

ORAL QUESTION H-0488/03
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Nuala Ahern
to the Commission

Subject: OSPAR

The Final declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the 'OSPAR' Commission, made in Bremen on 25 June 2003, said on radioactive substances at point (6) that the objective is 'to prevent pollution of the maritime area from ionising radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances, with the ultimate aim of concentrations in the environment near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for artificial radioactive substances. In achieving this objective, the following issues should, inter alia, be taken into account: (a) legitimate uses of the sea; (b) technical feasibility; and (c) radiological impacts on man and biota' and at point (7), the timeframe is that 'by the year 2020 the [OSPAR]Commission will ensure that discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances are reduced to levels where the additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels, resulting from such discharges, emissions and losses, are close to zero.'

What contribution are the Commission, the JRC and EURATOM respectively making to help meet the aim of radically reducing radioactive releases to the marine environment from nuclear installations such as Sellafield in the United Kingdom?

Tabled: 14.07.2003
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