Bonn 18/12/1

Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, 1983

Thirtieth Meeting of the Contracting Parties

Paris (France): 26-27 September 2018

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# Summary Record

## Agenda Item 0 – Opening of the Meeting

0.1 The Chair Willy Dekker, The Netherlands, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the thirtieth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement.

0.2 Mr Vincent Bouvier, the General Secretary for the Sea outlined the wide reach of the scope of the Bonn Agreement in protecting the marine environment. France noted the 40th anniversary of the Amoco Cadiz, one of the worst oil spills in French history and leading to the awareness of the risk of marine pollution events.

0.3 The Chair thanked the General Secretary, and outlined the priorities for the meeting, with focus on the accession of Spain and deliverables for the Ministerial 2019.

0.4 The Executive Secretary, Susana Salvador, introduced the Secretariat with Olle Åkesson (Assistant), Charlotte Mogensen (Deputy-Secretary), Lucy Ritchie (Communication lead), and Corinne Michel (Finance officer), and introduced late documents BONN 18/2/7, BONN 18/2/10, BONN 18/2/11, BONN 18/3/2, BONN 18/3/2 Add1, BONN 18/3/15). The meeting agreed to consider the late documents. A full list of participants is at Annex 1.

## Agenda Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 BONN adopted the revised agenda and noted the Programme of Work 2017/2018 for BONN (BONN 18/9/Info.1) and the draft Programme of Work 2018/2019 for OTSOPA (BONN 18/9/Info.2). A list of documents is at **Annex 2**. A list of actions arising from the meeting is at **Annex 3**.

## Agenda Item 2 – Strategic Issues and Ministerial Preparation

Implementation plan for the Bonn Agreement Action Plan 2016-2019

2.1 The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/2/1 on the Bonn Agreement Action Plan (BAAP) for 2016-2019. The plan had been updated by OTSOPA 2018.

2.2 **BONN agreed** the BAAP 2016-2019, as outlined in **Annex 4**.

2.3 The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/2/2 on the Implementation Plan of the BE-AWARE project.

2.4 **BONN agreed** the BE-AWARE Implementation Plan with amendments, as outlined in **Annex 5**, with the amendments advised by OTSOPA 2018.

2.5 The Secretariat presented revised observer guidelines for OTSOPA (BONN 18/2/3), which are based on the observer guidelines of OSPAR and the Arctic Council. The presented guidelines had been agreed by OTSOPA 2018.

2.6 **BONN agreed** the guidelines, as outlined in **Annex 6**, and requested the Secretariat to inform relevant NGOs and IGOs that they would be able to apply for observer status for OTSOPA 2019.

*Ministerial Preparation*

*Inclusion of MARPOL Annex VI in the Bonn Agreement*

2.7 Belgium presented BONN 18/2/5, a strategic document on including MARPOL Annex VI in the scope of the work of the Bonn Agreement. Intersessional work had taking place, as requested by Bonn 2017. The Intersessional Correspondence Group had made a legal analysis of the Bonn Agreement, however no consensus had been reached on the analysis. Therefore an independent legal advisor had analysed the legal text of the Bonn Agreement. The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/2/5 Add.1 and noted that the independent legal advisor had concluded that there were no legal obstacles for including MARPOL Annex VI within the Bonn Agreement work, as the Agreement already worked on several MARPOL Annexes without there being a special mention of these within the Agreement. It was further noted that the International Maritime Organisation defined marine pollution broadly.

2.8 In discussion a tour de table was initiated by the Chair; Contracting Parties supported in principle that MARPOL Annex VI should be included in the Bonn Agreement. However for several Contracting Parties there was a need to amend the Agreement text accordingly. It was further noted that for most Contracting Parties the responsibility for MARPOL Annex VI was placed within another Ministry/administration, and there was a need for consultation with the authority with which responsibility for MARPOL Annex VI belonged.

2.9 The Secretariat noted that in amending the Agreement text it was important to be pragmatic and make the amendments all inclusive for future work with MARPOL.

