



**OSPAR  
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the  
North-East Atlantic and its resources*































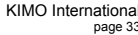





The following statements are the compilations of the opening statements by Contracting Parties, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations during the Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission. The Bergen Statement was adopted by Ministers.

# 2010 OSPAR COMMISSION

## North-East Atlantic Environment Summit

OSPAR Commission Ministerial Meeting 2010

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# Bergen Statement

WE, THE MINISTERS AND THE MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, meeting within the framework of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, adopt this statement to set out the ensuing work from the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Commission:

1. We *recall* our successful meetings in Sintra in 1998 and also jointly with the Helsinki Commission in Bremen in 2003, which identified some critical challenges for the protection of the marine environment of the OSPAR maritime area and set ambitious goals for our work.
2. In Bergen in 2010, we were able to look back on a number of solid achievements. We *renew* and *strengthen* our commitments, recognising that some of our goals are still to be fully met. We respond to new challenges and priorities, such as facilitating the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> by those Contracting Parties that are bound by it and addressing the challenges of climate change and ocean acidification.  
***We share the vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic ocean, used sustainably***
3. In sharing this vision, we also *acknowledge* the intrinsic value of the North-East Atlantic and its role as a natural asset that contributes to our well-being far beyond material benefits.  
We *stress* the economic and social value of marine ecosystem goods and services provided by the North-East Atlantic. We *recognise* that the cost of taking no action is high, and may be substantially higher than the cost of remedial action, where the integrity of the marine ecosystem is at risk from damage. Further, we are *committed* to developing a common understanding of associated values and costs.
4. We *emphasise* that shared scientific knowledge and understanding of the state of the marine environment is crucial for policy making at all levels. Hence, we strongly *welcome* the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2010 and its underpinning thematic assessments and reports which provide a holistic and science based evaluation of the environmental status of the North-East Atlantic and the pressures that adversely affect it.
5. We *reaffirm* that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is the legal basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation. We *support* the ongoing process launched by the UN General Assembly in 2009 of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (Regular Process). We *welcome* the outcome of the third preparatory Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) meeting, aiming among other issues at establishing a mechanism for assessment of biodiversity and *emphasise* the importance of agreeing at the UN General Assembly by the end of 2010 a resolution for establishing an IPBES. We *emphasise* that the QSR 2010 will constitute a valuable contribution to these processes.
6. The QSR 2010 addresses existing and new challenges ahead and highlights the need for further research. It also brings to light some welcome accomplishments, which include reductions in inputs and discharges of nutrients and hazardous substances from land-based sources, radioactive substances from the nuclear sector and oil and chemicals from the offshore oil and gas industry.
7. With the assessments of the QSR 2010 as our new point of departure, we *adopt* the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy which contains objectives and targets with a view to complete unfinished tasks and meet the new challenges that we need to address in order to achieve our common goals.

1. Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy.



### ***We apply the ecosystem approach***

8. We *reaffirm* that the ecosystem approach<sup>2</sup> is the overarching concept and basis for OSPAR's work, for which we are continuously gaining experience and still developing tools and methods. We *welcome* the development of integrated ecological quality objectives for the North Sea, some of which may serve as a model for other regions, and *emphasise* that we will continue to further develop tools that support the ecosystem approach, such as integrated assessments, socio-economic analysis and area-based management tools, including marine spatial planning.
9. We are *committed* to strengthen the integration of different strands of OSPAR activities dealing with different aspects of and pressures on the marine environment. *Recognising* that monitoring and assessment tools and cooperation play a crucial role in supporting the ecosystem approach, we *adopt* the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) for 2010-2014. We *will continue* to extend and improve the JAMP, in particular with regard to cause/effect relationships and cumulative impacts on the marine environment.

We *recognise* also that large data and information gaps exist in the OSPAR area, in particular concerning spatial data and sea-bed mapping. In order to carry out holistic assessments of the status of the marine environment, we *emphasise* that more work on such gaps is needed and should be linked with other ongoing data and information acquisition efforts in the OSPAR area.

10. We *emphasise* the need to work more closely with stakeholders and international organisations managing human activities such as fisheries and shipping<sup>3</sup> and to enhance the cooperation within the frameworks dealing with joint prevention,

preparedness and response to combat accidental marine pollution from the maritime sector<sup>4</sup>. We stress that OSPAR's observers from a wide range of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations provide valuable contributions to our work. We are also *committed* to further strengthen and extend our cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), on the basis of memoranda of understanding and agreements of cooperation<sup>5</sup>.

### ***We facilitate the coordinated implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive***

11. We *welcome* the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, *emphasising* that the Directive's objective to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020 concurs with and supports our aims.
12. We *affirm* that the OSPAR Commission will facilitate the coordinated and coherent implementation of this Directive<sup>6</sup>. To this end, we *welcome* the Road Map as an OSPAR Regional Implementation Framework for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as a living document to be updated as appropriate. In particular, we *consider* the QSR 2010 and its underpinning assessments and reports to provide solid building blocks for the development of the national initial assessments due in 2012. We *will continue* to cooperate on further steps that need to be taken by the relevant Contracting Parties to establish their marine strategies under the Directive, using our shared expertise and the mechanisms and structure of the OSPAR Commission as a strong regional platform. For this purpose, we have revised our working structure and have identified in our North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy those issues for which coordination is needed.

2. In the Bremen Statement on the Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities, the ecosystem approach is defined as "the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity."

3. Such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

4. Such as the Bonn Agreement and the Lisbon Agreement.

5. OSPAR has to date concluded memoranda of understanding or agreements of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the International Seabed Authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Environment Agency.

6. Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are not members of the European Union. As members of the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland and Norway are bound by certain EU legislation, while Switzerland has not committed itself to apply any EU legislation in the scope of the OSPAR Convention. These three countries contribute on the basis of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures, equivalent national legislation and EU legislation by which they are bound.



13. With a view to achieving our common goals, we also *commit* ourselves to strengthen our cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions involved in facilitating the implementation of the Directive, in particular the Helsinki and the Barcelona Conventions, to which some OSPAR Contracting Parties are also parties. Furthermore, considering that concentrations of nutrients and hazardous substances are related to atmospheric depositions and loads from rivers in the catchment area, we *will reinforce* our cooperation with landlocked States, using established cooperation structures, such as International River Basin Commissions.

***We protect our ocean from pollution and other adverse impacts of human activities***

14. *Recognising* that the objective of no eutrophication will only be partly achieved by 2010, we *renew* our commitment to combat eutrophication, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining a healthy marine environment where anthropogenic eutrophication does not occur.
15. *Concerned* about the rising contribution of NOx emissions from the shipping sector, we will carry out an assessment of the contribution of shipping on the eutrophication status of the North Sea and, if decided by the OSPAR Commission, elaborate a proposal, in line with Appendix III to Annex VI to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention for a joint submission to the International Maritime Organisation justifying the case for designating the North Sea as a NOx Emission Control Area. We take note of similar concerns in the framework of the Helsinki Commission and support the efforts in other regional seas to reduce NOx emissions and eutrophication.
16. We further *recognise* that most chemicals for priority action are still being released to the marine environment and that additional work is needed to move towards the target of the cessation of these releases by 2020. Hence, we *will continue* to identify and reduce inputs of hazardous substances of concern at source, with the ultimate aim of achieving concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances. To this end, we *will* promote the banning of the

production, use and trade of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) through the Stockholm Convention and *will strive* to achieve major reductions in discharges, emissions and losses of mercury and other substances of concern within the UN framework. We *will also strive* to enhance the knowledge base on endocrine disruptors and cumulative effects of hazardous substances with the aim of limiting the negative impacts on the marine environment.

17. We *reaffirm* our commitment to ensure that discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances are reduced by 2020 to levels where the additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels are close to zero. We *will* continue to improve the evidence base and assessment tools for indicator radionuclides from the nuclear and non-nuclear sectors.
18. Deeply concerned by the accident on the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year, we *reaffirm* our commitment to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore oil and gas activities. Contracting Parties are therefore as a precaution reviewing existing frameworks, including the permitting of drilling activities in extreme conditions, taking extra care to implement all relevant learning from the Deepwater Horizon accident, and continuing to evaluate activities on a case by case basis. We are *looking forward* to the reports from the ongoing investigations in the USA, and *welcome* the initiatives established within the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF) and International Regulators Forum (IRF) to assess lessons learned. We also welcome the European Commission's initiatives such as the establishment of a dialogue with national regulators and the offshore oil and gas industry. Contracting Parties will also cooperate with the Bonn Agreement as to preparedness and response.
19. Therefore we *adopt* Recommendation 2010/18 on the prevention of significant acute oil pollution from offshore drilling activities and *decide* that by 2011 we will assess the relevance to OSPAR of the results of all these initiatives with a view to taking additional action by the OSPAR Commission if needed.





20. We further *adopt* measures that harmonise OSPAR's control system for offshore chemicals with relevant EU legislation<sup>7</sup>. We *note* with pleasure the considerable reduction in discharges to the sea of oil in produced water that has been achieved. We *remain committed* to the achievement by 2020 of reductions of oil in produced water discharged to the sea to a level which will adequately ensure that each of those discharges will present no harm to the marine environment. In line with our reaffirmed commitment, we *will focus* our efforts and are *committed* to develop by 2011 a "risk-based approach to management of produced water" to ensure that priority is given to actions related to the prevention and elimination of possible impacts of the most harmful substances discharged by the offshore oil and gas industry.
21. We *will strengthen* our efforts to combat adverse impacts on the marine environment that originate from various human activities, such as those resulting from the introduction of marine litter, non-indigenous species and of energy, including underwater noise. We *note* that quantities of litter in many areas of the North-East Atlantic are unacceptable, and therefore we *will* continue to develop reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020. As a first step, to address both land-based and sea-based sources, we adopt the "Recommendation on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives". We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant stakeholders in order to address these issues. Further, we *will promote* "the clean ship approach"<sup>8</sup> and *support* concerted action to revise and strengthen Annex V on Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention<sup>9</sup>.

