

**No. 17769**

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**SPAIN  
and  
FRANCE**

**Protocol concerning the Joint Technical Commission for  
the Bidassoa River. Signed at Paris on 14 December  
1978**

*Authentic texts: Spanish and French.*

*Registered by Spain on 19 April 1979.*

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**ESPAGNE  
et  
FRANCE**

**Protocole relatif à la Commission technique mixte de la  
Bidassoa. Signé à Paris le 14 décembre 1978**

*Textes authentiques : espagnol et français.*

*Enregistré par l'Espagne le 19 avril 1979.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

## PROTOCOL<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE JOINT TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR THE BIDASSOA RIVER

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Spanish State, in response to the wishes expressed by the International Commission for the Pyrénées in October 1970, have agreed on the following provisions:

*Article 1.* The Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River shall be a Spanish-French consultative body of the International Commission for the Pyrénées established on the basis of the proposals of the said Commission.

*Article 2.* The International Commission for the Pyrénées shall be the competent body determining the items to be submitted to the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River for consideration.

In an emergency, with the prior agreement, or at the request of the competent authorities of each State, the commanding officers of the naval stations may include new items for consideration in the agenda of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River.

*Article 3.* The Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River shall also be competent to deal with items relating to title I of the Spanish-French Convention concerning fishing in the Bidassoa River and the Bay of Higer, dated 14 July 1959.<sup>2</sup>

For the purposes indicated in the preceding paragraph, the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River shall transmit its proposals and recommendations to the competent authorities of each State through the commanding officers of the respective naval stations, who, if need be, may make such comments as they may consider necessary.

*Article 4.* With the prior agreement of the other commanding officer, the Chairman, in office, as designated under article 5 (a) of this Protocol, shall draw up the list of participants and invitees for each meeting and shall prepare, in the Spanish and French languages, the agenda for the said meeting, in accordance with the provisions of articles 2 and 3 above.

*Article 5.* The composition of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River shall be as follows:

- (a) The commanding officers of the Spanish and French naval stations of the Bidassoa River, who shall chair the Commission in turn: the Spanish commanding officer in even years and the French commanding officer in odd years;
- (b) The heads of the Spanish and French consular missions in the frontier zone concerned;
- (c) The representatives of the competent ministries in the areas of public works, industry, fisheries and customs, and, as appropriate, representatives of other government services likely to be interested in items on the agenda.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 March 1979, i.e., the first day of the month following the date of the exchange of diplomatic notes (dated 2 January and 23 February 1979) by which the Governments informed each other of their approval, in accordance with article 11.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1080, p. 287.

It shall be mandatory for the Chairman to invite the members of the Commission as specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this article.

The members of the Commission may be represented or accompanied by such experts as they may consider necessary.

In addition, the mayors of the five municipalities referred to in article 10 of the Convention of 14 July 1959, or their representatives, shall always be invited to attend the meetings of the Commission in a consultative capacity, but without the right to vote. Any persons whom the commanding officers of the naval stations consider useful to invite by virtue of their competence or special qualifications may also be invited under the same conditions.

*Article 6.* The International Commission for the Pyrénées shall submit to the Chairman of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River the programme of studies and work assigned to the Commission.

The Commission shall meet at the request of the competent authorities of the two States, at the request of the International Commission for the Pyrénées or on the initiative of the Chairman in office of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River. In an extreme emergency, the Chairman shall be authorized to convene extraordinary meetings for the sole purpose of dealing with the issue that prompted the convocation, provided that the competent authorities are informed immediately.

*Article 7.* Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River shall be prepared in Spanish and French and shall be submitted to the competent authorities of each State for examination. The minutes shall also include the proposals and recommendations made by the Commission.

*Article 8.* In all cases to which the provisions of article 43 of the Convention of 14 July 1959 apply, the minutes shall record the comments made by the representatives of the five municipalities referred to in article 10 of that Convention.

*Article 9.* The commanding officers of the naval stations of the two countries shall, with such advice as they may deem appropriate, prepare jointly draft rules of procedure for the work of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River. The draft rules shall be submitted to the competent authorities of each State for approval.

*Article 10.* The list of recipients of the minutes of the Joint Technical Commission for the Bidassoa River, as well as the method of delivery, shall be stipulated in the rules of procedure referred to in the preceding article.

*Article 11.* This Protocol shall be of unlimited duration. It shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the date of the exchange of the diplomatic notes announcing the two Governments' approval.

Either Party may denounce this Protocol in writing on six months' notice.

DONE at Paris on 14 December 1978, in the Spanish and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the Spanish State:

[Signed]

MIGUEL SOLANO AZA  
Ambassador of Spain in Paris

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

CLAUDE CHAYET  
Director of Administrative Agreements  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs