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Oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 20 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the State of Libya to the United Nations has the honour to convey the deep concern of the Government of National Unity regarding recent developments in the eastern Mediterranean.

The Government has taken note, with profound dismay, of the contents of issue No. 3335 of the *Official Journal of the European Union*, dated 12 June 2025 (see annex II),* which reports that the Hellenic Republic has announced an international call for tenders to grant permits for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in maritime areas located south of the island of Crete. These areas fall within maritime zones that remain subject to an unresolved dispute between Libya and Greece.

The Government of the State of Libya considers this action a clear infringement of its sovereign rights and a unilateral measure lacking any legal basis or bilateral agreement. It constitutes a serious breach of international law, particularly the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and undermines the principles of mutual respect and peaceful dispute resolution.

Accordingly, Libya registers its formal and unequivocal objection to this initiative and calls for strict adherence to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international legal instruments governing the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes.

Libya reaffirms its steadfast commitment to constructive dialogue and negotiation and categorically rejects any attempt to impose a *fait accompli* in areas where no legal agreement has been reached. The Government urges the international community – under the leadership of the United Nations – to uphold its responsibility in preserving peace and stability in the Mediterranean region and to discourage any actions that may lead to escalation.

It is pertinent to recall that this is not the first instance in which the Government of Greece has granted exploration licences in areas located within Libya's maritime boundaries. Previous licences were awarded to the French company Total and the American company ExxonMobil. The latter subsequently acquired Total's stake and proceeded with exploratory activities, including a 2D seismic survey in 2022 and a

* Circulated in the language of submission only.



3D survey in 2024, followed by an announcement of its intention to drill an exploratory well.

In light of the above, the Permanent Mission of the State of Libya to the United Nations respectfully requests the circulation of the present note verbale and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75.

**Annex I to the note verbale dated 20 June 2025 from the
Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

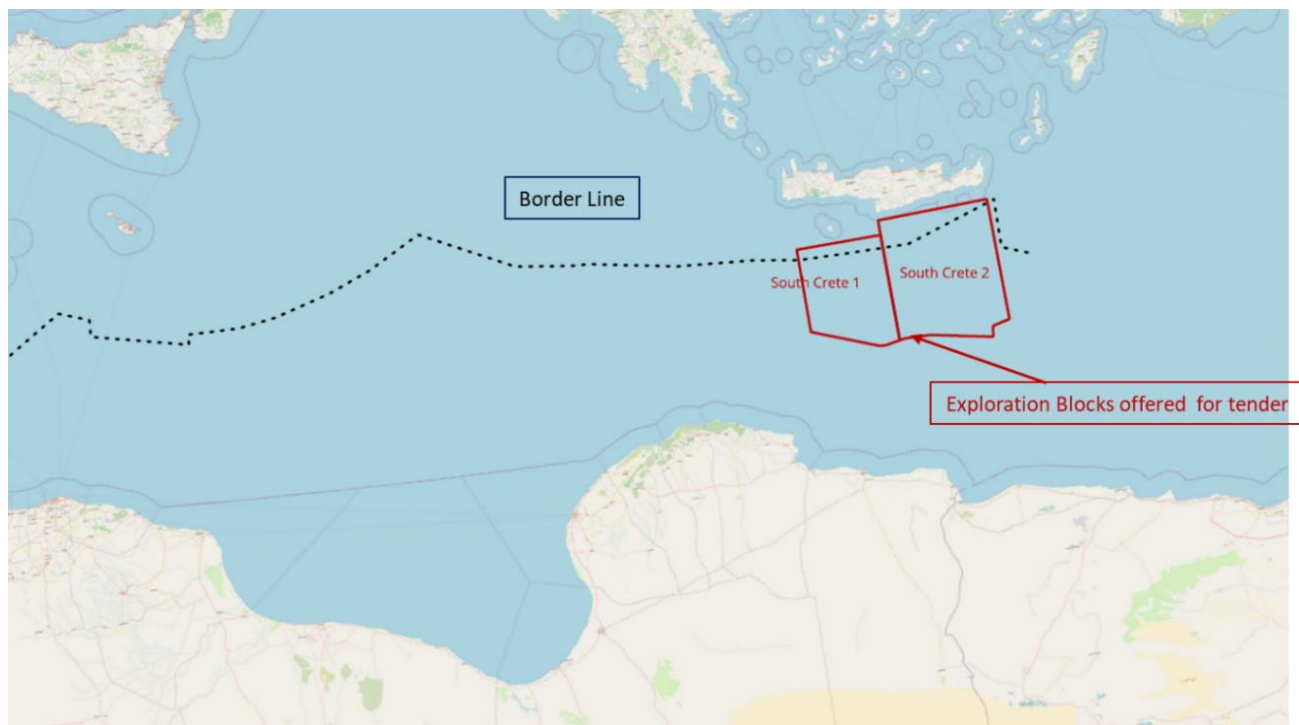
**Report of the National Oil Corporation on Greece's offering for
exploration blocks in Libyan submerged waters**