### ***We protect marine areas, species and habitats***

22. The goal of significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010, agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, has not been achieved. Acknowledging the international year of biodiversity, we *commit* to halt such loss.
23. We *recognise* the efforts made by competent authorities to improve sustainable fisheries based on the ecosystem approach. However, we *note* with concern that overfishing and, in some areas, destructive fishing practices continue to have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and that by-catch and discard related problems still need to be resolved. We *call* on competent authorities to continue to progress towards long-term sustainable fisheries management in the deep sea in accordance with UNGA resolution 64/72 and the FAO international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.
24. We *are committed* to halt the decline of species and habitats. We *are also committed* to restore threatened and/or declining species and habitats by establishing before 2013 measures to protect such declining species and habitats from the pressures of human activities. We *welcome* the progress made with regard to the identification and conservation of species and habitats on the OSPAR List and *adopt* a set of new measures to advance the protection and restoration of threatened and/or declining species and habitats<sup>10</sup>. We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations, in particular regional fisheries management organisations such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, as well as other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address these issues. We *highlight* the Recommendation we have adopted on assessments of environmental impact in relation to threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

7. Cf. in particular Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (REACH).
8. A concept whereby vessels are designed, constructed and operated in a way that aims to eliminate harmful discharges and emissions in their working life.
9. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL).
10. The common skate species complex, the white skate, the angel shark and the basking shark; Lophelia pertusa reefs; coral gardens; deep-sea sponge aggregations; sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities; Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*).



25. We *reaffirm* the need for Contracting Parties to continue and to intensify their efforts to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and protecting the biodiversity. This includes the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and representative MPA-networks by 2012, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and based on the precautionary principle and the best scientific information available.
26. We *emphasise* that MPAs provide an essential contribution to the protection of species, habitats and ecological processes of the marine environment. We *recall* that in 2003 we agreed to work with the Helsinki Commission and the European Community to complete by 2010 a joint, well-managed and ecologically coherent network of MPAs.
27. *Noting* our commitment to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012, we *recall* that in 2008 a comprehensive scientific case was accepted and in 2009 conservation objectives were endorsed for the protection of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA, of which the seabed in the northern part has, since 2009, been subject to a submission to the Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). We *reaffirm* the value of the ecological features of the northern part of the area and, therefore, we are *committed* to continue working together within the framework of the OSPAR Commission to resolve by 2012 any outstanding issues with regard to the waters of the high seas of the northern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA. It is with great satisfaction that we *adopt*, at this meeting, significant and innovative measures to establish and manage the southern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA – “Charlie-Gibbs South MPA”-, for which the seabed and superjacent waters are situated in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
28. We further *take* the significant step of adopting measures to establish and manage the Milne Seamount Complex as an OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We also *adopt* measures to establish and manage as OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction the high seas superjacent to the seabed of the Altair, of the Antialtair and of the Josephine Seamounts, as well as of an area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores. Since the seabed of these areas is subject to a submission by Portugal to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), these measures complement the management measures for MPAs reported by Portugal to the OSPAR Commission as components of the OSPAR network of MPAs.
29. We especially *welcome* this significant progress made during our meeting which has extended the OSPAR network of marine protected areas to about 433.000 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents 3.1% of the OSPAR maritime area. Furthermore, we *endeavour* to promote the designation of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction in other fora and regional seas conventions.
30. We *welcome* the progress achieved, in collaboration with other international organisations and stakeholders, to identify and protect ecologically significant and/or vulnerable deep-sea and high seas ecosystems in the Wider Atlantic, making progress in the development of a standard model of regional cooperation, with other relevant international organisations and competent authorities. We *welcome* the decision by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to close until 31 December 2015 an area almost identical to Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, as well as areas coinciding with the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores, Altair Seamount and Antialtair Seamount and other areas beyond national jurisdiction of the North-East Atlantic, to bottom fisheries in order to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems in these areas from significant adverse impacts.



***We respond to the challenges of  
a changing climate***

31. We *note* with deep concern the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, which are predicted to profoundly affect the productivity, biodiversity and socio-economic value of marine ecosystems. We *emphasise* that research into and considerations of these effects, as well as the need for adaptation and mitigation, will have to be integrated in all aspects of our work. We *affirm* that there is a role for the OSPAR Commission, in collaboration with other international organisations, in investigating, monitoring and assessing the rate and extent of these effects and considering appropriate responses.
32. We *express* our readiness to regulate new activities at sea as appropriate and welcome the measures and guidance already agreed in relation to the storage of carbon dioxide in sub-seabed geological formations and offshore wind farms. *Recalling* that amendments to Annex II and Annex III to our Convention to allow for, and at the same time provide sound regulation of, the geological storage of carbon dioxide were adopted by consensus in 2007, we *encourage* Contracting Parties to ratify, accept or approve these amendments in order to facilitate their entry into force.

***We will achieve our aims***

33. Committed to protecting and conserving the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic and its resources and services, we *regard* the OSPAR Commission as a visible and viable force that actively contributes to setting the agenda on marine environmental issues, both in Europe and beyond. We *emphasise* that we will continue to deliver our dedicated efforts to achieve our aims, with a view to meeting again, if possible, jointly with the Helsinki Commission, to evaluate progress and, if needed, to revise our agenda in the light of developments and progress achieved.



# Welcoming Statement

## WELCOMING STATEMENT FROM MR ERIK SOLHEIM, THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It is a great honour to welcome you all to the very beautiful but rainy city of Bergen. Bergen is *the* historical city of Norway, although it is also now a modern day centre of marine research.

You are welcome to this Ministerial Meeting; it is seven years since the last Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission in Bremen, Germany. It is time for us to meet again.

The colourful images behind me have been recorded as part of the MAREANO programme, a marine research programme. It is a project coordinated by the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, here in Bergen, through which new scientific knowledge and maps of seabed conditions and biodiversity of Norwegian marine areas are collected.

We are often presented with an image of the environment that is close to complete collapse and where there is lack of progress. Although there may be some truth in this, I think that basically we should take the opposite view. A lot of progress has been made. OSPAR's achievements since the celebration of the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bremen are huge. We have achieved a lot as individual nations and within the context of OSPAR through cooperation. Environmental policy works when various nations come together to find common solutions. We have seen reductions in inputs and discharges to the sea of nutrients, chemicals and radioactive substances. From the offshore oil and gas sector, the substantive reduction in discharges to the sea of oil in produced water has been a particular success of OSPAR. We should celebrate these successes with a view to achieving even more in the future.

There will be a presentation of the Quality Status Report 2010. The huge collective effort involved in producing this report should certainly be highlighted not only as one of OSPAR's successes, but should also be seen as how policies of individual nations work.

OSPAR has been a pioneer in addressing environmental aspects of offshore oil and gas activities. One of the topics presented on a plate for this conference is the lessons to be drawn from the enormous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the implications of which have already sparked a debate on what would be the most appropriate way of dealing with this issue within the framework of the OSPAR Convention.

We should celebrate two of the huge success stories of OSPAR; one is what individual nations have done when it comes to marine protected areas. Marine protected areas at sea and under the sovereignty of European nations now cover an area of Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg combined, an area of 400 000 km<sup>2</sup>. We should not stop there, a lot more will have to be done.

We should also celebrate the historical breakthrough of this conference. For the first time in human history, the 16 Contracting Parties to OSPAR have come together to establish protected areas outside the sovereignty of individual nations. We should indeed celebrate OSPAR's efforts to expand the network of MPAs and the huge step in ocean governance taken by OSPAR to secure the collective establishment of marine protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction. After this meeting, the OSPAR Network of MPA could potentially cover 3.1% of the OSPAR Maritime Area, a truly historic achievement. This achievement should be brought to the attention of the Nayoga conference on biodiversity in three weeks' time so that it can be tried elsewhere in the world.

Now, I am particularly pleased to introduce Mr Lewis Pugh, the first of the 3 OSPAR "witnesses", who will contribute towards the outcome of this meeting with their own experiences and perspectives on the protection of the marine environment.



## STATEMENT FROM MRS ELKE MEGANCK, REPRESENTATIVE OF STATE SECRETARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

We are honoured to participate in this very important OSPAR event and we would like to express our deepest appreciation, of course to Norway for hosting it, but also to all the Contracting Parties and different stakeholders that have been working together all these years towards a better protection of the North-East Atlantic ocean.

Although Belgium has a limited coastline and marine area, we take marine protection very seriously, in particular as many important and diverse uses including new claims concentrate in this area. The government responded to this challenge by recognising, at the same time as the previous OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2003, the need for a “North Sea Minister” and a dedicated administration in order to stimulate and integrate more effectively marine issues at State level.

Key issues for us these last years consisted in accommodating these new claims such as offshore energy while at the same time protecting the marine environment.

In doing this domestic homework, we could always rely on the excellent experience and expertise developed jointly within OSPAR. OSPAR can continue to count on our contribution. Together we can assure the OSPAR brand remains a quality label.

In coming to Bergen this week, we looked forward to the designation by OSPAR of ambitious marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction. We are very proud, as acting Belgian Presidency of the European Union, to be able to forward this very important message to the attention of next month's meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan.