2.10 The Chair concluded on the willingness of BONN HoD to go forward and requested the Secretariat to amend the text with Germany, as the depository.

2.11 **BONN agreed** to include MARPOL Annex VI in the Bonn Agreement and for the Secretariat and Germany as depository of the Agreement to propose amendments to the Agreement with the deadline of 30 November[[1]](#footnote-2), 2018. As it was noted that the process of national ratification of the amended Agreement was different in every Contracting Party, the Secretariat was requested to develop a timeline for the work by the Secretariat and Germany. **BONN furthermore agreed** to already start a technical discussion at OTSOPA on how MARPOL Annex VI compliance monitoring operations could be organized throughout the North Sea SECA.

*Draft Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan (BASAP) for 2019-2025*

2.12 The Secretariat presented BONN 18/2/4, the Draft Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan (BASAP) 2019-2025, which includes strategic priorities identified by BONN 2017 from the SWOT analysis. OTSOPA had reviewed the BASAP based upon information from the Secretariat with the focus on the BASAP as being a major deliverable for the Ministerial 2019. It was noted by the Secretariat that the addendum, which included the technical part of the BASAP would needed to be amended by OTSOPA prior to adoption by BONN HoD for the Ministerial 2019.

2.13 A tour de table was initiated by the Chair; Contracting Parties noted that there was a need to link the BASAP to the SWOT analysis in the preamble text, and to recognise Contracting Parties’ national competence for the deliverables within the draft strategy. There was further a need to clarify the meaning of the wording on coordination, and it was advised that the text in the preamble should be more precise and not overlap with other organisations’ mandates. Contracting Parties had different views on how long the consultation would take at national level and if ratification was needed for the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan. However it was underlined that as this was a deliverable for the Ministerial in 2019, it was important to have a document that Contracting Parties could share with their national authorities. A Contracting Party questioned the start date and duration of the BASAP.

2.14 In response, the Secretariat informed that the intention was for the BASAP to take effect right after the Ministerial (as a deliverable), as the extended duration did not prevent any adaptations that might be deemed necessary and a review clause would be sufficient.

2.15 **BONN agreed** that Contracting Parties should provide comments to the Secretariat before 15 October 2018, after which the Secretariat would send a revised version to BONN HoD for agreement in a silent procedure with the deadline of 29 October 2018. The BASAP would, after consultation between the Secretariat and the Chair of OTSOPA, be sent to OTSOPA for revision of its technical addendum. Following the revisions of the technical addendum by OTSOPA, BONN HoD would adopt the final BASAP in written procedure before the Ministerial 2019. It was noted by the Secretariat that the strategic part of the BASAP could be used for national consultation after adoption by BONN HoD November 5, 2018.

ToR for COWI on the “Trend analysis of oil spill risks in the Bonn Agreement Area and adjacent regions 2030”

2.16 The Netherlands presented the draft Terms of References for COWI on the ´Trend analysis of oil spill risks in the Bonn Agreement Area and adjacent regions 2030’.

2.17 A tour de table was initiated by the Chair; Contracting Parties noted that BE-AWARE had been a very successful project and the results had been used nationally. There was a need for the trend analysis 2030 to focus on the BE-AWARE original area and not expand it unnecessarily, however it was noted that with the possible accession of Spain that the Bay of Biscay could be a new area to include in the trend analysis. It was further noted that the activities should be reduced, as they had not previously been included in the BE-AWARE project, and there was a need to prioritise the activities to reduce the cost without compromising the quality of the project.

2.18 **BONN** **agreed** the Netherlands would revise the ToR for the Trend analysis for BE-AWARE– 2030 with the mandate to reduce the cost of the project to approximately 90 000 euros. It was **agreed** that a revised ToR for the trend analysis would be send to BONN HoD after negotiations with COWI, October 5, 2018.