17 June 2025

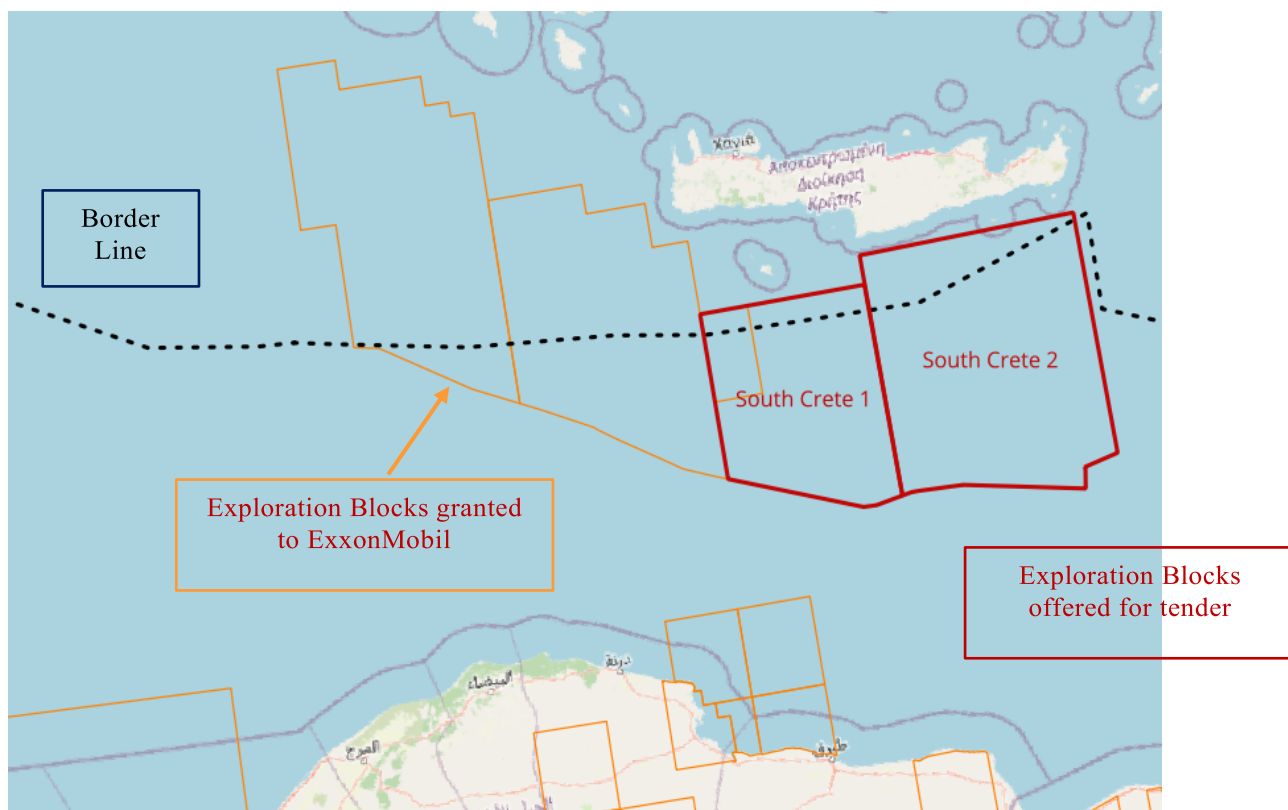
- On 13 June 2025, the Government of Greece announces international tendering to grant licences for exploration and hydrocarbon exploitation in specific offshore areas south of Peloponnese and Crete island. This means that the specified period for submission of binding offers, which is 90 days, has started effective as of this date.
- This announcement comes after the expression made by Chevron in March 2025, regarding its interest in conducting hydrocarbon exploration in the offshore areas located south Crete 1, and south Crete 2 (map 1),* within the areas specified during the international tender launched in 2014.
- Two of the announced areas, which are Crete 1 and Crete 2, are located geographically within the Libyan maritime areas (over which the two countries have different claims in their entitlement), the acreage of the two areas is 23,300 km², and more than 85 per cent of that acreage falls south of the border line that separates Libya and its neighbour, Greece.
- It is worthwhile to mention that the Government of Greece has granted two blocks located within the Libyan maritime borders to both Total and ExxonMobil (map 2);* ExxonMobil subsequently acquired Total's share and followed that by conducting exploration activity constituted in a 2D seismic survey in 2022, and a 3D seismic survey in 2024, along with its announcement of an intention to drill an exploratory well.