Please allow me to inform you that one thousand square kilometres of Belgian marine waters are in the process of being confirmed as Natura 2000 areas. This relatively modest surface at OSPAR scale is significant at Belgian scale as it covers over 30% of all our marine waters. We will as soon as possible examine the opportunity to include this area in the OSPAR network of marine protected areas.

Mr. Chairman, I have no intention to comment on all the issues that are on our agenda these days and I would like to express our very high expectations in the coming challenge for OSPAR in delivering the regional products of the European Marine Strategy, as a major step towards meeting OSPAR's objectives.

To end, Mr. Chairman, we would also like to congratulate those that carried forward and brought to a good end this fantastic QSR exercise.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT FROM MRS KAREN ELLEMANN, DANISH MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Let me start by thanking you, Lewis, because I consider you this awareness raiser. We sit around the table and meet in a conference room and have all these statements and you actually stand up here and shake us the right way that we need to be shaken. I can also confirm that together with Mr Chairman, Erik, we spent yesterday in New York where biodiversity was the topic. We all agreed that we have to move out of the biodiversity box because biodiversity is not solely the topic. We have to look at it in a holistic way and it is not in competition to climate change. It's a whole and we have to deal with the whole. It is our responsibility, we are the politicians and we have to deal with it when we deal with legislation and so on. So anyway, it's always easy for us as Environmental Ministers to agree. We always agree, more or less, but we always agree on the targets. The real struggle is when we have to agree with, for instance, our Finance Ministers or the Government as a whole. So that's the struggle.

Let me congratulate OSPAR on the whole QSR 2010. It is a very impressive result that has been achieved by very hard work done by the Secretariat and by the many representatives from the Contracting Parties, who have been involved in the preparation of this important report.

The results show that all Contracting Parties have worked hard to fulfil the ambitious goals set out at the Ministerial Meeting in Sintra back in 1998 and the joint OSPAR-HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Bremen back in 2003.

We have to consider that OSPAR has not yet reached the vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean. There is still a lot of work ahead of us and one of the major tasks will be the coordination of national targets and measures in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

I am therefore happy to commit to the new strategies for OSPAR in the years to come.

I am also happy to note as you also said that OSPAR will take a large step forward in protecting the marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. This is an important and a new contribution to the OSPAR network of marine protected areas.

In Denmark we have designated marine protected areas in 18% of our seas. Note that I use percentages because Denmark is such a small country but we have designated at least 18% of our seas. We have also nominated the relevant areas to the OSPAR network and likewise to the HELCOM network.

Eutrophication continues to be a problem for the marine environment. Denmark has reached the 50% reduction target for phosphorus and nitrogen discharges to the Danish part of the OSPAR Maritime Area, and we have seen improvements in the ecological conditions in many water bodies.

Nevertheless we have to realise that we did not achieve the goal of a marine environment where, by the year 2010, eutrophication does not occur, as set up at the Sintra Ministerial Meeting back in 1998.

So, to fulfil this goal, the Danish Government has launched, in 2009, a new ambitious initiative called Green Growth. It aims to substantially reduce the discharge of nutrients to the sea in order to achieve good environmental status in our waters.

A new big challenge for most of the OSPAR Contracting Parties is the development of an initial assessment and the establishment of targets in relation to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. With the QSR 2010 OSPAR has prepared a solid and a sound foundation for the work with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive both nationally and within OSPAR.

I look forward to close future cooperation across OSPAR in order to fulfil OSPAR's vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER POTOČNIK, EC COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

I would like to thank our Norwegian friends for hosting this meeting in Bergen, such a beautiful city. I would also like to congratulate them for the work that has already been done by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and the stakeholders.

I am impressed by the assessment work in the Quality Status Report 2010. This is a good collective effort. It is also a very important contribution to the national initial assessments of the state of the marine environment European Union Member States will have to make in 2012, as required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. I remain concerned, however that the Quality Status Report shows that additional work is needed at practically all levels - national, regional, European, global - to fight against the decline in biodiversity. The implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is a crucial input to the EU Biodiversity Action Plan as will be the successful reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy. I will be looking for constructive agreement in October in Nagoya on an ambitious and achievable CBD plan, including on matters such as marine biodiversity and protected areas.

The Quality Status Report has also confirmed that climate change impacts are now becoming clearer and they are threatening the marine ecosystems in different ways including through acidification. We desperately need more and better knowledge on those impacts and about the vulnerability of species. We also need to take action to increase the resilience of ecosystems and reduce the pressures on them.

This is why I am proud to announce that, this summer, the European Union ratified their amendment of the OSPAR Convention in relation to the geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in the sub-seabed. OSPAR's work has been a crucial part of the recently adopted EU legislation in this respect.

Unfortunately not all Contracting Parties have ratified the amendment and I would call on European Union Member States, in particular, to do so in accordance with the principle of unity in international action of the European Union and its Member States.

We all know about the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and it will certainly have an impact on our priorities. I heard that you discussed it in depth yesterday. In Europe, most of the offshore exploration and exploitation take place in the North-East Atlantic. In relation to offshore activities, OSPAR has already taken a number of actions to reduce operational discharges and their environmental impact. Several years ago, OSPAR pioneered the regulation for the decommissioning of platforms, a matter which will require our renewed attention in the years to come. These are positive, but I believe OSPAR needs now to engage more actively in relation to the major risks caused by accidents in offshore exploitation.

I think we agree that action must be taken at all possible levels – global, EU, regional and national. Within the EU, the Commission is looking at legislative initiatives and supporting actions which will be presented in a formal Communication to be adopted at the beginning of October, in a few days actually.

The European Commission has always said that the utmost caution must be exercised with respect to new drilling. Given recent events, any responsible government would be inclined to look hard at the new permits for drilling with extreme parameters and conditions. Precautionary steps towards reinforcing the level of prevention and preparedness must be taken as soon as possible. Emergency plans must be reviewed and where appropriate, strengthened on the basis of best practice. Authorisation procedures must take into account the capacity of the operator to deal with critical events.

I recognise that not all these activities fall under the remit of the OSPAR framework or environmental policy. However, I strongly support the initiative to establish a process within OSPAR which assesses the risks of acute oil pollution from offshore oil and gas activities in the maritime area and determines the scope for regulation within the remit of the Convention with a view to the adoption of actions, starting from the next annual OSPAR Commission in 2011.



But returning to the earlier points.

In relation to the instruments - we are adopting what will become the cornerstone of the work in the next 10 years, the North-East Environmental Strategy ("the Strategy"). I am very pleased to see that OSPAR is being restructured in line with the coordinated implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. I appreciate the active involvement of all OSPAR Parties in this and also Norway's leadership in this whole process. It is going to be tough to meet the targets of the Directive if we want to achieve the good environmental status of marine waters by 2020. It is therefore crucial that OSPAR has decided to focus its efforts in this way.

Cooperation at regional level is important to ensure overall coherence, while of course each Member State will have to fulfil its obligations according to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Beyond the North-East Atlantic region, OSPAR will also need to have a positive and proactive role in exchanging experience and knowledge with other marine regions in order to secure coherence at EU level as well as convergence upwards.

In this international year of biodiversity and as we focus our minds on Nagoya in October, I am particularly happy with OSPAR's efforts in relation to marine biodiversity including the protection of a number of habitats and species and the establishment of marine protected areas.

One of the most important outcome of the Ministerial Meeting will be our agreement to establish marine protected areas in places beyond national jurisdiction, in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

This is a pioneering effort which will help networks function better together in this marine region. I strongly support continued work on these activities where OSPAR has a clear added value. However, if this initiative is really to be successful, there is a need for continued cooperation with other international organisations, particularly those dealing with the regulation of activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as fisheries, shipping or mining. This should also have a very positive influence on global negotiations on the protection of marine biodiversity and the establishment of marine protected areas in the high seas.

We have shown, during those two days, that, with goodwill and determination, we can do more to protect the environment beyond our borders. Together we have shown our commitment to transform the high seas into something which is less of a "no man's land" and more of a home.

Thank you.





## STATEMENT BY MS ULLA KAARIKIVI-LAINE, MINISTERIAL COUNSELLOR, FINNISH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

First I would like to express best greetings from Minister Lehtomäki, who regrets that she could not take part in this meeting. Finland would like to congratulate OSPAR for its past and present achievements.

I would just like to mention some of the latest achievements, such as the marine protected areas scheme that we have for the North-East Atlantic. It is amazing and from the Baltic Seas' perspective, it is extremely useful. The new North-East Atlantic Strategy that would guide our future work also needs to be mentioned. We just heard the presentation of the excellent Quality Status Report for 2010; that's also something to be mentioned.

For us, for Finland, as a country being also party to another marine environment convention, that is HELCOM, we would like to see enhanced cooperation between conventions on all our European sea areas. To share experiences and to take common strategies on issues that are common to all our seas, common to all our countries would apply to both Commissions and all the Commissions, for instance, the Marine Strategy Directive and its implementation. We would like to see another common Ministerial Meeting between HELCOM and OSPAR as we had in 2003 in Bremen in the near future and we would very much appreciate if this was discussed at a later stage during this meeting.

Thank you Mr Chairman.



## DÉCLARATION DE M. JEAN-PIERRE THÉBAULT, AMBASSADEUR DÉLÉGUÉ À L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les ministres,

Permettez-moi de vous transmettre tout d'abord les salutations et encouragements de M. Jean Louis BORLOO, ministre d'Etat, ministre de l'environnement, des transports, de l'énergie et de la mer qui aurait souhaité être présent ici à Bergen mais a été retenu en France. Il m'a chargé, tout en me donnant mes instructions très politiques, de vous transmettre personnellement à vous, Monsieur le ministre, et à la Norvège ses remerciements pour l'organisation de cet événement et sa qualité.

