

**Convention between Spain and Italy on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf
between the two States
19 February 1974**

The Head of the Spanish State,

The President of the Italian Republic,

desiring to establish the boundary line between the relevant parts of the continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea over which each of the States respectively exercises sovereign rights for the purposes of exploration and exploitation of its natural resources, have decided to conclude a convention and, to this end, have appointed as plenipotentiaries:

The Head of the Spanish State:

Mr. Juan José Rovira y Sanchez-Herrero, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs,

The President of the Italian Republic:

Mr. Raniero Vanni d'Archirafi, Chargé d'Affaires,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. The boundary line of the continental shelf between Spain and Italy shall be established according to the criterion of equidistance from the respective baselines.
2. The Contracting Parties agree that, for the moment, the delimitation shall not extend northward further than point A and southward further than point L.
3. Between points A and L the boundary line shall be defined by geodetic lines following the arcs of a great circle joining the points having the following co-ordinates.

Points	Latitude North	Longitude East
A	41° 09.3'	5° 56.6'
B	41° 06.5'	5° 57.6'
C	40° 35.7'	6° 07.8'
D	40° 31.7'	6° 08.9'
E	40° 27.3'	6° 10.1'
F	40° 21.5'	6° 11.9'
G	40° 01.7'	6° 18.0'
H	39° 37.5'	6° 18.0'
I	39° 20.8'	6° 13.0'
L	38° 55.0'	6° 05.8'

The Line AL is drawn on Italian sea-chart No. 432 to a scale of 1:1,000,000, 1965 edition, annexed to this Convention.

Article 2

1. If a deposit of natural resources is split by the boundary line between the continental shelves and if that part of the deposit which is situated on one side of the boundary line is exploitable, wholly or in part, by means of installations situated on the other side of the line, the Contracting Parties shall endeavour, after prior consultation with the holders of exploitation

page 2| Delimitation Treaties Infobase | accessed on 18/03/2002

licenses, if any, to reach agreement as to the method of exploitation of the deposit, in order to ensure that such exploitation is as profitable as possible and in order that each Party may preserve its full rights over the natural resources of its continental shelf. In particular, this procedure shall apply if the method of exploitation of that part of the deposit which is situated on one side of the boundary line affects the conditions for exploitation of the other part of the deposit.

2. If the natural resources of a deposit situated on either side of the boundary line between the continental shelves have already been exploited, the Contracting Parties shall endeavour after prior consultation with the holders of exploitation licenses, if any, to reach agreement on appropriate compensation.

Article 3

1. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to settle as soon as possible, through the diplomatic channel, any dispute which may arise concerning the interpretation and application of this Convention.
2. Any dispute not settled within four months from the date on which one of the Contracting Parties gave notice of its intention to initiate the procedure provided for in the preceding paragraph shall, at the request of either Contracting Party, be referred to the International Court of Justice.

Article 4

None of the provisions of this Convention shall affect the status of the superjacent waters or airspace.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall take all possible measures to ensure that the exploration of the continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea and the exploitation of its natural resources do not adversely affect the ecological balance of that sea or unjustifiably interfere with other legitimate uses of it.

Article 6

This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Rome. 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 in Madrid on 19 February 1974, in duplicate in Italian and in Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.