

OSPAR CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

MEETING OF THE OSPAR COMMISSION (OSPAR)

OSTEND: 25-29 JUNE 2007

**OSPAR Decision 2007/1 to Prohibit the Storage of Carbon Dioxide Streams in
the Water Column or on the Sea-bed**

RECALLING the general obligations in Article 2 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic;

BEING SERIOUSLY CONCERNED by the implications for the marine environment of climate change and ocean acidification due to elevated concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

EMPHASISING the need to further develop renewable and low carbon forms of energy generation and use;

RECOGNISING that carbon dioxide capture and storage is one of a portfolio of options to reduce levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and that it represents an important interim supplement to measures for the reduction or prevention of carbon dioxide emissions and should not be considered as a substitute for such measures;

NOTING that, since the adoption of the Convention, developments in technology have made it possible to capture carbon dioxide from industrial and energy-related sources, transport it and inject it into geological formations for long-term isolation from the atmosphere and the sea;

HAVING AGREED to amend Annexes II and III to the Convention to facilitate the long-term safe storage of carbon dioxide streams in geological formations and NOTING that regulating such activity is within the scope of the Convention;

CONVINCED that carbon dioxide storage in the water column or on the sea-bed is not a sustainable storage option, is likely to result in harm to living resources and marine ecosystems and is thus neither a viable solution with regard to mitigating climate change nor compatible with the aims of the Convention;

CONCERNED that in international fora ocean storage of carbon dioxide in the water column or on the seabed is nevertheless still under consideration;

NOTING Article 1(g)(i) which excludes from the definition of dumping the disposal of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from, the normal operations of vessels or aircraft as defined in Article 1(n) or offshore installations as defined in Article 1(l);

NOTING FURTHER Article 1(g)(ii) which excludes from the definition of dumping the placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof;

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic decide that:

The placement¹ of carbon dioxide streams in the water column or on the seabed is prohibited, unless it results from normal operations as described in Article 1(g)(i) of the Convention or is for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof as described in Article 1(g)(ii) of the Convention and is in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

This Decision enters into force on 15 January 2008.

¹ For the purpose of this Decision, the term “placement” encompasses the term “disposal”.