La France, qui est Partie à cinq conventions de mers régionales et Etat co-dépositaire de la Convention OSPAR est particulièrement attachée au travail mené en matière de protection de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

Depuis 1992, OSPAR en effet joue un rôle majeur et, à bien des égards, précurseur dans la protection de cette zone. Pionnière en matière de protection de la biodiversité marine régionale, la Commission OSPAR constitue une enceinte innovante de discussion et de décision. En même temps, le bilan de santé de la zone établi en 2010, travail de qualité remarquable, démontre qu'il faut plus que jamais être vigilant car la pression sur le milieu augmente et de nombreux problèmes demeurent.

Et en cette année symbolique consacrée à la biodiversité, OSPAR peut, et doit, plus que jamais, montrer l'exemple, être ambitieux. Grâce au travail remarquable accompli par nos scientifiques, nos experts, nous pouvons, si nous en avons l'ambition politique, faire la différence. A nous, comme l'a éloquentement démontré un orateur, de « faire le plongeon » (dive in) et de vaincre les timidités ou les conservatismes. La présence, très utile, parmi nous des ONG doit aussi être une source d'inspiration. Plusieurs chantiers nous le permettent.

Tout d'abord, l'adoption de mesures de réduction des pressions sur les espèces et habitats menacés ou en déclin, en collaboration avec les autorités compétentes, en particulier les organisations de pêches, en prenant en compte les priorités dégagées lors de l'atelier OSPAR tenu à Paris. Les premières recommandations que nous adoptons aujourd'hui sont un point de départ encourageant, mais un important travail reste encore à mener d'ici à 2013, date que nous nous sommes fixée pour l'adoption de mesures sur la soixantaine d'espèces et habitats menacés ou en déclin. Nous devons y revenir de manière active et si les choix sont difficiles au niveau technique et bien qu'ils soient soumis au niveau politique.

Nous avons la responsabilité politique de montrer la voie sur ce sujet sur lequel nos concitoyens sont mobilisés et attendent des mesures rapides et efficaces. OSPAR est le cadre pertinent pour montrer l'exemple.

Un troisième sujet - l'amélioration de l'évaluation environnementale des installations pétrolières en mer et la promotion de hauts niveaux de sécurité. Il est aujourd'hui impossible de ne pas répondre à la préoccupation majeure née des incidents et accidents intervenus dans le monde sur différentes installations pétrolières. La France soutient le travail d'OSPAR en la matière et l'engage à jouer tout son rôle dans une démarche conjointe avec la Commission européenne et les enceintes compétentes, tant pour la réalisation des études nécessaires afin de promouvoir les niveaux les plus élevés de sécurité mais également pour la mobilisation des moyens de lutte contre les pollutions et la collaboration avec les enceintes appropriées, en particulier l'accord de Bonn. Les premiers engagements pris en la matière par le projet de recommandation qui nous est soumis doivent faire l'objet d'un suivi très sérieux.



Enfin, enjeu principal s'il en est pour les années à venir : l'extension du réseau d'aires marines protégées d'OSPAR en particulier au-delà des eaux territoriales des Etats, dans la région Arctique d'OSPAR (région I) et au-delà des zones sous-juridiction. La France, dans le cadre de la concertation entamée avec toutes les Parties, qui s'appellent le Grenelle de la mer, s'est engagée à désigner 20 % de son espace maritime, y compris les zones économiques exclusives sous-juridiction, en aires marines protégées, d'ici à 2020. Objectif ambitieux, mais que nous pensons pouvoir tenir et sur lequel nous pensons pouvoir marquer d'importants résultats à courte échéance. La France se félicite ici des débuts de la création d'un réseau d'aires marines protégées au-delà des juridictions sur des zones dont l'intérêt environnemental a été unanimement reconnu. Nous souhaitons tout particulièrement saluer l'initiative du Portugal de contribuer à la cohérence de ce réseau, alors que les contextes juridiques évoluent. Plus encore peut être fait et nous espérons que les engagements de faire plus se traduiront dans la réalité.

Sur ce thème symbolique et déterminant ce qu'est la protection de la biodiversité en haute mer, OSPAR a su attirer l'attention largement au-delà de la communauté de ses membres : nous avons entre nos mains un double défi :

- atteindre entre nous les objectifs ambitieux que nous nous sommes fixés pour créer un réseau écologiquement cohérent et bien géré d'aires marines protégées au plus tard en 2016. Mais également.
- promouvoir activement ces résultats dans toutes les enceintes internationales pour élargir très vite le nombre des Etats qui reconnaîtront ce réseau et participeront ainsi à sa protection et également pour promouvoir la constitution d'autres réseaux d'aires marines protégées sur le même type dans d'autres zones du monde.

Dans les prochaines années, OSPAR a un rôle majeur à jouer en matière de consolidation de son réseau et de gestion des instruments existants pour améliorer la gouvernance de la haute mer. A cet égard, par avance, nous remercions le rôle que le Secrétariat d'OSPAR pourra jouer dans son animation.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, nos travaux aujourd'hui et demain et le contenu de la déclaration de Bergen, doivent faire en sorte qu'OSPAR, en cette année internationale de la biodiversité, conserve sa position d'avant-garde.

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président.





## STATEMENT FROM DR HELGE WENDENBURG, DIRECTOR GENERAL, WATER MANAGEMENT, WASTE MANAGEMENT, SOIL CONSERVATION

First of all, I have to bring to you the greetings of the Federal Environment Minister, Dr. Röttgen, who was as CBD COP President also in New York, and I would like to express my gratitude to our Norwegian hosts for organising this meeting. I am convinced that it will help us to take a big step forward in protecting the ecosystem of the North-East Atlantic.

The German government places great value on regional marine protection co-operation and considers the long experience of the OSPAR and Helsinki Commissions to be vital for the effective protection of the North and Baltic Seas. While acknowledging the efforts being made by the individual Member States, it is crucial to have an overarching strategy for the whole of the North-East Atlantic.

I thank the Chairman of the official segment of the meeting for his introduction which brings us up-to-date with OSPAR's work. I am extremely grateful to the Chairman of the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Committee for his lively presentation of the Quality Status Report. I appreciate all the efforts that our colleagues, you, Chairman of ASMO, and the Secretariat have invested. With the QSR 2010 we have an excellent piece of work that tells us where we stand and that our work was not in vain. However, there are fields where we have to continue or even strengthen our efforts and there are new challenges ahead.

We have two prominent issues on our agenda, establishing marine protected areas in such parts of the North-East Atlantic that are beyond national jurisdiction and the lessons that we need to learn from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

We will probably have an in-depth discussion on both issues later today or tomorrow.

With a view to safeguarding adequate attention during the course of the meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Portugal on a pioneering initiative to protect the seabed in four areas within their extended shelf submission and to invite OSPAR to protect the superjacent waters in these areas.

Since Germany is riparian to two seas, please allow me to express a special wish and I think it was the same that my Finnish colleague has announced just before. We should organise another joint meeting between OSPAR and HELCOM. What applies to the North-East Atlantic, also applies to the Baltic. The more players we unite to protect our seas, the better. This applies in particular also since most of us are at the same time Members of the European Union and are committed to reach good environmental status of our seas by 2020. And we are grateful for the facilitating and coordinating role that both Conventions offer us in that respect.

Thank you for your attention.

## STATEMENT FROM MRS SVANDÍS SVAVARSDÓTTIR, THE ICELANDIC MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Ministers, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's a true pleasure to be here in Bergen and I would like to thank you, Norway for hosting this meeting.

It is also a pleasure and an honour to address the meeting as Iceland attaches great importance to the work of the OSPAR Commission and our common task of protecting the marine environment. We have plenty to celebrate here.

Thank you for the impressive presentation of the fine Quality Status Report. Such state of the art assessment will improve our knowledge of the oceans which is important because we tend to neglect marine issues in environmental discourse. It will hopefully raise awareness among the public and will help us decision-makers identify priorities and push for action. It is one of the hallmarks of OSPAR to underpin its work by solid science and reliable monitoring. This has served OSPAR and us well and it is important that we continue to work in this way. There are many positive messages in the report. It shows that we are doing well in reducing many kinds of pollution.

Some of this progress can be directly attributed to OSPAR's work and decisions. If we can continue to phase out a third of OSPAR's priority chemicals by 2020, we will add to this success and take an important step towards a clean and healthy North-East Atlantic; likewise if we manage to improve our knowledge on the problem of marine litter and increase efforts to reduce it. In Iceland we plan to assess the level of marine litter with a view to improving our efforts to reduce it.

In general we have come closer to our goals on curbing pollution in the OSPAR area but we are far from reaching them. The recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico shows us that we must take precaution and remain vigilant. Increased oil extraction and shipping in the Arctic calls for greater cooperation of nations to direct traffic and prevent accidents in this region.

OSPAR's work on marine biodiversity has grown significantly since the last Ministerial Meeting. Here at this meeting we are taking the important step of designating the world's first marine protected areas outside national jurisdictions. There are complex legal issues involved in this step and we need to better define the practical measures needed in each case but

let us now not downplay the political signal we are sending by taking this action. OSPAR's work on MPAs inside and outside economic zones is a good example of effective regional cooperation in marine protection. Iceland has set up an extensive system of closures of marine areas for shorter or longer time from fisheries in order to protect fish stocks and ecosystems. Only a few areas, however, have been formally designated as marine protected areas. We will be looking closely at the possibilities of adding to Iceland's MPA network in the coming years taking into account OSPAR's work in this field. We should look at quality as well as quantity when designating MPAs. A certain coverage of MPAs is not an end in itself but a tool to conserve marine life to be used in conjunction with other measures. Iceland attaches the utmost importance to the sustainable management of fish stocks. This is a matter not only of environmental virtue but of economic survival.