*Accession of Spain*

2.19 Spain presented BONN 18/2/8 and Bonn 18/02/P01 on their wish to become Contracting Party to the Bonn Agreement, highlighting their full engagement and participation with the Bonn Agreement policies and decisions to ensure better preparedness, and response in a larger area than the existing Bonn Agreement area, including Bay of Biscay. However, it was recognised that the proposed area needed acceptance and cooperation with France, as the idea was to connect the Bay of Biscay to the rest of the Bonn Agreement Area.

2.20 A tour de table was initiated by the Chair; Contracting Parties supported the accession of Spain, and highlighted that the inclusion of Bay of Biscay would improve the set-up of the Agreement, and that the Spanish work and expertise would indeed be of great benefit for the Bonn Agreement, and its Contracting Parties. A Contracting Party asked if contact had been made to the Lisbon Agreement, and Spain referred to the legal advice from the barrister, that there would be no legal impediment for Spain to be party to both Agreements, and noted that presently the Lisbon Agreement was not active. Ireland supported the accession of Spain but noted that the revised text would have to be put to Cabinet prior to official agreement. France welcomed Spain and noted there is a need for bilateral negotiations between Spain and France to agree on the boundaries and zone line of responsibility.

2.21 Further in discussion, Germany, as the depository, presented BONN 18/2/11 on two alternative legal procedures for the accession of Spain, and noted that the zone of responsibility in regards to amending the Agreement was a major exercise. Germany advised that one option was for the Ministerial to officially invite Spain only, and another was for the Ministerial to adopt the revised Agreement text.

2.22 The Chair concluded that Contracting Parties had great respect for the Spanish contribution to the Agreement and supported the accession of Spain. However a timetable was needed for the accession of Spain.

2.23 **BONN** **agreed** to move forward with the accession of Spain, and requested the Secretariat to draft a formal invitation to Spain. The Secretaritat will work closely with Germany as depository of the Agreement to amend the Agreement text accordingly. The Secretariat was further requested to develop a timetable for the accession. It was further noted that the extraordinary BONN HoD 20 February 2019 would agree the revised text in Article II and Annex 1[[2]](#footnote-3).

*Deliverables for the Ministerial in 2019*

2.24 The Secretariat presented BONN 18/2/6, BONN 18/2/6.add.1, the revised ToR for the ICG-Ministerial 2019 and the draft invitation letter. It was further proposed from the Secretariat that a workshop on MARPOL Annex VI in cooperation with IMO, could take place the day before BONN 2019 and prior to the Ministerial 2019.

2.25 A tour de table was initiated by the Chair; Contracting Parties supported the plan and timeline, including an extraordinary Bonn HoD, 20 February 2019. Germany supported deliverables, however noted, as host of the Ministerial 2019, it would be their prerogative to adapt the invitation according with the need of the German Minister.

2.26 **BONN agreed** on the revised ToR for the ICG-Ministerial 2019, see **Annex 7** and the proposed MARPOL Annex VI workshop.

*Communication deliverables for the Ministerial in 2019*

2.27 The Secretariat presented BONN 18/2/7 outlining the communication strategy for the Ministerial in 2019. The Bonn Agreement Website will be revised, a presentation to be made during the Ministerial will be professionally designed and a ’50 years of Bonn’ brochure will be produced (BONN 18/2/7 Add.1). During the lead up to the Ministerial Meeting, 50 facts about the Bonn Agreement will be Tweeted (BONN 18/2/7 Add.2). Three versions of a new logo were presented to the Contracting Parties.

2.28 In discussion, Contracting Parties stated their preference for logo options one and three. Contracting Parties suggested edits to the ’50 facts’ and a lead was requested to write some words on the international work of the Bonn Agreement for the brochure.

2.29 **BONN agreed** that Contracting Parties should submit comments on BONN 18/2/7 Add.1 by 18October and, at the latest, by 5 October on the 50 facts. **BONN also agreed** to use logo options one and three and that the Secretariat would produce one logo in rectangular and one in horizontal format for use in different applications.

*Impact of Brexit to the Bonn Agreement*

2.30 Ireland presented BONN 18/2/10(L), which highlighted the possible negative impacts on the Bonn Agreement with the upcoming Brexit. It was noted that the border issue was a primary concern for UK Citizens, which could be linked to the Host Nation Support activity under the Bonn Agreement. There was therefore a need to develop pre-contingency plans prior to the 29 March 2019.

