines that follow the geodesic curves that link the points, the geographic coordinates of which, referring to the geodesic system European Datum 1950, are as follows:

Points	Latitude (north)	Longitude (east)
1.	41° 16' 39"	18° 27' 43"
2.	41° 11' 37"	18° 32' 34"
3.	41° 08' 01"	18° 34' 37"
4.	41° 06' 29"	18° 35' 42"
5.	40° 55' 03"	18° 39' 31"
6.	40° 53' 06"	18° 39' 34"
7.	40° 50' 50"	18° 40' 16"
8.	40° 43' 59"	18° 42' 40"
9.	40° 40' 10"	18° 44' 23"
10.	40° 38' 46"	18° 44' 43"
11.	40° 35' 38"	18° 45' 35"
12.	40° 30' 44"	18° 47' 45"
13.	40° 23' 17"	18° 51' 05"
14.	40° 21' 30"	18° 51' 35"
15.	40° 18' 50"	18° 52' 48"
16.	40° 12' 13"	18° 57' 05"
17.	40° 07' 55"	18° 58' 38"

This division line is marked by an indicating title in the map attached to this agreement.

The basic map used is the Albanian sea map "From Korfu to Dubrovnik - from Cape Santa Maria di Leuca up to the Troniti Islands" of the scale 1:500 000, of the mercator projection, edition of year 1984.

2. The Contracting Parties agreed that, for the present, the determination of the border should not extend beyond the first and the last point determined in the previous paragraph.

The completion of the determination in the north beyond point 1 and in the south beyond point 17 remains to be accomplished by later agreements respectively with the respective interested parties.

Article II

1. Where a deposit of mineral resources, including sand and gravel, is divided by the division line of the zones of the continental shelf, and the part of the deposit which is located on one of the sides of the division line is fully or partially exploitable by installations which are located on the other side of the line, the Contracting Parties will try, by preliminary consultations with the concessionaires, if there are any, that have the right of mineral exploitation, to agree on the conditions for and the method of processing the deposit, in order that this processing be as beneficial as possible, keeping in mind the protection of the deposit and in such a way that each of the parties maintains the integrity of its own rights on the mineral resources of the surface and subsurface of its continental shelf.

2. In particular, such an arrangement will be applied if the conditions and the processing method of the part of the deposit located on one side of the division line of the border have an influence on the conditions or processing method on the other part of the deposit.

Article III

None of the provisions of this Agreement affects the juridical regime of the waters and that of the airspace above the continental shelf.

Article IV

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all possible measures in order that exploration in the respective zones of the continental shelf, as well as the exploitation of the natural resources of the latter, does not impair the ecological equilibrium of the sea or does not hinder in an unjustified manner other legal uses of the sea.

2. In case that in its territory, or in its continental shelf, there occurs a disquieting situation that brings about negative consequences for the environment in the continental shelf of the other party, each of the Contracting Parties commits itself to give immediately to the other Party the necessary notification, and the latter, on its part, has the right to receive this notification, which shall be considered secret if so requested by the Party which gives the data.

3. The Contracting Party whose continental shelf can be polluted by negative effects for the environment caused by verified operations or failure to act in the territory of the continental shelf of the other Party, after having received the notification mentioned in the previous paragraph or in the case when it has been given any notice, has the right to invest at any time in the setting up of an investigation commission, to clarify and define the basic elements of the situation, in order to prevent the emergence of any dispute between the two Contracting Parties.

Article V

1. The Contracting Parties shall try to resolve in diplomatic way, in the shortest possible time, any dispute which may arise concerning the interpretation and the application of this Agreement.

2. In case of disputes which are related to the location of installations or equipment in relation to the division line determined according to article 1 of this Agreement, the respective competent authorities of both Contracting Parties shall verify in good understanding in which zone of the continental shelf such installations or equipment are installed.

3. If a dispute is not resolved within a period of four months from the date on which one of the Contracting Parties has notified the other Party about its own suggestions on the start of operations foreseen by paragraph 1 of this article, each of the Contracting parties may take the dispute to the International Court of Justice, if at least within this period of time the Parties have not decided by agreement to take the dispute to any other international institution.

Article VI

1. This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional norms of the Contracting Parties. The ratification instruments will be exchanged in Rome as soon as possible.

2. This Agreement enters into effect on the day following the exchange of instruments of ratification.

DONE at Tirana on 18 December 1992 in two original copies in the Albanian and Italian languages, both texts being equally authentic.