OSPAR's Contracting Parties may sometimes disagree on the best ways to reach our common goals but let no-one here doubt Iceland's resolve to work towards a healthy marine ecosystem. Our welfare and livelihood depend on it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have progressed towards many of our goals but there are major challenges ahead of us. Few are more formidable than that of climate change. The oceans hide the unseen face of climate change. We are already seeing increased sea temperatures and the dramatic shrinkage of sea ice in the Arctic. Ocean acidification is an understudied and worrying aspect of climate change. Iceland has been monitoring the level of acidification since 1983, which shows a clear and troubling trend. I welcome the clear message on the importance of climate change and ocean acidification in the 2010 QSR and think that it is an obvious role for OSPAR to improve monitoring and assessment in this field.

One thing the financial crisis has taught Icelandics is that we must take care of real valuables and core values. "Half of our native land is the sea", an Icelandic saying goes. Taking good care of the ocean and its riches is a prime concern for the government and people of Iceland. We value OSPAR's work in this tremendously and will continue to support until the next Ministerial Meeting and beyond.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT FROM MR CIARÁN CUFFE T.D., THE IRISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, HORTICULTURE, PLANNING AND HERITAGE

The Quality Status Report launched here today is a major assessment of the status of the North-East Atlantic. It is a culmination of years of hard work and my congratulations to all those involved in the process.

The nature and extent of human impact on the marine environment is laid bare in this report and many of the key findings make for uncomfortable reading. The report clearly shows that climate change effects are evident in the waters covered by OSPAR. While concentrations of some hazardous substances have decreased, persistent organic pollutants are widespread and accumulating in marine life. Exploitation of many fish stocks continues to be beyond sustainable levels. All OSPAR regions have threatened or declining species and several seabed habitats are under threat from human activity.

There are some positive indicators of progress including the fact that discharges of radioactive substances are falling. I am also pleased to note, following the implementation of a long-term management plan, that the northern hake stock has recovered and is now classed as sustainable. I am looking forward to eating hake again. This shows that positive outcomes can be achieved by the adoption of the right management measures and collective action.

The recent Deepwater Horizon oil spill underlines the need for renewed vigilance in the oversight and management of oil and gas extractions.

I have a background, particular interest and Ministerial responsibility for spatial planning and inevitably, I was drawn towards the section in the report on the integrated management of human activities. Reference is made to examples of good practice in parts of the OSPAR area and there is a very good illustration of marine spatial planning in the Barents Sea for which I would like to commend our hosts. With so many, often competing, sectors active in the marine environment, spatial planning is an important decision-making tool in ensuring the necessary protection for species and habitats while allowing for controlled and sustainable development. It is an area where Ireland, like many of our EU colleagues, will have to advance work

to give effect to the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

I am especially pleased to see the pioneering work that has been done by OSPAR in establishing MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction. I'm told these MPAs identify some 280 000 km<sup>2</sup> for protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction - these together with existing MPA designations by Contracting Parties within their national areas account for more than 3% of the total OSPAR Maritime Area. This is a very significant achievement and I am proud to be associated with it. Congratulations to all my OSPAR colleagues on a job well done.

In common with other EU Member States, Ireland is currently engaged in implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Quality Status Report 2010 will be a key input for us in the production of the initial assessment under Article 8 of the Directive.

Ireland places great importance on the work of OSPAR in supporting the implementation of the Marine Directive. We welcome and whole-heartedly support the reconfiguration of the OSPAR structures along lines that will support the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement this Directive.

With the publication of this report, I believe that the scientific community has provided the evidence and it is now up to us, the policy-makers, to respond.

We look forward to working with the OSPAR Commission, other Contracting Parties and our EU partners over the coming years, in a joint effort to ensure the protection and improvement of the North-East Atlantic marine environment.

I would like to close by thanking David Johnson and his colleagues in the OSPAR Secretariat, who have been working very hard particularly over the last week to make our meeting a success. I would also like to thank Minister Solheim and the Norwegian Government for hosting this important meeting and also the NGOs for their valuable input into the week's procedures.





## DÉCLARATION DE M. ANDRÉ WEIDENHAUPT REPRÉSENTANT LE MINISTRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET LA GRANDE RÉGION DU LUXEMBOURG

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier la Norvège de nous avoir accueillis en cette jolie ville de Bergen même si on est confronté à une pluie, qu'on est également habitué en tant que Luxembourgeois de pouvoir assumer et d'avoir facilité le dialogue entre nous en vue d'arriver à faire de grands progrès en vue de protéger et de préserver l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et ses ressources, le champ d'activité de notre Commission OSPAR.

Même si cela ne pourrait pas en avoir l'apparence, les décisions que nous sommes amenés à prendre dans quelques instants constituent à mon avis une étape clef dans la protection du milieu marin de l'espace OSPAR. Dans ce contexte il y a lieu de citer la stratégie pour le milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est mais également les zones de protection marines. Suite à l'adoption des instruments pertinents concernant ces zones de protection marines en l'occurrence, les zones nouvelles, au-delà de la juridiction nationale, pour ne citer que quelques-unes: Charlie Gibbs, Milne, Altair, Anti-Altair et Joséphine, la surface protégée constituera une surface qui est 100 fois plus grande que celle du Grand Duché de Luxembourg si on la considère ensemble avec les zones existantes à cet instant. S'il est vrai que la recommandation qui est prévue d'être adoptée également en ce qui concerne les forages en profondeur pour l'exploitation de ressources pétrolières est certes la plus médiatisée, les autres recommandations liées à l'activité humaine ne sont pas moins importantes à mon avis.

Vous allez certainement vous poser la question pour quelle raison le Luxembourg en tant que pays dépourvu de littoral s'engage au niveau d'OSPAR. Avant l'existence d'une législation européenne pertinente, la Commission OSPAR et ses prédécesseurs était le seul forum pour la mise en oeuvre d'une politique cohérente de réduction des émissions de polluants en provenance de sources terrestres. A ce stade le Luxembourg est le seul Etat membre de l'Union européenne dépourvu de littoral qui est Partie contractante d'une commission marine régionale ce qui, pour nous, constitue un avantage pour la mise en oeuvre de la directive-cadre sur la stratégie marine et des obligations qui en découlent pour tous les états membres de l'Union européenne.

Néanmoins ce sont les bassins du Rhin et de la Meuse qui créent en tant que tels le lien entre le Luxembourg et l'espace maritime d'OSPAR et ce sont les progrès que l'on est arrivé à faire à ce niveau, dont au niveau des commissions fluviales, qui permettront de renforcer nos liens. A cet égard, il y a lieu de citer que fin 2009, les Etats riverains du Rhin et de la Meuse ont adopté les plans de gestion au niveau des commissions fluviales, la Commission Internationale pour la protection du Rhin et la Commission Internationale de la Meuse. Ces plans de gestion comprennent les mesures qui permettent la protection et la restauration de l'état des masses d'eau afin d'aboutir en 2015 au bon état et dans ce contexte également, la réduction de la charge des nutriments au niveau des sources ponctuelles et diffuses contribuera, je l'espère du moins, à la réduction de l'eutrophisation de la Mer du Nord.

La déclaration de Bergen adresse également la problématique des perturbateurs endocriniens et les effets cumulatifs que peuvent avoir certaines substances dangereuses. A ce niveau je me permets de suggérer le renforcement des liens déjà établis entre l'OSPAR et la Commission Internationale pour la protection du Rhin, la CIPR, qui elle, est en train de finaliser sa stratégie en matière de micropolluants.

Pour finaliser permettez-moi d'utiliser deux espèces migratrices, le saumon et l'anguille pour faire le lien entre les écosystèmes aquatiques terrestres qui sont plus proches de nous et les écosystèmes marins. Je vous invite tous de soutenir les efforts que l'on a commencé de mettre en oeuvre en améliorant la franchissabilité des barrières de migration et par conséquent de faciliter une migration sans obstacle de ces espèces vers leurs habitats historiques en amont des principaux cours d'eau du bassin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et je suis convaincu que ces efforts trouveront leur contrepartie au niveau marin.

Finalement je vous souhaite tous une bonne réussite dans la poursuite de nos efforts pour la protection de l'environnement de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est au centre d'OSPAR.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.



## STATEMENT FROM MS ANNEMIEKE NIJHOF, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER MANAGEMENT, THE NETHERLANDS

I am here on behalf of the Minister of Transportation and Water Management who was unfortunately not able to attend this meeting.

As you probably know, the Netherlands is a low-lying country and 60% of our service area is vulnerable to flooding and the area under Dutch jurisdiction is even larger than our solid ground. If you know a little bit about our history, you will know that we have learned to live with and to respect and to have a humble attitude towards the ecosystem because it has brought us lots of prosperity. However, we are also very much aware that although we do our best, we do not control the natural system. It is the attitude of respect that determines our actions and commitment to the things we are discussing today.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has been working on the excellent QSR report. Fortunately, I had a sneak preview although it was only presented to me today. I tested it on my children who are 10 and 11 years old, who are Dutch and have only limited knowledge of the English language. But due to the excellent presentation, with the pictures and the symbols, even they were inspired by this report. As you demonstrated, they will use the internet and I am sure that they and the general public will use this material. It is very important that it is not only something which is bothering all our minds but that the general public will be involved in this issue.

