

Turkish deal in 'trash can'

Egypt, Greece maritime deal opens up new horizons of cooperation: Bahrain

● Bahrain welcome demarcation of economic zone

● Deal calls for setting up an exclusive economic zone

● Rejects a similar agreement by Turkey and Libya

● European Union has said that the Turkish deal violates international law and threatens stability in the region

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Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry (R) shakes hands with his Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias during their meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on Aug. 6, 2020. (Str/Xinhua)



Egypt holds 77 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of proven gas reserves as of 2017, ranking 16th in the world and accounting for about 1 per cent of the world's total natural gas reserves of 6,923 Tcf. Egypt has proven reserves equivalent to 37.9 times its annual consumption.

Bahrain yesterday welcomed the maritime deal signed by Egypt and Greece as "an important and successful" decision opening up new horizons of economic cooperation.

Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Ministry said the deal, which demarcates an exclusive economic zone for oil and gas drilling rights, is in line with the rules of International Law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The deal signed on Thursday by Egypt and Greece designates an exclusive economic zone in the eastern Mediterranean between the two countries, an area containing promising oil and gas reserves.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry statement said the deal would "en-

“The deal would enhance bilateral constructive cooperation, achieve joint benefits from the available resources in the EEZ of each of them” and meet the aspirations of their peoples for further progress and prosperity.

BAHRAIN FOREIGN MINISTRY

hance bilateral constructive cooperation, achieve joint benefits from the available resources in the EEZ of each of them" and meet the aspirations of their peoples for further progress and prosperity.

The deal is in response to a similar agreement signed by Turkey and Libya's Tripoli-based government last year raising tensions in the East Mediterranean region.

The deal was widely dismissed by nations Cyprus and Greece as an infringement on their economic rights.

European Union has said that the Turkish deal violates international law and threatens stability in the region.

Turkish deal

In Greece, diplomats said the deal effectively nulli-

fied an accord between Turkey and the internationally recognised government of Libya.

Last year, those two parties agreed to maritime boundaries in a deal Egypt and Greece decried as illegal and a violation of international law. Greece maintains it infringed on its continental shelf and specifically that off the island of Crete.

Following the deal, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said, "This agreement allows both countries to move forward in maximizing the utilization of

the resources available in the exclusive economic zone, especially promising oil and gas reserves."

His Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias said the agreement with Egypt is within the framework of international law.

He further said the Turkey, Tripoli memorandum of understanding is "illegal, void and legally unfounded" and that the "non-existent Turkish-Libyan memorandum has ended up where it belonged from the beginning: in the trash can."

His state-

ment came hours after Greece said it is ready to start exploratory talks on the demarcation of maritime zones with Turkey as soon as this month.

Earlier this month, Egypt said that part of a seismic survey planned by Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean potentially encroached on waters where Cairo claims exclusive rights.

38 yrs

According to a 2015 calculation, Egypt has 38 years of gas left, based on then consumption levels and excluding unproven reserves

A natural gas production platform in the Mediterranean Sea (Courtesy of egyptianstreets). The Zohr gas field is an offshore natural gas field located in the Egyptian sector of the Mediterranean Sea. The field is located in the Shorouk concession, a concession with an area of 3,765 square kilometres which was won by Eni in 2013.



Northern Governor Ali bin Al-Sheikh Abdul Hussein Al-Asfoor yesterday conducted a field visit to the village of Diraz to ensure adherence of coronavirus (COVID-19) precautionary measures in expatriate accommodations there. Deputy Northern Governor Brigadier Khaled bin Rabia Sinan Al Dossary, MP Fatima Al-Qatari, Governorate's Security Coordination Officer, Major Salman al-Zarqawi, Essam Al-Khayyat, Head of Investment Development in the Northern Governorate and fieldwork team accompanied Al Asfoor. The visit also falls in line with the directives of General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, on setting up a mechanism to reduce the density of foreign workers in residential complexes to curb the spread of the deadly pandemic. (pictures courtesy of AlAyam)



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) yesterday received the patrol warship vessel "RBNS Al-Zubara" from the British BAE Systems Company. The handover ceremony was held at the HMNB Portsmouth Naval Base in the UK, in the presence of the Bahraini Ambassador to the UK, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Military Attache at the Bahraini Embassy in London, Brigadier General Ahmed Mohammed Al-Ruwaie, the vessel's crew and a representative of BAE Systems Company.