* Circulated in the language of submission only.

Map 1, illustrates the offered blocks for tender



Map 2, illustrates the offered blocks for tender, and the blocks granted to ExxonMobil



Annex II to the note verbale dated 20 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General



Official Journal
of the European Union

C/2025/3335

EN
C series
12.6.2025

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

Notice from the Government of the Hellenic Republic concerning Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospecting, exploration and production of hydrocarbons

(C/2025/3335)

NOTICE ANNOUNCING AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS FOR GRANTING AND USING AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF HYDROCARBONS IN MARITIME AREAS TO THE SOUTH OF THE PELOPONNISE (Blocks 'A1' and 'SOUTH OF THE PELOPONNISE') AND TO THE SOUTH OF CRETE (Blocks 'SOUTH OF CRETE 1' and 'SOUTH OF CRETE 2')

On 22 August 2024, pursuant to Article 2(17)(b) of Law 2289/1995 on the prospecting, exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and other provisions, as in force (the Hydrocarbons Law), the company Chevron Balkans Exploration B.V. submitted to Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company S.A. (HEREMA S.A.) an expression of interest in the granting of authorizations for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in one maritime area to the south of the Peloponnese and in two maritime areas to the south of Crete, on the continental shelf of the Hellenic Republic.

In addition, on 12 September 2024, pursuant to Article 2(17)(b) of the Hydrocarbons Law, the company HELLENIC Upstream Hymettios Gulf Single Member S.A. submitted to HEREMA S.A. an expression of interest in the granting of authorizations for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the 'A2' maritime area to the south of the Peloponnese, on the continental shelf of the Hellenic Republic.

Following memos 23626/26.8.2024, 23950/13.9.2024, 26347/21.1.2025 and 27201/26.3.2025 from HEREMA S.A., the Minister for the Environment and Energy issued Decisions No YTIEN/ΔΥΔΠ/7030/152/21.01.2025 and YTIEN/ΔΥΔΠ/37550/896/04.04.2025 accepting the aforementioned expressions of interest and initiating the tendering procedure described in Article 2(17)(b) of the Hydrocarbons Law.

The Hellenic Republic, through the Minister for the Environment and Energy, announces an invitation to other possible interested parties to participate in this tendering procedure.

The available exclusive areas are shown in Map 1 and are bounded by the following geographical coordinates:

WGS 1984		
Area	Longitude	Latitude
South of Crete 1	23° 34' 57.84"E	34° 39' 56.19"N
	24° 44' 57.94"E	34° 39' 56.22"N
	24° 44' 57.96"E	33° 27' 41.14"N
	23° 34' 57.86"E	33° 43' 41.42"N
South of Crete 2	24° 44' 57.93"E	34° 49' 56.23"N
	26° 14' 58.09"E	34° 49' 56.25"N
	26° 14' 58.09"E	33° 27' 55.21"N
	26° 00' 00.00"E	33° 24' 56.14"N
	26° 00' 00.00"E	33° 18' 01.04"N
	24° 44' 57.96"E	33° 27' 41.14"N
	24° 44' 57.96"E	33° 27' 41.14"N

