



KIMO RESOLUTION 1/97

Objective with Regard to Hazardous Substances and a Strategy to Implement this Objective

The overall objective for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic is to ensure that human health is protected and that the ecosystems of the maritime area of the OSPAR Convention are in a sustainable, sound and healthy condition.

In accordance with this general objective, the objective should be, with regard to hazardous substances to prevent pollution of the maritime area, by continuously reducing discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances, and with the ultimate aim that concentrations in the environment should be near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances.

The following time frame and guiding principles for the implementation of this objective should be:

Time frame to the year 2000

- a. As a matter of principle, for the whole maritime area of the OSPAR Convention, continue to work towards the reduction, by the year 2000, of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances which could reach the marine environment, to levels that are not harmful to man or nature with the aim of their elimination;

Time frame to the year (2020)

- b. All those concerned will make every endeavour to move towards the target of the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances by the year(2020).

Guiding Principles Associated with the Objective with regard to Hazardous Substances

- c. Work carried out in achieving the objective and implementing the strategy will be in accordance with the general obligations as set out in Article 2 of the OSPAR Convention 1992, namely the application of:

- (i) the precautionary principle;
 - (ii) the polluter pays principle;
 - (iii) best available techniques and best environmental practice, including, where appropriate, clean technology.
- d. In addition, substitution of the use of hazardous substances by less hazardous substances or preferably non - hazardous substances where such alternatives are available is a means to reach this objective;
- e. In the work to achieve this objective, the scientific assessment of risks is a tool for setting priorities and developing action programmes.

KIMO

Having regard that the possibility that environmental chemicals are entering the marine environment and that not sufficient information is known regarding the effects that these chemicals have on animal and human health;

- 1) support the efforts of the OSPAR to develop a strategy to implement an objective to implement the decision of Ministers at Esbjerg in June 1995 “ to reduce discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances thereby moving towards the target of their cessation within one generation (25 years) with the ultimate aim of concentrations in the environment near background levels for naturally occurring substances and close to zero concentrations for man made substances”.**
- 2) call on all Governments within the OSPAR Convention to AGREE to urgently further develop effective instruments or mechanisms for achieving this objective and adopt a strategy to implement this objective and that this strategy should provide the framework for the work with regard to hazardous substances to be carried out by the OSPAR Commission.**