2.31 In discussion, the United Kingdom noted that they would fully adhere to the commitments under the Bonn Agreement, as an international agreement, and recalled they joined the Bonn Agreement (3 years) before joining the EU and did not see any impediments. It was further noted that the United Kingdom was presently not in a position to provide any information on possible impacts of Brexit.

2.32 **BONN agreed** to include the discussions on possible impact of Brexit on the Bonn Agreement to the agenda of the Bonn HoD 20 February 2019.

## Agenda Item 3 ‑ Operational, technical and scientific questions concerning counter-pollution activities (report of the OTSOPA Working Group)

3.1 The Chair of OTSOPA, Stan Woznicki (United Kingdom), introduced BONN 18/3/1 on issues arising from the meeting of OTSOPA held in Malmo at the invitation of Sweden, 22-24 May 2018. The focus was on the Bonn Agreement Action Plan 2016-2019, and the implementation plan for BE-AWARE. Both plans had been amended accordingly. The Chair of OTSOPA noted that there had been a discussion on the HNS project, and several presentations on Descriptor 8, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and wildlife response Sea Alarm, and SWECO. Furthermore, a review of the Counter Pollution Manual had been initiated at OTSOPA.

3.2 The Joint Action Programme was presented.

3.3 **BONN** **agreed** to adopt the Joint Action Programme, see Annex 8.

*Draft Annual Report on Aerial Surveillance for 2017*

3.4 The Secretariat and Belgium presented BONN 18/3/2, the draft Annual Report on Aerial Surveillance for 2017, and BONN 18/3/2 Add.1, the draft Aerial Surveillance fact sheet. It was noted from the Secretariat and Belgium that there was inconsistency with the submitted data and its presentation, and that the report was not in a version that could be adopted by BONN 2018. That was the same for the factsheet. It was therefore recommended that the Secretariat would initiate a Webex for OTSOPA to finalise the products.

3.5 **BONN agreed** to mandate the Secretariat to finalise the documents after correspondence with OTSOPA, and for BONN to adopt the publication in a written procedure by 1 February 2019. **BONN agreed** that for future data calls only data submitted correctly and on time would be included in the report.

*Publication of the draft Annual report on Tour d’Horizon for 2017*

3.6 Belgium presented BONN 18/2/3, a compilation of TdH data for 2017, and highlighted that many TdH detections did not receive an appropriate an appropriate coastal State response or follow-up, due to issues of TdH detection reporting (as a result of which for example only 3 of 9 major spills got investigated).TdH detections are not always correctly reported by the aircrew or liasing centres to National Contact Points (NCPs), are very often not acknowledged by the NCPs, or are not always forwarded to the competent national authority within the affected coastal State. Due to these recurrent TdH reporting issues, **BONN** **agreed** to instruct aircrew and liaising centres to strictly apply the agreed TdH reporting procedures listed in the recently updated Aerial Operations Handbook. Furthermore, a single National contact point is needed.

3.7 **BONN agreed** to adopt the Tour d’ Horizon report for publication pending any corrections during the additional Aerial Surveillance WebEx.

*Counter Pollution Manual*

3.8 The Secretariat presented the overview of the revised Counter Pollution Manual BONN 18/3/4, and noted that a new structure had been agreed at BONN 2016 and since then a majority of the chapters had been updated. However there was still a need for the manual to be revised by OTSOPA.

3.9 In discussion Contracting Parties noted that Chapter 1.15: Financial Aspects could be deleted and Norway clarified that Chapter 2.13: Notification of Drifting Objects was meant as an additional note in POLREPS.

3.10 **BONN agreed** that the Secretariat would circulate the Chapters for final editing as soon as possible and Contracting Parties will then submit final versions by November 15. The Secretariat will then compile these and recirculate for agreement at OTSOPA 2019.

