

Source: OSPAR 01/18/01, Annex 10

## **OSPAR Decision 2001/1 on the review of authorisations for discharges or releases of radioactive substances from nuclear reprocessing activities<sup>1 2</sup>**

**HAVING REGARD** to Article 2.1(a) of the OSPAR Convention, whereby the Contracting Parties have the legal obligation to “take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and to take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected”;

**MINDFUL** of the OSPAR Strategy with regard to Radioactive Substances, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission in Sintra in July, 1998, whereby “the objective of the Commission with regard to radioactive substances, including waste, is to prevent pollution of the maritime area from ionising radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances, with the ultimate aim of concentrations in the environment near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for artificial radioactive substances”;

**RECALLING** the 1998 Sintra Statement in which the OSPAR Ministers and Member of the European Commission emphasised their commitment to take all possible steps to achieve their overall objective for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic, of preventing and eliminating pollution, protecting human health and ensuring sound and healthy marine ecosystems;

**RECOGNISING** that in order to act in compliance with the time frame, laid down in Paragraphs 4.1(a) and (b) of the OSPAR Strategy with regard to Radioactive Substances, there is an urgent need to achieve further substantial reductions or elimination of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances;

**NOTING** that OSPAR 2000 decided that the current authorisations for discharges or releases of radioactive substances from nuclear reprocessing facilities shall be reviewed as a matter of priority by the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties to the OSPAR Convention;

**RECOGNISING** that nuclear spent fuel reprocessing activities represent the dominant source of radioactive contamination of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

### **THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE OSPAR CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC DECIDE:**

The current review of authorisations for discharges or releases of radioactive substances from nuclear reprocessing facilities shall be completed as a matter of urgency.

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<sup>1</sup> France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom abstained from voting.

<sup>2</sup> Measure set aside (see Annex 5 to OSPAR 10/23/1)