



NORWAY

Treaty Series No. 46 (1998)

## Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

# concerning the Disposal of the “Brent Spar” Offshore Installation

Oslo, 7 August 1998

[The Exchange of Notes entered into force on 7 August 1998]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
October 1998*



**EXCHANGE OF NOTES  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY CONCERNING THE  
DISPOSAL OF THE "BRENT SPAR" OFFSHORE INSTALLATION**

**No. 1**

*The British Embassy at Oslo to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway*

*British Embassy  
Oslo  
7 August 1998*

**Note No. 29**

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to refer to the Exchange of Notes dated 7 July 1995 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway concerning the Disposal of the "Brent Spar" Offshore Installation.

The Embassy wish to draw to the attention of the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs the proposal submitted by Shell UK Ltd, the operators of the "Brent Spar", for a revision to the decommissioning programme approved by the UK Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in December 1994. The proposed revision includes the re-use of parts of the installation as part of a quay development scheme at Mekjarvik near Stavanger. The topsides and other parts will be brought to shore at Hjelmeland for recycling by a Norwegian company whose name is Brøderne Anda A.S. Pipework containing low specific activity scale and sludge from the storage tanks will be returned to the United Kingdom for safe final disposal on land. In the view of the United Kingdom Government this proposal constitutes an appropriate decommissioning arrangement for the "Brent Spar".

The United Kingdom is aware that the "Brent Spar" may not be re-used in the proposed development scheme without the granting of certain permits and consents by the Norwegian authorities and therefore proposes the following:

- The Government of Norway shall notify the Government of the United Kingdom when all such permits and consents have been granted and satisfactory assurances have been given by Shell UK Ltd to the Government of Norway regarding liability for decommissioning the "Brent Spar".
- On the date of receipt by the Government of the United Kingdom of that notification, the agreement set out in the Exchange of Notes of 7 July 1995 shall terminate.

If the content of this Note is acceptable to the Government of Norway this Note and the reply of the Government of Norway shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on the date of the Ministry's reply.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

No. 2

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway to the British Embassy at Oslo*

*Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Oslo  
7 August 1998*

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Embassy's Note No. 29 of 7 August 1998 which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

The Ministry has the honour to inform the Embassy that the contents of the said Note is acceptable to the Government of Norway who will regard the Embassy's Note and this reply as constituting an agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force today.

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of the opportunity to renew to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

