

# Bonn Agreement

<b>Official reference</b>	Bonn agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances	
<b>Official website</b>	www.bonnagreement.org	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	13/09/1983
	Entry into force	1/09/1989
	Ratification by Belgium	16/06/1989
<b>Policy level</b>	International	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Agreement	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	North Sea area (see agreement for specific geographical limitations)	
<b>(Legal) coverage in the BNS</b>	Territorial sea, exclusive economic zone	
<b>International contact point</b>	Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement	
<b>Competent authority in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	
<b>Federal ratification</b>	Wet van 16 juni 1989 houdende goedkeuring van de Overeenkomst inzake samenwerking bij het bestrijden van de verontreiniging van de Noordzee door olie en andere schadelijke stoffen, en van de Bijlage, opgemaakt te Bonn op 13 september 1983	

## // abstract:

The Bonn agreement promotes the cooperation between Coastal States of the North Sea, in order to detect, report and fight the pollution of the North Sea, by oil and other harmful substances, originating from ships and offshore installations. The agreement shall enter into force when pollution or possible pollution of the marine environment by oil or other harmful substances poses a realistic or immediate threat to the coast or to the related interests of one or more ratifying Parties. The agreement states that check-ups and inspections need to be carried out by the States in their zones in order to prevent the violation of environmental regulation, and to detect or fight pollution. Within the agreement, the Parties can conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements concerning operational cooperation for the organisation of monitoring activities in the involved Parties' zones. The agreement also regulates the financial aspects of pollution fighting activities, taking into account whether a partner assists another partner in pollution fighting, on demand or on a voluntary basis.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2001, the Bonn agreement was amended through the 'Decision by the Contracting Parties to enable the Accession of Ireland to the Agreement'. This agreement entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010. Additionally in 2001, through a decision made by the Contracting Parties, a modification to align the zones of responsibility with exclusive economic zones was made. This process is still ongoing.