



Bonn Agreement Accord de Bonn

2010

Ministerial Meeting

Ministerial Meeting of the Bonn Agreement

Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances

Dublin, Ireland
24 November 2010

The key issues and objectives

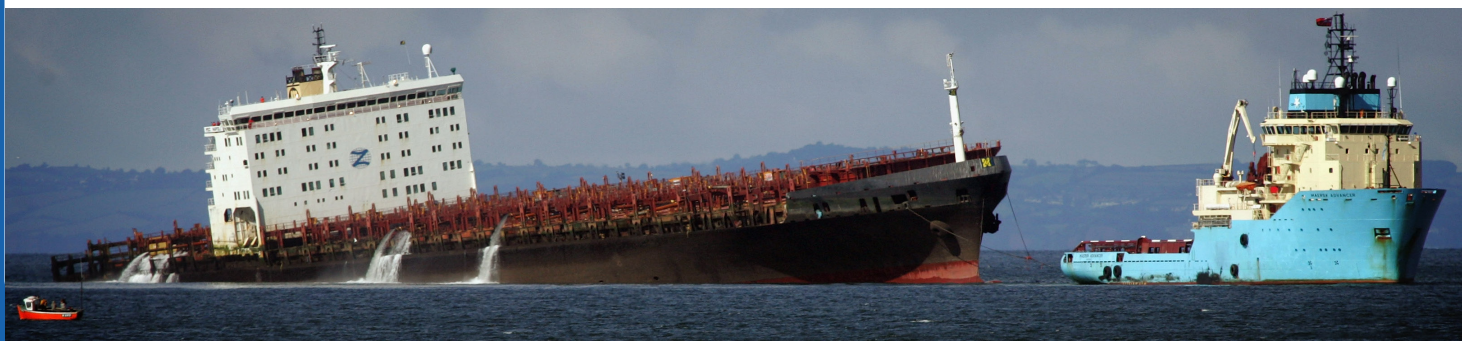
The Greater North Sea and its approaches is one of the world's busiest international shipping areas. Although pollution from shipping and other maritime activities has been reduced, the danger of pollution incidents is ever present. The Dublin Ministerial Meeting will offer the opportunity to acknowledge the successful work, of more than 40 years, of the Bonn Agreement on pollution prevention, preparedness and response and re-invigorate our cooperation for the protection of the Greater North Sea and its approaches. The accession of Ireland, which took place last year, has considerably enlarged the Bonn Agreement area and stimulates us to continue our efforts.

The Ministerial Meeting will agree and adopt the Bonn Agreement Action Plan, providing an important strategic framework for our future work. This will be accompanied by the signing of a Ministerial Declaration providing high level commitment to working towards our vision - *a Greater North Sea and its approaches free from accidental and illegal pollution from shipping and other maritime activities.*

Participants and meeting arrangements

Ministers and representatives will attend from the 10 Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement - Belgium, Denmark, European Union (represented by the European Commission), France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - as well as Spain, as Observer. In addition, high-level representatives from neighbouring coastal states and other international organisations are expected to attend.

The Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by the Irish Department of Transport in Dublin Castle on Wednesday 24 November 2010. The meeting will start at 14.00 and is expected to finish at 18.00, followed by a Press Conference and a Ministerial Dinner.

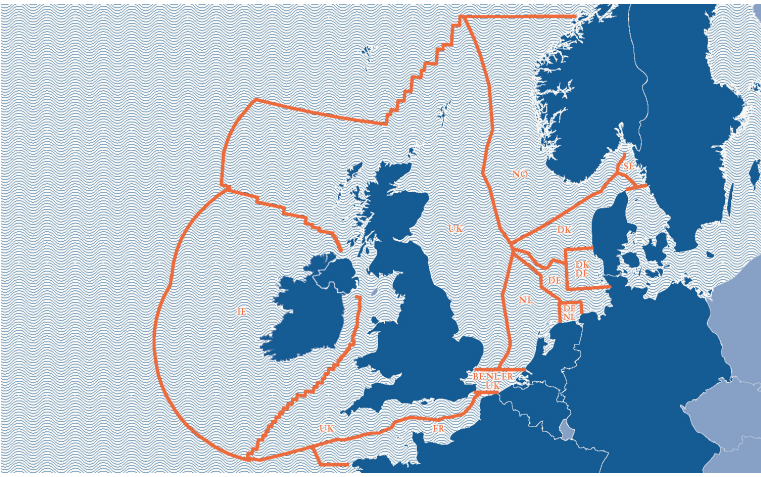


Welcome to Dublin

Dublin is an historic city on the east coast of Ireland with approximately 1.5 million inhabitants. The City of Dublin can trace its origins back over 1000 years. Dublin Port is Ireland's biggest sea port. Dublin lies at the heart of a region with beautiful natural scenery, unspoiled lakes, rivers and stretches of coastline.

The Ministers will meet on 24 November 2010 in Dublin Castle in the historic centre of Dublin. Dublin Castle was originally built as a Gaelic ring fort in pre-Viking times and later reconstructed as a Norse fortress. Nowadays, the castle's magnificent state apartments are the venue for Ireland's presidential inaugurations and state functions.

There is further information about Dublin on www.visitdublin.com and about Dublin Castle on www.dublincastle.ie.



What is the Bonn Agreement?

The Bonn Agreement is the mechanism by which its Contracting Parties, and the European Union, have been working together since 1969 to help each other with combating pollution from maritime activities, and to carry out surveillance as an aid to detecting and combating pollution in the Greater North Sea and its approaches.

The Bonn Agreement has made an important contribution to the prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution both in Europe and globally. In 1967, the tanker Torrey Canyon was wrecked South-West of England. It was carrying 117,000 tonnes of crude oil. As this cargo turned into a black tide, the need for international cooperation to deal with such problems became clear. Coastal states could not wait until the threat was in their waters: they needed to respond collectively as soon as possible. The scientific, technical and operational work accomplished in the last 40 years has been vital in protecting the region's marine environment.

Further information about the Bonn Agreement is available on www.bonnagreement.org.



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