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3335/oj>

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OJ C, 12.6.2025

WGS 1984		
Area	Longitude	Latitude
South of the Peloponnese	20° 54' 57.56"E	36° 49' 56.28"N
	20° 59' 57.57"E	36° 49' 56.28"N
	20° 59' 57.57"E	36° 39' 56.27"N
	21° 09' 57.58"E	36° 39' 56.27"N
	21° 09' 57.59"E	36° 34' 56.27"N
	21° 34' 57.62"E	36° 34' 56.27"N
	21° 34' 57.62"E	36° 29' 56.27"N
	22° 09' 57.67"E	36° 29' 56.28"N
	22° 09' 57.68"E	36° 19' 56.27"N
	22° 14' 57.68"E	36° 19' 56.27"N
	22° 14' 57.69"E	36° 14' 56.27"N
	22° 39' 57.72"E	36° 14' 56.27"N
	22° 39' 57.73"E	35° 59' 56.26"N
	23° 04' 57.76"E	35° 59' 56.27"N
	23° 04' 57.77"E	35° 54' 56.24"N
	23° 19' 57.79"E	35° 54' 56.25"N
	23° 19' 57.80"E	35° 19' 56.23"N
	22° 54' 57.77"E	35° 19' 56.22"N
	22° 54' 57.76"E	35° 29' 56.23"N
	22° 14' 57.71"E	35° 29' 56.22"N
A2	22° 14' 57.69"E	35° 59' 56.25"N
	22° 04' 57.68"E	35° 59' 56.25"N
	22° 04' 57.68"E	36° 04' 56.25"N
	21° 54' 57.66"E	36° 04' 56.25"N
	21° 54' 57.66"E	36° 14' 56.26"N
	21° 19' 57.61"E	36° 14' 56.25"N
	21° 19' 57.61"E	36° 24' 56.26"N
	20° 54' 57.57"E	36° 24' 56.25"N
	20° 59' 57.57"E	36° 49' 56.28"N
	21° 19' 57.59"E	36° 49' 56.29"N
	21° 19' 57.60"E	36° 44' 56.28"N
	21° 24' 57.60"E	36° 44' 56.28"N
	21° 24' 57.61"E	36° 34' 56.27"N
	21° 09' 57.59"E	36° 34' 56.27"N
	21° 09' 57.58"E	36° 39' 56.27"N
	20° 59' 57.57"E	36° 39' 56.27"N

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ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3335/oj>

The abovementioned maritime areas are under the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic in accordance with Law 4717/2020 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 164, 28.3.2020) and Article 2(1) of Law 2289/1995, as amended by Article 156(2) of Law 4001/2011 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 179, 22.8.2011).

All applications will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Hydrocarbons Law, as in force, and Greek law, and against a background of the continuing need for ongoing, thorough, efficient and safe exploration to identify Greece's oil and gas resources and exploit them with due regard for environmental issues.

HEREMA S.A. will enter into agreements for the blocks with the selected applicants on the basis of royalty/tax arrangements (lease agreements). The lease agreements to be signed by HEREMA S.A. will be approved by the Minister for the Environment and Energy. Without this approval, the agreements will be null and void and will not produce any legal effect.

The application deadline is the first working day after a period of ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this call for tenders in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Applications reaching HEREMA S.A. after this date will not be taken into consideration.

Applications must be submitted to:

Hellenic Hydrocarbons and Energy Resources Management Company S.A.
Dimitriou Margari 18
115 25 Athens
GREECE

Applications will be considered on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:

- Financial viability of the applicant to carry out exploration for and, as appropriate, exploitation of hydrocarbons from the areas in question.
- Proven technical ability and expertise of the applicant.
- Proven experience of the operator in carrying out exploration, development and production (exploitation) of hydrocarbons, especially in deep (>1 000 m) and ultra-deep (>2 000 m) water areas, including supervision of related activities.
- The quality of the work programme and the time-frame submitted for evaluating the full potential of the blocks applied for.
- The applicant's geological understanding of the geographical areas in question, and how the selected applicant proposes to perform efficient and safe exploration for hydrocarbons.
- The ability to implement environmental management for compliance with regulatory requirements and achievement of the highest possible environmental performance, as well as experience in operating in environmentally sensitive areas and maintaining a high level of safety and environmental protection in areas where tourism is prevalent and of considerable economic importance.
- Importance will be attached to any lack of efficiency or responsibility or non-performance displayed by the applicant in relation to obligations under concessions previously granted.
- Biddable items:
 - Minimum exploration work programme
 - Financial guarantee
 - Greek State royalties
 - Capital depreciation (%)
 - Signature and production bonus
 - Training and technical support
 - Relinquishment of the original block area (%)
 - Acreage fees during the exploration phase and the exploitation stage.

Applicants who are found to be technically and financially qualified will be invited to compete for the areas offered. Negotiations will be conducted on the basis of the biddable items. More than one applicant may be invited to negotiate for one of the blocks.

HEREMA S.A. will grant the authorisation without prejudice to the provisions of Article 3(6) of Directive 94/22/EC.

On the date of publication of this call for tenders in the Official Journal of the European Union, detailed information and all relevant documents will be posted on the HEREMA S.A. website: www.herema.gr.