We, as the Netherlands, have now put about 15% of our area under jurisdiction as a marine protected area and we are striving to reach 20% of our area in 2013. This is the way in which we try to support the OSPAR objective for the MPAs and we contribute to the protection of species and habitats that are put on the list of threatened and declining species. Although we are very happy with all the good results that are mentioned over here, we are also worried that we have still not halted the loss of biodiversity. We see big challenges and we are convinced that our cooperation in OSPAR can help us with these challenges.

For the Netherlands, it is important that we will jointly be able to solve the problems of eutrophication problem areas in the coastal zones and fishing is still a key pressure affecting the marine ecosystem and improvements in fisheries management are urgently needed to achieve sustainable fishing.

A better understanding of the impact of combined pressures of all human activities is vital. We are really struggling with that in a very densely used area like the North Sea. We have been actively involved in the OSPAR development of assessment methods and we are willing and eager to continue these activities. We are concerned about the lack of results when it comes to litter and we think that we should be ambitious in what we try to achieve. We wholeheartedly support the recommendation of the QSR to monitor the effects of climate change and ocean acidification and to develop marine policies that encourage their mitigation.

Last and not least, I would like to congratulate, express my admiration for and thank Portugal for acting as change agents. We need change agents and people who do remarkable things as those who inspired us at the start of the meeting. I am convinced that other parties will now follow and we can be an example to the rest of the world.

Mr Chairman, thank you. I would like to thank Norway for organising this meeting and everyone who was involved in preparing this. I hope we will have big achievements here so that all will be inspired to work in the coming years.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT FROM MR HUMBERTO ROSA, PORTUGUESE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

I would first like to thank Norway for hosting this Ministerial Meeting of OSPAR and in particular, Minister Erik Solheim and the OSPAR Secretariat for their effort to ensure a positive outcome of such a well-organised meeting.

I want to start with marine biodiversity, not least because this year is the International Year of Biodiversity. As you all know, the target that was established for 2010 under the Convention on Biological Diversity was not met. It was a target to halt the loss of biodiversity for the European Union, to reduce the loss of biodiversity for the rest of the world. It was not met. Of course, fisheries decline is part of this target that was not met and marine biodiversity, fisheries in particular, is extremely important to all of us OSPAR Contracting Parties. Something that is well diagnosed as a key element for sustainability in ocean and fisheries management are indeed marine protected areas, including reserves and including no-take zones. We are indeed committed to do our share in this. That is why I can refer to what I think is a cause for celebration for all of us and we are grateful for the words that other delegations have addressed with regard to this issue, which is the announcement that Portugal has reported to the OSPAR Commission the selection of the seabed of four areas, the Altair seamount, the Antialtair seamount, the Mid-Atlantic ridge, north of the Azores and the Joséphine seamount, a total of 120 189 km<sup>2</sup> as components of the OSPAR network of marine protected areas. The seabed of these areas is covered by the Portuguese submission to the Commission on the limits of the continental shelf showing how we aim to protect this area. We are now working on the establishment of programmes and measures to achieve the conservation and protection of these areas and with these actions, Portugal aims to fulfil its obligations towards the OSPAR Convention as well as towards other relevant international instruments. It constitutes also an important step forward paving the way towards the extension of the Natura 2000 network to the sea and towards the fulfilment of the target established at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and also in the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Indeed, we want to put Portugal at the forefront of marine protection in the deep seas, in collaboration with OSPAR Contracting Parties and other competent authorities. And thus we welcome the collective

decision on extending protection to the high seas superjacent to these new reported marine protected areas, stating that the water column above these areas is to be subject to management measures to ensure ecological integrity.

This has been a hard, but I think, very rewarding week already for the OSPAR community and I believe it will indeed remain as a historical moment, not only for Europe but also for the whole world as a meeting where innovative measures were adopted and a substantial area was added to the marine network of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The commitment achieved demonstrates that it is possible to accommodate the sovereign rights of coastal states with those of other states and the agenda of international organisations and we hope that this become an international example that hopefully may influence the other conventions such as the Abidjan Convention for the marine, coastal and environmental protection for Western and Central Africa.

Colleagues, the Atlantic Ocean for Portugal is not a border. It is rather a core area and territory, connecting our mainland with the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira. The sea of the Atlantic, the fish of the Atlantic is for Portugal a cult, a tradition, a matter of national identity. That is why it is so crucial to protect it, to keep it healthy and fertile, to manage fisheries properly, to eliminate pollution resulting from human impacts. OSPAR, and that has been said, has brought us clear successes on pollution prevention, addressing the prevention of oil pollution from offshore drilling and other steps in the right direction. But, as others before me, I would like to mention and support the future aspects deserving increased cooperation at OSPAR and other levels, the pollution of marine litter. It is now apparent that we may be facing a new environmental global problem arising this time from solid waste, which is plastic marine litter. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, there is evidence of accumulation of enormous quantities of all types of plastic, stressing marine life and persistently doing so. There is virtually not one single beach in the world today where plastic particles cannot be found. So while welcoming the fishing-for-litter initiative as a first step, we believe we must address the problem of this disposable plastic much more seriously in the near future. The OSPAR Convention will surely be a tool for that.

Thank you very much.





## DÉCLARATION DE M. JUAN CARLOS MARTIN FRAGUEIRO (SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DE LA MER, ESPAGNE)

Je voudrais remercier le Ministre norvégien pour l'Environnement pour la chaleureuse bienvenue qu'il nous a donnée ainsi que pour l'excellente préparation de cette réunion. Je voudrais aussi remercier le Secrétariat pour sa contribution.

Monsieur le Ministre, l'homme a toujours considéré les océans comme un moteur de développement économique, social et culturel. Ceci est particulièrement vrai en Espagne, pays maritime par excellence. Toutefois, les utilisations et activités développées en mer depuis des siècles ont provoqué une pression croissante sur les ressources naturelles marines, détériorant la qualité de nos océans jusqu'au point d'arriver à la délicate situation dans laquelle nous nous trouvons actuellement. À ce stade, l'augmentation de la pollution, la perte d'habitats, la disparition d'espèces, tous liés aux effets du changement climatique, sont des problèmes à résoudre sans délai.

À ce moment décisif, et conscient de l'impossibilité de séparer le binôme homme/océan, l'Espagne mise sur un changement de perception. Celui-ci passe par l'inclusion de nouvelles notions aux politiques relatives au milieu marin, telles que la notion de développement durable, à travers d'une approche écosystémique de la gestion des activités humaines ayant un impact sur la mer, de manière à garantir la compatibilité entre ces activités et la conservation du milieu marin et de ses ressources.

Depuis sa création, la Convention OSPAR a joué un rôle pionnier dans les politiques environnementales relatives au milieu marin et a eu un poids sur le développement législatif communautaire. C'est pourquoi la directive-cadre « la stratégie pour le milieu marin » confie à OSPAR la facilitation de la coordination de la mise en application de la directive dans l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

La directive elle-même prévoit l'adoption d'une approche écosystémique de la gestion des activités humaines. Il est donc essentiel d'intégrer et de développer au sein d'OSPAR cette approche qui, en définitive, implique la mise en place d'une gestion durable des activités humaines basée sur le principe de précaution pour, finalement, contribuer à atteindre le bon état écologique du milieu marin en 2020. Ledit principe a été entièrement incorporé au projet de loi sur la protection du milieu marin présenté au conseil des ministres du

gouvernement espagnol le 20 août dernier et se trouve actuellement en débat parlementaire.

La cohérence des actions menées par les États partageant une même région est une question prioritaire, qui déterminera l'efficacité des actions entreprises. L'Espagne appuie donc le renforcement du travail d'OSPAR, comme organe pour faciliter la coordination nécessaire entre les États Membres de l'Union Européenne pour la zone de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

L'Espagne, en tant que pays atlantique et méditerranéen, a tout intérêt à ce que la directive-cadre soit appliquée de manière harmonieuse dans ces deux mers et, par extension, dans les autres mers européennes, autrement dit, à ce que soient développées des plateformes de dialogue permettant l'échange de connaissances et d'informations entre les régions. Cette coordination permettra d'économiser les ressources, d'éviter le chevauchement d'efforts et, enfin, d'obtenir de meilleurs résultats.

L'Espagne accorde une grande importance au travail scientifique envisagé comme fondement de la prise de décisions. En ce sens, le Bilan de Santé 2010 doit être considéré comme une preuve de la capacité d'OSPAR à évaluer et surveiller la qualité de l'environnement.

Le QSR est, sans aucun doute, un rapport d'une grande valeur. Il est le résultat de 10 ans de travail qui va nous permettre de disposer d'une image de l'état actuel de la qualité de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est ainsi que d'une analyse des pressions qui pèsent sur l'environnement, et d'identifier les lacunes actuelles en matière d'information et de réglementation. Ceci contribuera sans doute à améliorer la prise de décisions politiques et à détecter les besoins d'investissement en matière scientifique et législative.

L'information contenue dans ce rapport s'avèrera particulièrement utile pour procéder aux évaluations initiales requises par la directive-cadre et, pour entreprendre l'évaluation intégrée des écosystèmes et des impacts cumulatifs.

Monsieur le Ministre, pour finir l'Espagne voudrait signaler que la mise en place d'aires marines protégées dans la haute mer de notre région nous permet de faire un pas de géant dans la protection du milieu marin, sans précédent dans l'hémisphère nord.