*CECIS and Exercise SCOPE 2017*

3.11 Norway presented BONN 18/3/6 in cooperation with Denmark on the outcome of Exercise SCOPE 2017, and the meeting with DG-ECHO, and CECIS from June 2018. At that meeting OTSOPA representatives had stressed that alarm exercises where the member states should use SSN Training Mode and CECIS Command Post exercise seem to have little relevance/value compared with exercises where the real version of these tools are used. It had been noted that member states are very differently organised. Responsibility and the use of SSN and CECIS varies from one nation to another. SSN is developed as an operational tool according to the VTMIS-Directive. Because of that authorities with responsibility for the use of SSN in several countries are without any responsibility related to Marine Pollution response. This has resulted in the lack of information sharing within some member states. It was recommended to establish a working group with representatives from DG ECHO, EMSA and some of the member states to continue the process.

3.12 **BONN agreed** to support OTSOPA in the establishment of a working group.

*New fuels*

3.13 Norway presented BONN 18/3/7, highlighting the new low / ultra low sulphur and alternative fuels and the challenges the new fuels have created compared to the traditional oil spill response and the partially unknown effect on the environment. Norway had proposed to establish an intersessional correspondence group (ICG) to develop a project proposal and application to the European Union for funding for a project that could give the countries better knowledge and preparedness for spills with new fuel types, which OTSOPA had supported.

3.14 In discussion Contracting Parties noted their support for the project. The European Union informed the meeting that the call for proposals would be published late 2018/early 2019 with submission around March 2019. The EU stressed the importance that rationale and reasoning for the project was clear, as proposals were read by non-technical people.

*E-URready4OS Project and on Exercise “CORKEX 2018”*

3.15 Ireland presented BONN 18/3/14 and Bonn 18/03/P01 on e-URready4OS: ‘Expanded underwater robotics ready for oil spill’, the main goal of which was to gather a trained fleet of autonomous underwater vehicles for detection and tracking of surface oil plumes. Ireland noted that the robotics used in the project were more applicable for the conditions in the Mediterranean than in Irish and Norwegian waters.

3.16 BONN noted the presentation and requested the information be made available on the Bonn Agreement website.

3.17 Ireland presented BONN 18/3/13 on EU Civil Protection mechanism, including its Technical Expert Course on Maritime Incidents (TEC MI), and asked BONN to work together with National Civil Protection POC to ensure that suitable maritime experts are identified and selected for the course.

3.18 BONN noted the presentation and requested the information be available on the Bonn Agreement website.

3.19 Sweden presented BONN 18/3/P02, an update from Sweden on the outcome of the BALEX Delta 2018 exercise. The exercise involved loss of containers with HNS and the chemicals reaching sensitive shoreline habitats. The expected outcomes are an improved response capacity, information exchange analysis with a focus on Host Nation Support and a general evaluation report with recommendation for HELCOM and DG ECHO.

3.20 BONN noted the presentation and requested the information be made available on the Bonn Agreement website.

3.21 Denmark presented BONN 18/3/P03, a proposal for a more systematic approach to pollution response exercises, focusing on meeting the training requirements of the participants (vessels and aircraft crews and teams), in addition to meeting the organisation’s requirements in any given exercise scenario. The aim was to ensure a measurable training outcome for the participants from the various at-sea pollution response exercises. It was noted that the proposal had been presented at the inter-secretariat meeting, February 2018, the Arctic Council, and at OTSOPA 2018.

3.22 BONN noted the presentation, and that the proposed manual would be **considered by OTSOPA for addition in its programme of work for 2020**

*Voluntary delivery of washwater with paraffin residues at a port reception facility*

3.23 The Netherlands presented BONN 18/3/10, a memorandum between the State and commercial parties regarding pre-wash and hand off paraffin washwater in the Netherlands. Ships may, according to the MARPOL Treaty Annex II of the IMO, conditionally discharge the washing water with which they clean their tanks after delivery of paraffin and which contains paraffin residues. These paraffins are harmful to marine ecosystems and could lead to high clean-up costs at the expense of the Dutch state after washing ashore.

