



KIMO RESOLUTION 1/94 (amended 98)

ELIMINATION OF INPUTS OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES INTO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT - PARIS COMMISSION (RECOMMENDATION 93/5)

Signatories to the Paris Convention (1974 UN Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land Based Sources), with the exception of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium who tabled reservations, signed *Recommendation 93/5 which calls for contracting parties to:*

(i) adopt further measures, including the application of Best Available Technology for the reduction or elimination of inputs of radioactive substances into the marine area;

(ii) that a new or revised discharge authorisation for radioactive discharges from nuclear reprocessing installations should only be issued by national authorities if special consideration is given to - a) information on the need for spent fuel reprocessing and other options; b) a full environmental impact assessment; c) the demonstration that the planned discharges are based upon the use of Best Available Techniques and observes the precautionary principle; d) a consultation with the Paris Commission on the basis of a, b, and c above.

Belgium has now lifted its reservation. The UK and France have not removed their reservations.

The other delegations continue to state their concern about radioactive discharges into the marine environment from nuclear reprocessing plants. These substances had been measured at great distances from their origin and they are concerned about the possible effect on the marine environment in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Therefore they did not regard decisions to divert parts of waste streams from reprocessing activities into the marine environment as a matter for individual governments to decide upon, the reason given by France and the United Kingdom for their tabling reservations.

Ministers of The Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) agreed at SINTRA in July 1998 that *“We shall ensure that discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances are reduced by the year 2020 to levels where the additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels, resulting from such discharges, emissions*

and losses, are close to zero. We shall pay particular attention to the safety of workers in nuclear installations”.

KIMO

Having regard that radioactive discharges present a real threat to communities around Northern Seas and that Northern Seas communities all rely on clean seas - and a public perception of clean seas - for their fishing, fish farming and fish processing industries, that agricultural products and tourism equally rely on this image of a clean environment.

Aware that an applications for revised discharges have been submitted to the regulatory authorities by the operators of the Dounreay and Sellafield reprocessing plants and that the UK Government is refusing to apply the provisions of Recommendation 93/5.

Having concern for the recent reports of increases of radioactive emissions to the marine environment from the reprocessing plant at Cap La Hague in France:

Agrees to,

- 1) support PARCOM Recommendation 93/5 and urges the Governments of France and the United Kingdom to lift their reservations.**
- 2) calls on all Northern Sea States to express their concern at this situation to OSPAR and to urge that reprocessing work should stop until there has been a full assessment of the work and a full justification as required by EU law.**
- 3) agree to submit this Resolution to all National Governments, the European Commission and other agencies.**