## STATEMENT FROM MS GABRIELLA LINDHOLM, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR FOR THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

First of all I would like to thank the government of Norway for this generous hospitality in Bergen. I also want to congratulate Professor Colin Moffat for an excellent and inspiring presentation regarding the status of the environment of the North-East Atlantic.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in our regional work, I think we should emphasise the cooperation with different sectors such as fisheries, shipping, industry, agriculture and tourism as well as civil society and the NGOs. Sweden has high ambitions regarding the marine environment. In recent years, we have created a special budget line amounting to 100 million euros for the marine environment, allowing us to support over 600 projects so far.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to highlight the importance of good cooperation and coordination between regional conventions such as OSPAR and HELCOM. I see many advantages in the exchange of experiences between OSPAR and HELCOM over the coming years, especially since most countries are now working out their measures to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In this context, Sweden would be prepared to convene a seminar on the role of the regional conventions. From 1 July, Sweden is chairing HELCOM for a period of 2 years. It is our ambition to strengthen and support the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan in all the Baltic countries. The Baltic Sea Action Plan is an ambitious plan containing more than 150 concrete actions to save the Baltic Sea. We welcome the planned joint Ministerial Meeting between OSPAR and HELCOM.

Marine priority issues of particular concern for Sweden are marine spatial planning, eutrophication, the environmental impact of fisheries and shipping and the protection of marine biodiversity. We appreciate that OSPAR and the European Commission have embarked on issues regarding the value of ecosystems services.

Further we acknowledge the valuable work that WWF and OSPAR Contracting Parties have carried out regarding marine protected areas and threatened and declining species and habitats. The proposed recommendations will be important tools in the future work to protect the marine ecosystems.

As we have heard, marine litter is a matter of grave concern, including for Sweden. We have advocated a concrete reduction target of 40%. Sweden welcomes the fact that OSPAR will now develop more ambitious reduction measures and targets. In this context, we would like to recognise the important work done by KIMO and various NGOs. It is by joining forces that we can achieve a good environmental status of the seas. There is now a momentum for strengthening the regional cooperation and to develop concrete measures to improve the marine environment. OSPAR has a key role in the successful implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the North-East Atlantic.

I can assure you that the Swedish government will work actively to support these endeavours.

I thank you for your attention.

# Sweden



## DÉCLARATION DU DR WILLY GEIGER, SOUS-DIRECTEUR DE L'OFFICE FÉDÉRAL SUISSE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Au nom du gouvernement suisse, je souhaite remercier la Norvège pour son invitation à cette importante rencontre et pour l'hospitalité qui nous a été accordée ici à Bergen.

La Suisse s'est engagée à apporter sa contribution aux stratégies européennes pour contrer les problèmes environnementaux actuels. Bien que notre pays n'ait pas d'accès à la mer, il offre néanmoins son support aux mesures de revitalisation et de préservation de la qualité écologique de la Mer du Nord et de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est. La participation de la Suisse aux rencontres ministérielles des Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris en 1992 à Paris, la ratification de la Convention OSPAR ainsi que sa participation aux rencontres ministérielles de la Convention OSPAR à Sintra, à Brème et à d'autres conférences concernant la Mer du Nord attestent de cet engagement.

En tant que non-membre de l'Union européenne, la Suisse n'a pas l'obligation d'exécuter les directives telles que la Directive cadre sur l'eau (DCE) et la Directive cadre « Stratégie pour le milieu marin » (DCSMM). Cependant, à l'intérieur des commissions internationales pour les eaux transfrontières et pour la protection des eaux dont elle est État membre, comme la Commission OSPAR, elle signale sa disponibilité à assister les États membres de l'Union européenne dans la coordination et l'harmonisation requises par l'application de ces directives. Elle fournit par exemple les informations techniques nécessaires à l'établissement des plans de gestion selon les directives européennes pour le bassin versant de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

Comme le Luxembourg, la Suisse n'est pas directement concernée par les thèmes touchant plus particulièrement les pays riverains de la mer, comme par exemple la protection et la gestion durable des espèces et des habitats en mer, la pollution provoquée par les installations offshore, les zones protégées marines. Néanmoins, en tant que châtelet d'eau d'Europe, la Suisse, comme elle l'a fait et continuera de faire avec la DCE, se positionne positivement vis-à-vis de la DCSMM et de son application par les États-membres de l'UE. Elle est prête à entreprendre, sur la base de la Convention OSPAR et des décisions de la Commission OSPAR auxquelles elle pourrait répondre, des efforts particuliers si ceux-ci s'avéraient indispensables.

En participant activement à ce sommet ici à Bergen, la Suisse souhaite réitérer sa volonté de soutenir l'action environnementale au niveau européen, maintenant et dans le futur.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.





## STATEMENT FROM MR RICHARD BENYON, UK MINISTER FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES

Chairman, I believe you attended a lunch in New York yesterday with my Secretary of State which you co-hosted with the German Minister to discuss issues relating to biodiversity in the context of the international year of biodiversity. There was a huge agreement there that it is so important to set forth our ambitions to reverse the decline of biodiversity in a global context, in a regional context and in a national context. And it is within that framework which we approach our marine responsibilities very seriously in the new government in the United Kingdom.

Can I welcome this opportunity to set new goals and targets to protect the marine environment? I just want to highlight a few key points from our perspective:

I fully support OSPAR's work on marine protected areas and I want to emphasize the UK's support for OSPAR's pioneering initiatives in areas beyond our national jurisdictions. We want to ensure that these marine protected areas deliver our aims and enhance OSPAR's reputation to protect and enhance the marine environment. This also means needing to get the legal issues right before taking forward measures.

We believe it is important to keep up momentum within the 2012 target for marine protected areas in the United Kingdom. Establishing an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas by 2012 is an absolute priority (for instance, marine conservation zones under the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act, which stakeholders are currently helping us to identify through four regional projects around our coasts). UK's marine acts are also helping us to achieve sustainable use of our marine resources through an integrated planning system for managing our seas. This will give us a strategic governing

framework for licensing decisions. Lewis Pugh talked about the importance of taking a strategic approach. Sometimes taking a strategic approach requires us to challenge and even change past strategies. I believe that we must not be afraid of challenging how we have done things in the past in order to get it right for the future.

We see an essential role for OSPAR in facilitating implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive through a coordination of targets and standards to achieve good environmental status in our seas. UK is already working with France and the Netherlands to offer ideas on how OSPAR can progress this. I also would like to comment on points made about ocean acidification. We, in the United Kingdom, see this as an increasingly urgent problem. We have allocated 11 million pounds for direct research into this area and we believe that more work needs to be done. I'm also delighted that marine litter is on the agenda. I look forward to discussions on that.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I welcome the Quality Status Report and its findings. We are pleased that Professor Colin Moffat, as chair of the Assessment and Monitoring Committee was able to lead this work so well. We firmly believe that policy should be evidence based and goals and targets should be challenging but also realistic and achievable. In July, the UK Monitoring and Assessment community published Charting Progress 2, a comprehensive assessment of the state of the UK seas. Our findings were generally similar to those of the Quality Status Report. So we must work together. That is clearly the only way that we can protect our seas for future generations.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT FROM MR JENS ENEMARK, SECRETARY, COMMON WADDEN SEA SECRETARIAT

The Wadden Sea, located on the fringes of the OSPAR Convention area, is the largest tidal barrier island system in the world with an incredible biodiversity of importance, way beyond its boundaries. Though there are still many challenges ahead, the joint cooperation between and the efforts of the Wadden Sea States, Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark, has made great progress to maintain and enhance its integrity. The recent inscription of the large majority of the site on the prestigious World Heritage List encompassing the exquisite properties of the world's cultural and natural heritage - may I remind you that we are in Bergen, a World Heritage Site - is a testimony to the achievements and the successes. The OSPAR Convention framework efforts have greatly contributed to reducing the input of substances to the Wadden Sea, thereby contributing significantly to the groundwork of maintaining and enhancing its integrity. Your efforts have been indispensable and are highly appreciated.

In the context of the Wadden Sea, extensive experience has been gained in integrated ecosystem and sustainable use management in the transboundary context. On behalf of the three States, I am pleased to offer this experience as a contribution to your further work.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT FROM MR EUGENE NIXON, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

I am here on behalf of ICES and I send apologies from the President and the General Secretary who are attending our annual science conference which is also taking place this week.

ICES would like to warmly congratulate OSPAR on the publication of the QSR 2010 and the comprehensive packet of measures to be taken at this Ministerial Meeting. The QSR is a wellbalanced document of value to the public, to the users, to managers, to policy makers and to the scientific community. ICES is very pleased to have contributed to this work and looks forward to continued cooperation with OSPAR in coming years. In particular, and in partnership with OSPAR, I look forward to the challenges of applying the scientific knowledge of the ICES community in the implementation of the MSFD.

Cooperation and coordination between Member States and between intergovernmental bodies such as OSPAR, NEAFC, ICES and with the EC is essential for the efficient implementation of the MSFD. ICES is very encouraged with the level of existing cooperation and looks forward to building on this in the coming years.

We will continue to use our network of scientists and advisors to support OSPAR and the fisheries management authorities to work towards sustainable fisheries and an ecosystem based approach to managing human activities.

The QSR identified Marine Spatial Planning as an important tool. It is however a relatively new and fast evolving discipline and will require cooperation across maritime sectors as well as between the natural, social and economic sciences and the policy makers. ICES has recently launched a Strategic Initiative on Marine Spatial Planning and looks forward to working closely with OSPAR and other relevant bodies to support the science and advisory needs in this area.

Thank you Chair.





