

London Convention

Official reference	Convention on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter	
Official website	www.imo.org	
Relevant dates	Document	13/11/1972
	Entry into force	30/08/1975
	Ratification by Belgium	20/12/1984
	Document Protocol 1996	7/11/1996
	Entry into force	13/02/2006
	Ratification by Belgium	21/06/2004
	Ratification by Flanders	23/12/2005
Policy level	International	
Type of instrument	Convention	
Geographical reach	World seas	
International contact point	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	
Federal ratification	Wet van 20 december 1984 houdende goedkeuring van het Verdrag inzake de voorkoming van de verontreiniging van de zeeëngten gevolge van het storten van afvalstoffen, van de Bijlagen, het Addendum en het Bijvoegsel, opgemaakt te Londen, Mexico, Moskou en Washington op 29 december 1972 en gewijzigd te Londen op 12 oktober 1978, 1 december 1978 en 1 december 1980 Protocol: Wet van 21 juni 2004 houdende instemming met het Protocol van 1996 bij het Verdrag van 1972 inzake de voorkoming van verontreiniging van de zee ten gevolge van het storten van afvalstoffen, en met de Bijlagen 1, 2 en 3, gedaan te Londen op 7 november 1996	
Flemish ratification	Decreet van 23 december 2005 houdende instemming met het Protocol van 1996 bij het Verdrag inzake de voorkoming van verontreiniging van de zee ten gevolge van het storten van afval en andere stoffen van 1972, opgemaakt in Londen op 7 november 1996	

// abstract:

The London Convention was drawn up in 1972 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and is aimed at protecting the marine environment from all sources of pollution, particularly from the dumping of waste. It is considered to be one of the first international conventions with the aim of protecting the marine environment. The convention instituted a special licence for the dumping of some substances, as well as a general licence for waste dumping.

In 1996, the convention was substantially amended by the means of the London Protocol, which eventually substituted the convention. This Protocol imposes a general ban of dumping at sea, except for a few acceptable substances listed in the Annex of the Protocol. However, these substances still require a licence and they comprise, inter alia, dredged material; sewage sludge; fish waste; ships and human structures at sea; inert inorganic geological material; natural organic material and large iron, steel or concrete objects.

Recently, the Contracting Parties have taken actions to mitigate the CO₂-concentrations in the atmosphere, and to regulate and control new technologies concerning climate regulation that might have a negative impact on the marine environment.