

# Norfra convention

<b>Official reference</b>	Convention between Belgium and Norway on the "Norfra" gas pipeline on the Belgian continental shelf, Brussels, 20 December 1996	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	20/12/1996
	Entry into force	13/07/2003
	Ratification by Belgium	13/05/2003
<b>Policy level</b>	International (bilateral)	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Agreement	
<b>(Legal) coverage in the BNS</b>	Belgian continental shelf	
<b>Competent authority in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy	
<b>Federal ratification law</b>	Law of 13 May 2003 on the approval of the Convention between Belgium and Norway on the "Norfra" gas pipeline on the Belgian continental shelf, BS29 October 2003.	

## // abstract:

This agreement defines the construction and route of the Norfra pipeline (also called 'Franpipe') on the Belgian continental shelf (BCP). The agreement was established under the relevant articles (art. 58, 79, 86 and 297) of *UNCLOS* (1982) (p.50) on underwater pipelines. The agreement stipulates that the section of the pipeline situated on the Belgian continental shelf will be constructed by the Norwegian company Statoil and will fall under Norwegian jurisdiction. Additionally, the agreement stipulates that a mechanism of cooperation will be established between the relevant Norwegian and Belgian authorities. In the case of a dispute that is not resolved by this mechanism or by diplomatic means, the settlement process stipulated under Section XV of UNCLOS will be enacted. The Annex of the agreement stipulates the route of the pipeline, the approval process, and the regulation of the Norfra pipeline on the BCP (technical and operational terms and exploitation conditions).