1. Zones of the World Ocean

From the point of view of the law of the sea, the World Ocean can be divided into several zones: interior maritime waters, the territorial sea, and the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone, the high sea, and the international area. The first four zones are usually grouped together in the so-called maritime domain under national jurisdiction and the last two are forming the maritime domain beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Within the above-mentioned zones several principles of international law of the sea are operating in connection with the legal status and activities carried on therein; these are branch principles, some of them being new ones or in the process of crystallizing.

1.1 The Exclusive Economic Zone

The exclusive economic zone is subjected to generally recognized rules of international law and especially to certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concluded in 1982 under the aegis of the United Nations Organization; the rules are however applied without infringing upon the jurisdiction rights of the coastal state in the zone, as well as upon its activities of exploration, exploitation, conservation, and utilization of the resources.
2. The Purpose of Establishing the Zone by Romania

The State Council has decided by Decree No.142/1986², to institute the exclusive economic zone of the Socialist Republic of Romania in the Black Sea. The setting up of this zone aims at ensuring the optimum conservation and management of living, non-living, and other resources, and the defense of other interests in the maritime area adjacent to the Romanian coast of the Black Sea, beyond the limits of her territorial waters. Likewise, it was sought to establish sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Romania with regard to this maritime area and the way and conditions of their exercise.

In drawing up the legal régime of the exclusive economic zone, generally recognized rules of international law, and, especially, specific provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea were taken into consideration.

3. The Setting-Up and the Extent of the Zone

Romania's exclusive economic zone was established in the maritime area of the Romanian coast of the Black Sea, beyond the limits of the territorial waters and adjacent to them. In this area, Romania exercises sovereign rights and her jurisdiction with regard to the natural resources of the sea-bed, its subsoil and the waters superjacent to the sea-bed, as well as with regard to various activities relating to their exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management.

The exclusive economic zone extends on its outer part up to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. Taking into account the limited dimensions and the position of the Black Sea, the effective extent of Romania's exclusive zone will be established through negotiations with neighboring states whose coasts are adjacent or opposite the Romanian coast of the Black Sea. The delimitation is going to be made taking into account Romanian legislation, through agreements with these States, applying, in relation to the peculiarities of each delimited sector, the principles and criteria of delimitation which are generally recognized by international law, in order to achieve an equitable solution in accordance with Romania's international policy.