3.24 BONN noted the information from the Netherlands, and the ongoing work in IMO on en-route discussions.

*Assessing the environmental impact of a ‘significant acute pollution’*

3.25 Belgium presented BONN 18/3/11 and BONN 18/03/P04, which examined the term ‘significant acute pollution’ and suggested a region-wide approach for Contracting Parties’ related obligation under the MSFD to monitor and assess spill impact for ‘significant acute pollution’. The context of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implies the obligation for EU Member States to monitor and assess environmental impact, the main goal being to achieve good environmental status (GES) by 2020. Belgium was of the impression that the Bonn Agreement was the most appropriate forum to monitor and respond to acute pollution events, to define what a significant acute pollution is, and to agree upon and implement a coherent approach on spill impact monitoring and assessment. It was further highlighted that this could be an area for closer cooperation with OSPAR.

3.26 In discussion Contracting Parties noted the importance of the monitoring after ‘significant acute pollution’, but this was ongoing activity in their countries. However there was uncertainty whether a regional approach as mentioned in the directive of the European Commission was relevant for the Bonn Agreement. It was noted from a Contracting Party that monitoring after a spill including response was reported to IMO every year.

3.27 **BONN agreed** that the Secretariat would contact the European Commission for a definition of regional approach, and that Contracting Parties would, at the next meeting of OTSOPA, report back on their national reporting on Descriptor 8 of the MSFD to the European Commission.

*Revised schedule for CEPCO flights on advice from HELCOM*

3.28 Germany presented BONN 18/3/12, the HELCOM Secretariat had proposed changes to the frequency with the Bonn Agreement for the Super CEPCO flights. Resulting in Super CEPCO taking place in either the Baltic Sea or the North Sea every second year.

3.29 **BONN** **agreed** on the updated CEPCO Schedule.

*DenGerNeth & Bonnex Delta 2019*

3.30 Germany presented BONN 18/3/15 on the proposed dates for 2019 DenGerNeth exercise and BONNEX Delta. Germany requested Contracting Parties to inform Germany and the Secretariat about their participation and training requirements by 30 November 2018.

3.31 BONN noted the information on the proposed dates for DenGerNeth exersise 2019 and BONNEX Delta 2019.

## Agenda Item 4 – Reports on pollution incidents

4.1 France presented BONN 18/4/P01 regarding pollution from wax paraffin and options for mitigating and responding to it. It was noted that the amounts found on beaches seem to be higher than those allowed under MARPOL.

4.2 Sweden presented BONN 18/4/P02 on the grounding of MV Makassar Highway. The cause of the grounding was determined to have been caused by the first officer being drunk and the vessel navigating close to shore to remain within GSM cover as the satellite navigation system had failed. 14m3 of oil leaked, of which 7 m3 were recovered. The vessel was eventually refloated and returned to Poland.

4.3 Germany presented BONN 18/4/P03, an oil spill of 50 to 290 m3 first spotted by a police helicopter. Response vessels were dispatched to recover the oil but when they arrived on scene the oil had sunk below the surface. The following days no oil was refloated or beached. The circumstances are under investigation at the moment.

4.4 France presented BONN 18/4/P04 on the Mariner project and the Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation Project (West MOPoCo).

4.5 BONN noted the presentations from Contracting Parties.

## Agenda Item 5 – European Union

5.1 The European Commission presented BONN 18/5/Info. 2, the outcome of the Fourteenth Inter-Secretariat meeting between the Regional Agreements’ Secretariats, DG ECHO and EMSA held in February 2018, Copenhagen. The meeting had discussed cooperation between the agreements, and updates on the work of EMSA, REMPEC, Copenhagen Agreement and Lisbon Agreement.

5.2 Norway asked whether it would be possible to submit a shorter pre-application to the EU before going ahead with a final application to reduce the amount of resources needed to make an application. The EU informed that a shorter application procedure had been tested but it had not proved to be beneficial. Applicants should ensure that they are able to justify the longevity of the project and link the project to Civil Protection (shoreline protection) and greater links to other regional agreements. The greater the number of links an applicant can make, the greater the chance for successful funding. The European Commission was thanked for its continuous and valuable support to Contracting Parties in writing applications.

