

OSLO AND PARIS CONVENTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION
SIXTEENTH JOINT MEETING OF THE OSLO AND PARIS COMMISSIONS
KARLSKRONA: 13 - 17 JUNE 1994

PARCOM Recommendation 94/8
Concerning Environmental Impact Resulting
from Discharges of Radioactive Substances

HAVING REGARD to the objectives as stated in Article 1 of the 1974 Paris Convention to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the sea from land-based sources;

HAVING REGARD to the objectives of Article 5 of the Paris Convention to adopt measures to forestall and, as appropriate, eliminate pollution of the maritime area from land-based sources by radioactive substances;

HAVING REGARD to **PARCOM** Recommendation 93/5 on Increases in Radioactive Discharges from Nuclear Reprocessing Plants, on which France and the UK have reservations;

HAVING REGARD to the Final Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions at Paris 21-22 September 1992, which endorsed the Commissions' Action Plan and undertook to carry it forward and to instruct the Commission to adopt specific objectives and timetables for programmes and measures for the prevention and elimination of pollution by substances, including radioactive substances;

HAVING REGARD to the fact that one of the priorities in the Ministerial Declaration for the future work of the Commission is a recognition of the need to reduce radioactive discharges from nuclear installations to the marine environment and agreement to work towards future reductions of such discharges by applying Best Available Techniques;

RECALLING PARCOM Recommendation 88/4 on nuclear reprocessing plants;

RECALLING PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on radioactive discharges;

RECOGNISING the considerable work which has been made in accordance with international agreements to protect man in relation to exposure from radioactive discharges and which has been considered to be effective in protecting the marine environment; **RECOGNISING** also that the marine environment mostly has been subject to assessment regarding a pathway to human exposure;

CONCERNED that the conclusion of the North Sea Quality Status Report 1993, i.e. "the decreases noted in the concentration of radionuclides in the North Sea is encouraging and further decreases may be recorded in view of the current policy", may need to be reviewed following new authorizations to increase the discharge of radionuclides from nuclear reprocessing plants or other nuclear installations;

CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE PARIS CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AGREE :

That the Paris Commission will:

- (i) initiate an on-going review of the conclusion in the North Sea Quality Status Report 1993 regarding radioactive substances by means of further monitoring programmes and report progress to the Ministers at the Fourth North Sea Conference and on a yearly basis to the Oslo and Paris Commissions;
- (ii) undertake the preparation of a summary environmental impact assessment of the effect and relative contributions of remobilised historical discharges and current discharges of radioactive substances, including wastes, on the marine environment;
- (iii) in future assessments, put more emphasis on assessing biological and ecological effects on the marine environment (including the vulnerability of marine organisms and communities) arising from existing and foreseen future discharges of radioactive substances having regard to the progress made in other competent fora.