



**PRESS RELEASE (95)32**

**26 April 1995**

**MEETING OF NATO COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY  
(CCMS) WITH COOPERATION PARTNERS**

On 27 April, 1995, the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) will hold its annual meeting with Cooperation Partners at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. For the first time representatives from Austria, Finland, Slovenia and Sweden, which are members of PfP, will send observers.

The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Jean-Marie Cadiou, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Scientific and Environmental Affairs. Nations will be represented by senior officials of Ministries of Defence, of Foreign Affairs and of Environment.

Participants will exchange information about the ongoing CCMS pilot studies which cover a broad spectrum of environmental issues including defence-related environmental problems. Last year, over 161 experts from Cooperation Partner countries participated in CCMS activities.

The final report of the pilot study on "Cross-Border Environmental Problems Emanating from Defence-Related Installations and Activities", jointly led by Norway and Germany, and its conclusions will be presented to the Committee. The conclusions with respect to radioactive and chemical contamination can be summarized as follows:

- Although the present level of radioactive contamination in the Arctic is low, there are potential risks for the future.
- Radioactive and chemical material dumped at the Barents & Kara Seas and the Baltic Sea, must be monitored closely.
- Environmentally safe methods of decommissioning nuclear submarines should be developed.
- Chemical munitions dumped at sea do not, at the current time, present a threat to human beings or to the marine environment; however, their long term effects should be investigated.

At the CCMS Plenary Meeting, a second phase of this study was launched within the framework of the NACC Workplan for 1995-1996, focusing on some of the most urgent problems associated with radioactive pollution, in particular risk assessment of nuclear submarine decommissioning as well as management and storage of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

The meeting is supported by the NATO Division of Scientific and Environmental Affairs. Journalists wishing more information on this meeting may call Dr. Deniz Yüksel-Beten, CCMS Programme Director, at int'l-32-2-728.4846.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***