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NATO/OTAN, 1110 Brussels/Bruxelles • Tel.: 728 41 11 - Telex: 25-599
Telefax/Télécopieurs: 728 50 57 - 728 50 58

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NATO/CCMS PILOT STUDY ON "CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO
DEFENCE ACTIVITIES" WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

The first meeting of the CCMS (Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society) pilot study on "Cross Border Environmental Problems Emanating from Defence-related Installations and Activities" led by Norway was held in Oslo on 11-12 February 1993. Organized within the framework of the Brussels-based North Atlantic Co-operation Council this study is focusing on problems caused by the discharge of radioactive as well as hazardous chemical waste into a number of land-locked seas and their drainage areas.

Participants set out plans for a two year effort, with initial results expected in the first eight months, to identify systematically various sites of contamination, to assess the health risks and to review mitigation procedures. Most of the discussion centered around radioactive contamination with such regions as the Barents, Kara, Laptev and Baltic Seas singled out as sites meriting special attention because of the presence of decommissioned nuclear vessels and the drainage these marine areas receive from a number of land-based military facilities. The meeting saw broad agreement among participating countries to share information and experience and to develop a basis for dealing with these problems.

At this meeting, in addition to 8 NATO member states, the following Co-operation Partners were represented: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine. Finland participated as an observer.

Representatives come from universities, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Environment and Environmental Institutes. The pilot study is to be directed by Dr. Svein Aass of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will be co-ordinated by Dr. Deniz Beten at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.