## Agenda Item 6 – Work in other international organisations

6.1 The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/6/1, which outlined the report of the 2018 meeting of NSN. The key issues that had been discussed were the inclusion of MARPOL Annex II, Annex V and Annex VI in the North Sea Manual on Maritime Oil Pollution Offences. The main focus had been the non-compliance and consideration of prosecutions for MARPOL Annex VI offences.

6.2 The Secretariat presented the outcome of the joint NSN-OTSOPA seminar on Maritime Environmental Crimes - Violations for Non-compliance with MARPOL Annex II and VI, held on the 6-7 March 2018. To follow up on the recommendations from the seminar, NSN had decided to participate in the upcoming seminar “Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea”, 29-30 November 2018 in Berlin, Germany. The seminar aims to facilitate discussions and exchange of information on existing and best practices with regard to the enforcement of international, regional and national law as well as better coordination of the involved bodies and actors.

6.3 Norway presented work within the Arctic Council and the working group Emergency Prevention Preparedness and response (EPPR), which held its last meeting in June in Malmö. EPPR have established a Marine Environment Response (MER) expert group, which focus its work on the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response, and the MOSPA Exercise. The latest MOSPA exercise took place in February and March 2018. There would be an upcoming table top exercise on maritime incident of radioactive material, which would take place in Norway in 2019 and a full scale exercise in 2020. The next EPPR meeting would take place in December 2018 in New Orleans.

6.4 Norway gave a verbal update on the activities under the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) and their work related to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC). A new IMO guidelines on underwater dispersion is finalised, which would be submitted to MEPC 73 for approval. New guidelines on the implementation of the OPRC Convention is under development by PPR. There was a need to suggest new issues to be discussed under OPRC, as there was a shortage of suggested subjects. Norway encouraged Contracting Parties to suggest new OPRC to PPR.

6.5 In discussion Belgium asked for information on the proposed ban on HFO from Canada. In response Norway informed that PAME - the working group on Protection the Artic Marine Environment - was covering the issue.

6.6 BONN noted with interest the information from the Secretariat and Norway.

## Agenda Item 7 – Communications

7.1 The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/7/1 on the Bonn Agreement Communications Strategy outlining the activities on the BONN website.

7.2 BONN noted the information from the Secretariat.

## Agenda Item 8 – List of Actions and Programme of Work

8.1 **BONN agreed** to adopt the OTSOPA Programme of Work 2018/2019 with amendments (as in **Annex 9**).

8.2 **BONN agreed** to adopt the Bonn Agreement List of Actions 2018/2019 (as in **Annex 3**).

## Agenda Item 9 – Financial matters

*Statement of Account for 2017*

9.1 In accordance with Rule 22 of the Financial Rules of the Bonn Agreement, the Secretary presented the 2017 Statement of Account and Audit Certificate for the General Budget of the Bonn Agreement (BONN 18/9/1), together with an Explanatory Memorandum to the Statement of Account for 2017 (BONN 18/9/3 and BONN 18/9/3 Add.1).

9.2 Taking into account the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom and in accordance with Rule 27 of the Financial Rules of the Bonn Agreement, **BONN** **agreed** to discharge the Secretary in respect of the implementation of the 2017 General Budget.

*General Fund and Working Capital Fund*

9.3 BONN noted a report on the financial situation of the Bonn Agreement General and Working Capital Funds (BONN 18/9/2). The meeting noted that the General Fund now stood at £156 097 at the end of 2017 and that there had been no contribution to the Working Capital Fund.

*Approval of Draft Budget for 2019*

9.4 The Secretary presented BONN 18/9/4, BONN 18/9/4 Add.1, BONN 18/9/4 Add.2. Document Bonn 18/9/4 Add.1 presented 2 options of the budget: The first option included expenditure for the Ministerial and legal costs for the Accession of Spain to the Bonn Agreement. Option 2 proposed that the above-mentioned expenditure be paid for as part of a special project with funding from the General Fund. Despite the increased budget for 2019, as compared to 2018, the contributions in 2019 would remain flat as in 2018, if the proposed drawdown from the General Fund was to be agreed, as last year.

