

No. 7078. NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION, SIGNED AT LONDON ON 24 JANUARY 1959¹

WITHDRAWAL

Notification received by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on:

17 August 1976

NORWAY

(With a declaration and a further notification of 4 July 1977 that the withdrawal will take effect on 1 January 1978.)

The declaration and notification read as follows:

Declaration

"The Royal Norwegian Embassy presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to refer to the decision reached at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of NEAFC in Lisbon in July of this year concerning the setting up of a Working Group with the task of preparing the necessary modification of the NEAFC Convention in the light of the move towards extended fisheries jurisdiction for coastal states.

"In this connection, the Norwegian Government wishes to reiterate its commitment to the continuation of multilateral cooperation in the fisheries field. In order to permit the earliest possible transition to the new multilateral arrangements, the Government of Norway, pursuant to Article 17, hereby gives notice of its withdrawal from the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention, signed at London on 24 January 1959.

"The Norwegian Government hopes that there can be an orderly and uninterrupted transition from existing multilateral arrangements to new arrangements to be worked out. The Norwegian Government would therefore be prepared to extend, as appropriate, in the light of the progress of the said Working Group and subsequent negotiations, the time-limit for its withdrawal, if continued adherence by Norway to the present Convention would facilitate such a transition, consistent with an extension of the fisheries jurisdiction of coastal states.

"London, 16 August 1976.

Notification

"The Royal Norwegian Embassy presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to refer to its note of 16 August 1976, in which the Government of Norway, pursuant to Article 17 of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention of 23 January 1959,² gave notice of withdrawal from the Convention, to take effect as of 17 August 1977.

"In the note, however, the Norwegian Government stated its preparedness to extend, as appropriate, in the light of the progress of the Working Group set up with the task of preparing the necessary modification of the NEAFC Convention, the time limit for its withdrawal.

"Taking into account the results of the preparatory work that has been achieved by the said Working Group and by the Commission at its meeting in April of this year, and consider-

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 486, p. 157, and annex A in volumes 972, 1038 and 1039.

² Should read "24 January 1959" — Devrait se lire «24 janvier 1959».

ing further that no other State Party to the Convention will cease to be a member before 1 January 1978, the Norwegian Government declares that its withdrawal should be given effect only as of 1 January 1978.

“The Royal Norwegian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of its highest consideration.”

London, 4 July 1977.

WITHDRAWALS

Notifications received by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on:

29 December 1976

DENMARK

(With effect from 29 December 1977.)

NETHERLANDS

(With effect from 29 December 1977.)

30 December 1976

BELGIUM

(With effect from 30 December 1977.)

31 December 1976

FRANCE

(With effect from 31 December 1977.)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

(With effect from 31 December 1977.)

7 February 1977

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

(With effect from 7 February 1978.)

24 February 1977

IRELAND

(With effect from 24 February 1978.)

The above-mentioned States have made the following statement upon withdrawal from the Convention:

“A growing number of coastal states throughout the world have recently extended, or have announced their intention to extend, the limits within which they exercise jurisdiction over fishing activities to 200 nautical miles. Amongst such countries have been members of the North-

East Atlantic Fisheries Convention, as well as states whose coasts border the North-West Atlantic. Having regard to this development, the Council of European Communities has agreed that, in order to protect the legitimate interests of the Community in the maritime regions most threatened by the consequences of these steps to extend fishing limits, and basing itself on the guidelines which are emerging within the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Member States of the Community should, by means of concerted action, extend the limits of their fishing zones to 200 nautical miles off their North Sea and North Atlantic coasts. Fishing activities within the limits established are subject to the common fisheries policy of the Community, and the access of third States to the waters concerned for the purposes of fishing are to be governed by agreements between the States concerned and the Community.

“The extent and nature of the changes which are now in progress will necessitate a major adaptation of the international mechanisms which have been used to date in order to establish international conservation measures and other forms of multilateral co-operation in the fisheries sector. Bodies such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission will need to be recast in view of the change in the scope of the powers of the coastal States with respect to living resources within its zone of fisheries jurisdiction. In the case of the Member States of the European Economic Community, the powers in question are to be exercised on a Community basis. The Governments of the Member States attach importance to the need to examine the question of the future role of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, so as to ensure that past efforts may be continued in a format which is appropriate to the new conditions. In view of its responsibilities in this sphere, the Community would need to be fully associated with the steps undertaken in this regard and to be party to the new Convention to be established.

“Whilst prepared to consider the possibility of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to continue to play a role in the future context, the Governments of the Member States are nevertheless of the view that the Convention as it stands is no longer an appropriate basis for fisheries management for the Community. For that reason and in order to express their firm intention to obtain the necessary overall revision of the Convention, the Governments of the Member States who are parties to the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention have decided to denounce the Convention.”

Certified statements were registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 17 November 1977.