## STATEMENT FROM MR KJARTAN HOYDAL, SECRETARY OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

I would like to thank OSPAR for inviting us to this important summit. Allow me to bring greetings and well wishes to this meeting from the NEAFC President, Mr Sergey Belikov of the Russian Federation, who regrets that he could not participate because of other commitments.

I would like to make a couple of points about the cooperation between OSPAR and NEAFC.

The North-East Atlantic is unique in the world having well established marine convention-based regional organisations with competences in both conservation, management for OSPAR and NEAFC and science for ICES. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between OSPAR and NEAFC in 2008 paved the way for joining forces in areas where both organisations can contribute to the objective of clean oceans and a productive and healthy ecosystem and I must add a very good working relationship between the Secretariats.

I hope and expect that the added value of cooperation with respect to the aims and internal institutional arrangements of both organisations will be a solid basis for taking the cooperation further in the years to come.

Thank you.



## JOINT STATEMENT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS– BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, GREENPEACE, OCEANA, ROBIN DES BOIS, SEAS AT RISK AND WWF

OSPAR's history shows that it can be a progressive force in marine environmental regulation. Annex 5 of the OSPAR Convention on protecting biodiversity, which entered into force 10 years ago, is evidence of this. And at the last Ministerial Meeting in 2003, the Bremen Statement showed genuine ambition.

However, in the years since Bremen that aspiration has not been translated into adequate action. This is amply illustrated by the conclusions of the 2010 Quality Status Report and the number of OSPAR targets and deadlines that have been missed.

This Ministerial Meeting provides an opportunity to rectify this situation and to agree to measures that will set the North-East Atlantic on a genuinely sustainable path. Some progress has been made, but it would be a missed opportunity for you [Ministers] to not now address the failings on certain key issues or the urgent need for action in the finalisation of the draft Bergen Statement.

- We were therefore very disappointed that the target of achieving an ecologically coherent and well-managed network of MPAs by 2010 has been missed; particularly in this, the International Year of Biodiversity.
- However, we are pleased that there is agreement on a new deadline of 2012 for the establishment of an ecologically coherent network, with effective management to be in place by 2016 at the latest, to replace the missed 2010 target.
- We are also encouraged by OSPAR's commitment to adopting the forthcoming CBD target for MPA coverage throughout the OSPAR Maritime Area.
- We welcome the proposals for the first set of MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). However, we are deeply disappointed that obstacles have been put in the way of the designation of the entire Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA which has been on the table for 2 years. The current compromise of Charlie Gibbs-South excludes the region of greatest biodiversity interest for which a clear scientific

case has been made. A Ministerial decision here today could change all that and make it a real showcase for other regional seas conventions.

- While we welcome the draft Recommendations on actions and measures to protect 6 threatened and/or declining species and habitats on the OSPAR List, this is just a drop in the ocean, as there are nearly 60 species and habitats on that list.
- We are deeply concerned that while the QSR has identified that fisheries have large impacts on these species and habitats, OSPAR Contracting Parties have stepped back from issuing strong advice to the competent authorities or taking measures in their own waters to manage fisheries to protect biodiversity. Such measures would include – reducing the bycatch of species on the OSPAR List, reducing discards and subjecting all deep-sea fisheries to environmental impact assessments prior to their continuation. We recognise that OSPAR does not have a fisheries remit, but this should not hinder you [Ministers] from advising those bodies that do, how to protect the species and habitats that OSPAR values.
- We are also disappointed that despite being a ubiquitous problem, marine litter has yet to be effectively tackled by OSPAR. Instead of delaying action for another 2 years you [Ministers] should start the process now with a firm and ambitious commitment to end the problem of marine litter and set interim time-bound targets to guide progress towards a litter-free North-East Atlantic.

Where there are agreements we urge implementation now rather than waiting to the last minute, if we are to truly halt the loss of biodiversity.

On the issue of deep sea oil drilling, environmental NGOs are deeply disappointed about the lack of concrete measures in the draft recommendation that has been presented to you [Ministers] by your negotiators.



Some months ago, in the Gulf of Mexico, we saw the largest marine oil spill ever recorded. If you [Ministers] adopt the present recommendation, OSPAR will give an extremely weak answer to this unprecedented disaster. Back in 1995, after the Brent Spar incident, OSPAR Ministers reacted immediately and agreed a moratorium on the dumping of oil platforms. Today, after around 5 million barrels of oil have devastated the Gulf of Mexico due to deep sea oil drilling, OSPAR only recommends to wait for reviews and postpone any possible decision on that issue to later years. With this recommendation, OSPAR risks its credibility and its influence.

It is clear that a catastrophe like the Deep Water Horizon could occur any day in the OSPAR region. But exploration of new deep sea oil fields is continuing at high speed. A recent example is the deep sea drilling programme planned by Chevron and BP west of Shetland this autumn, without any revised environmental impact assessment or safety procedures.

You would not continue to drive your car if you are not sure whether it is safe. You need to stop it and to examine all possible risks.

The demand of EU Commissioner Oettinger for a moratorium on drilling while such safety checks are made appears to have had no impact here in Bergen. Germany's already weakened proposal to examine the option of a moratorium was blocked by the host country of this conference and other countries with deep water oil producing interests. Any notion of moratorium has disappeared completely from the text that you have now in front of you.

We think OSPAR should be protecting the marine environment from oil pollution, and not protecting the reckless behaviour of a small number of oil producing states.

Ministers, if you adopt the text as it stands, it will be "business as usual" for deep water oil drilling in the OSPAR area. New and dangerous drilling activities in deep sea waters with incalculable risks for the marine environment and the coasts in the OSPAR region will continue. Please do not let this happen.

We urge you [Ministers], even at this late stage, to redraft the text and adopt a moratorium on deep sea oil drilling activities, at least until a full and serious examination of the risks and safety standards has taken place.

The environmental NGOs call upon you, the OSPAR Ministers and the European Commissioner to agree a stronger and more ambitious Bergen Statement on *all* issues we mentioned – the future of the North-East Atlantic lies in your hands today!

Thank you for your attention.



## STATEMENT FROM MR JOHN MOUAT, KIMO INTERNATIONAL

Thank you for this opportunity to address you. I would like to thank our host. To make most use of our time here I will be to the point.

For coastal municipalities, marine litter is an unwanted, expensive and potentially hazardous issue, which is entirely man made and entirely unnecessary. It costs municipalities in the UK and Netherlands alone approximately €28 million each year to clean beaches, money which does not solve the problem and in the current tough financial times could be better spent on providing services to our inhabitants. It is also lethal to wildlife and now the discovery of microplastics, which can concentrate other hazardous chemicals, could have implications for the food chain. Therefore KIMO is encouraged by the willingness of Contracting Parties round this table to take measures, such as the Recommendation on Fishing for Litter, not only to reduce the amount of marine litter but also prevent it from entering the environment in the first place. However we are disappointed that this meeting has so far missed an opportunity to set strong targets to reduce levels of litter in the environment that would have set an example to other regional seas. I would take this opportunity to invite you to “a plastic breakfast” where you will have an opportunity to see the effect of marine litter on biodiversity in a very graphic way.

Another area of concern to KIMO is emissions of radioactive substances to the marine environment. Many of our members have fishing, aquaculture and tourism industries that rely on a pristine environment for their continued success and therefore while we very much welcome the significant and continued reduction in emissions we are concerned that 7 years on, there are still unresolved issues from the Bremen statement, such as the definition of “close to zero” and “historic levels”. This coupled with the fact that some of the recent reductions relate to plant failures rather than actual reductions mean that we must continue to work hard if we are going to reach our ambitious 2020 generational goal on radioactivity.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT FROM MR JOHN CAMPBELL, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS (OGP)

My colleagues and a number of my colleagues in other industry groups have enjoyed the privilege of being observers to OSPAR for a number of years. We all value this position because it provides us with an avenue to meet with Contracting Parties and other observer organisations, to understand their concerns and to help find the solutions that contribute to OSPAR's vision.

Because of the organisation I represent, it would be remiss of me not to make reference to the event that unfolded from the middle of April. From the point where there was an explosion on to the Deepwater Horizon Rig in the Gulf of Mexico and its subsequent sinking and the loss of 11 valuable lives, this has been a very serious disaster for the world and we take this disaster very seriously. We welcome OSPAR's measured approach to this. There is important information to come. It is already starting to immerge. It is important that OSPAR should wait for these findings - they are months away - so that it can take the proper action. But also in the meantime the individual Contracting Parties to OSPAR

have started to review their national regulations, looking at their safety structures so that they can assure themselves and the public they have the necessary high degree of oversight and protection for the facilities, the workers that mind them and for the environment. But it is not just the governments who are doing this. The industry itself is undertaking a number of very serious reviews involving large numbers of companies and large expenditures. Within OGP, 40 of our 80 members have joined into a global industry response group. Amongst other things we will be looking at well integrity, spill response, facilities management. The results of those investigations as well as other national investigations will be brought to the attention of OSPAR who will bring the results of their investigations towards formulating a common solution.

I thank you very much for the opportunity to make these remarks and I wish you well with the rest of your deliberations.

Thank you.







The 1992 OSPAR Convention is the current instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. It combined and up-dated the 1972 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the "Oslo Convention") and the 1974 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the "Paris Convention").

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OSPAR Commission  
New Court  
48 Carey Street  
London WC2A 2JQ

t: +44 (0)20 7430 5200  
f: +44 (0)20 7430 5225  
e: [secretariat@ospar.org](mailto:secretariat@ospar.org)  
[www.ospar.org](http://www.ospar.org)

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