

COOPERATION PROGRAM

ON

NORWEGIAN-RUSSIAN DIALOGUE CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (hereinafter called the Parties):

REFERRING to the meeting on 8 April 2002 in Moscow between the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy and the First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, in which the Parties agreed on the intention to enter into a Cooperation Program to establish a dialogue concerning natural resources and the environment between the Parties;

DESIRING to further develop relations of friendship and cooperation in the interest of the two countries which both have a significant natural resource base and are major producers and exporters of oil and natural gas;

ATTACHING great importance to meeting the global demand for oil and natural gas while at the same time reducing the environmental effects of activities related to natural resources;

DESIRING to build their relations on the basis of a continuous dialogue on natural resources and related environmental and other issues of mutual interest to both Parties;

AND DESIRING to continue the development of and strengthening of a stable and long term relationship in this respect;

HAVE AGREED to enter into a Norwegian-Russian Cooperation Program on natural resources and the environment (hereinafter called the Program)

AS FOLLOWS:

1. The purpose of the Program shall be to develop a continuous dialogue on natural resources and environmental and other issues of mutual interest and to promote investment projects with participation of the companies of both Parties.

2. To reach these goals the dialogue shall include the following main issues:
 - *Resource management:*
 - Issues relating to resource management in the onshore/offshore oil and gas sector; such as
 - The licensing, exploration for and production of oil and gas in areas which are non-disputed between the Parties, on the basis of efficient and environmentally friendly technologies;
 - Methods and systems for resource evaluation and classification;
 - Methods and systems for estimation and valuation of oil and natural gas reserves, resources and fields;
 - Methods and systems for risk evaluation;
 - Methods and systems for data management
 - *Environmental issues and safety*
 - Issues relating to safety and environmental issues and contingency planning in relation to exploration for, production and transportation of oil and natural gas;
 - Effects on the environment resulting from oil and gas activities;
 - *Technology*
 - Technology and competence exchange and industrial cooperation concerning onshore/offshore exploration, production and transportation of oil and natural gas
 - *Oil and natural gas markets*
 - The developments in the European and global oil and natural gas markets and its influence on the oil and gas sector and the industry in both countries;
 - *Policy, legislation etc*
 - Issues relating to policy, organisation, legal and financial aspects of the oil and natural gas sectors, including foreign investments in both countries.
3. The Parties will, as appropriate, through regular meetings, seminars and conferences, and the exchange of information and specialists, aim at developing a dialogue and cooperation on energy and environmental issues within the areas mentioned in Section 2 of this Program.
4. Within the frames of this Program, the Parties may on a mutual basis establish working groups for joint work to be carried out within the frames described in Sections 2 of this Program.
5. The Parties will encourage and support the joint development of energy projects on a commercial basis, and will in this respect promote and follow up the cooperation between companies and interested organisations of both countries, within the areas mentioned in Section 2 of this Program.
6. The Parties will, as appropriate, endeavor to promote each others' views on energy issues in relevant international energy fora.

- 7. Meetings on Ministerial level under the Program shall be conducted on a regular basis. Such meetings shall be held in Norway and Russia alternately, unless the Parties otherwise agree.

Stavanger, 28 August 2002

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Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Norway

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Deputy Vice Minister of Natural
Resources, Russian Federation