9.5 In discussion, some Contracting Parties reminded the meeting that the use of the General Fund was primarily to reduce Contracting Parties’ contributions.

9.6 In conclusion, **BONN agreed**:

1. on the changes to apportionment related to staff time and other expenses. The contribution of the Bonn Agreement to the salary budget of the OSPAR Commission would increase to
   1. 35% of the salary of a Deputy Secretary (grade A3); and
   2. 40% of the salary of an Assistant Secretary (grade B3).

Rent and service charges apportioned to Bonn would be 1/11 of the corresponding costs, rounded to the nearest thousand;

1. a budget of £103 003 for 2019;
2. on flat contributions of £86 312 for 2019 through a drawdown of £16 691 from the General Fund but this matter would be revisited next year in the light of work requirements;
3. that £15 000 would be drawn down from the General Fund towards the cost of relocation;
4. on the trend analysis project (see para 2.2.16-2.18 and document BONN 18/2/9) with estimated costs between £75 000-85 000 will be funded by the General Fund as a special project. The remaining amount, an estimated £16 900 would be left in the General Fund to offset Contracting Parties’ contributions in 2019;
5. that Contracting Parties’ contributions would remain at the same level in the case of the accession of Spain.

*Non-binding outline budget of estimated expenditure for the three subsequent years*

9.7 The Secretariat presented BONN 18/9/5 on the non-binding outline budget for 2020-2022 for BONN to note, in accordance with the financial rules. **BONN** **agreed** that the non-binding outline budget for 2021-2023 would take into account the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan (BASAP).

9.8 BONN noted BONN 18/9/7 on unused funds from the Photo Atlas special project. **BONN agreed** to use the remaining funds of £3 965 towards extraordinary costs like the Ministerial.

*BE-AWARE II project Audit*

9.9 BONN noted the observations and recommendations of the auditors on the BE-AWARE II project Audit (Document Bonn 18/11/Info.1). The Secretariat informed Bonn that the auditors’ findings were mostly administrative and had for the most part been taken care of.

Staff Regulations

9.10 BONN noted the OSPAR staff regulations from the Secretary for the sake of transparency. These have been applied in practice to both OSPAR and BONN. BONN did not need to formally adopt those, but needed to acknowledge them, also taking into consideration BONN’s participation at the recruitment process and panel, following the advertisement for a post of a new Deputy Secretary to work on BONN and OSPAR matters and to replace Charlotte Mogensen who has accomplished 3 years of work at the Secretariat.

## Agenda Item 10 – Future meeting arrangements

10.1 The Secretariat introduced BONN 18/10/1 on Future meetings of BONN and OTSOPA. The United Kingdom confirmed that OTSOPA 2019 would be in the UK, 21-23 May 2019. Germany confirmed that Bonn 2019 and the Ministerial meeting 2019 would take place in Bonn on 8-11 October 2019.

## Agenda Item 11 – Any other business

11.1 European Commission noted the possible increase in contributions for the upcoming years and requested Contracting Parties to reconsider the language requirements to save expenditures.

11.2 In discussion Belgium and France noted the importance of English-French interpretation, and that the issue had been discussed previously.

11.3 Ireland made a verbal update on requests for places of refuge and noted two recent incidents where a vessel had been towed to its destination port. The port authority had initially refused the request citing that the vessel should be taken to the nearest port, not the destination. The second incident related to a vessel in working order but carrying refugees. In both cases the vessels were granted place of refuge in Irish ports.

## Agenda Item 12 – Adoption of the Summary Record

12.1 The Bonn Agreement adopted the Summary Record of the meeting in a written procedure.

1. As per the timetable agreed in written procedure on the 19 October at Annex 7 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. As per the timetable agreed in written procedure on the 19 October at Annex 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)