Egypt signs an agreement with Cyprus concerning the delimitation of their exclusive economic zones.

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On 17 February 2003, Egypt and Cyprus signed an agreement concerning the delimitation of their exclusive economic zones (EEZ). It entered into force on March 7, 2004.

The agreement establishes the EEZ boundary on the basis of a median line, defined as every point equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines of the two parties [Article 1(a)]. The delimitation is expressed through a series of geographical coordinates annexed to the agreement [Article 1(b)] and illustrated on an official hydrographic chart [Article 1(c)].

It provides for the possibility of adjusting the median line to improve positional accuracy in light of more precise data [Article 1(d)]. It also provides that the terminal points of the boundary may be reviewed or extended in the context of future delimitation agreements with “neighbouring States concerned”, “taking into consideration” Article 74 of UNCLOS [Article 1(e)].

The agreement does not prejudice the rights of third States and includes obligations of prior notification and consultation where either party engages in negotiations with a third State affecting the terminal points of the boundary [Article 3].

The agreement provides that if natural resources extend across the boundary, the parties undertake to cooperate in determining modalities for their exploitation [Article 2]. Disputes relating to the interpretation or application of the agreement are to be settled through diplomatic channels and, failing such resolution, by recourse to arbitration [Article 4]. No further specification as to the applicable framework or procedural rules was provided.

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