

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINUTES OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION (HELCOM MINISTERIAL 2013) .....		2
Introduction .....		2
Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda.....	2
Agenda Item 2	Presentation of the draft Declaration/Introduction to the Ministerial debate	2
Agenda Item 3	Statements by HELCOM Observers and International Financial Institutions	3
Agenda Item 4	The Ministerial debate on the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration.....	4
Agenda Item 5	Adoption of the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration .....	7
Agenda Item 6	Closure of the Meeting .....	8
ANNEXES		
Annex 1	List of Participants.....	9
Annex 2	Welcoming address by Ms. Ida Auken, Danish Minister of the Environment.....	17
Annex 3	Agenda.....	19
Annex 4	Statement by Mr. Peter Ehlers on behalf of the Baltic Sea Forum.....	20
Annex 5	Statement by Ms. Christina Gestrin and Ms. Sylvia Bretschneider on behalf of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC).....	21
Annex 6	Statement by Ms. Anne Christine Brusendorff on behalf of the International Council for the Exploration for the Sea (ICES) .....	22
Annex 7	Statement by Ms. Ulla Koski on behalf of Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB).....	24
Annex 8	Statement by Mr. Gunnar Norén on behalf of Environmental NGO (Coalition Clean Baltic, Oceana and World Wide Fund for Nature).....	26
Annex 9	Statement by Ms. Liisa Pietola on behalf of Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE).....	28
Annex 10	Statement by Mr. Magnus Rystedt on behalf of Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Investment Bank (EIB).....	30







they are prioritizing the ecosystem approach, cost efficiency and innovation for nutrient recycling and reducing inputs. Finland also informed of their bilateral co-operation with Russia and Poland to deal with cleaning up pollution hot spots.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the statement by the Minister of Social Affairs and Environment of the Provincial Government of Åland, Ms. Carina Aaltonen. She appreciated the messages from the HELCOM Observers and underlined the need for further actions on the priority issues of eutrophication and over-fishing which they raised.

4.6 The Meeting took note of the contribution by the high-level representative of Germany, Mr. Fritz Holzwarth, Deputy Director-General, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and the German view that the burden of reducing nutrient inputs should be fairly shared by different sectors and that further actions need to be taken in the areas of biodiversity and nature protection, marine protected areas and fisheries. Germany was also of the view that the status of implementation of BSAP should be regularly reviewed and linked to the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

4.7 The Meeting took note of the information presented by the Chief Inspector of Environmental Protection of Poland, Mr. Andrzej Jagusiewicz, concerning implementation of national measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea, including improved agricultural practices, banning of phosphorus in detergents, improved waste water treatment and reduction of emissions of nitrogen oxides. Poland informed the Meeting of recent joint activities with Finland to address nutrient inputs from phosphogypsum piles near Gdansk and Szczecin. Poland also informed of their active involvement in the issue of sea-dumped chemical munitions.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the contribution by the high-level representative of Russia, Mr. Nuritdin Inamov, Director, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, on public-private partnerships established to carry out practical projects for implementing the Baltic Sea Action Plan, including the St. Petersburg Initiative. Russia is involved in various initiatives to nationally develop and promote green shipping and the use of alternative fuels such as liquid natural gas (LNG). Russia also informed of national investment priorities for improvement of waste water treatment infrastructure in the Kaliningrad region.

4.9 The Meeting took note of the input by the Minister of Environment of Sweden, Ms. Lena Ek. Sweden stressed the importance of the scientific basis of HELCOM work and informed that at the moment they are prioritizing activities related to reduction of nutrient inputs, reducing inputs of pharmaceuticals through waste water, improving knowledge for ecosystem-based management of the Baltic marine environment and protection of biodiversity, and further development of selective fishing gear to deal with the discards ban of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

#### *Resolving potential open issues*

4.10 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration 2013, as distributed for the Meeting (cf. document HELCOM HOD 44/2013, 2/1/Rev.1), with focus on three open issues: 1) the updated country allocated reduction targets for nutrients, 2) two proposed measures for reducing losses from agriculture, namely measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices, and annual nutrient accounting on farm level, and 3) Baltic Sea NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area.

4.11 The Meeting considered the revised figures on country allocated reduction targets for nutrients and took note of the position of Poland that at this point of time Poland is ready to accept the country allocated reduction targets for Poland as indicative due to the ongoing national consultations. Poland confirmed their willingness to finalize these consultations as soon as possible, after which the respective footnote in the Ministerial Declaration could be removed.

4.12 The Meeting agreed on the revised figures on country-wise allocation of reduction targets, substituting the provisional country-wise nutrient reduction requirements of the Baltic

Sea Action Plan, taking into account the Polish position as expressed above and noting that Poland will inform on the outcome of their national consultations as soon as possible.

4.13 The Meeting welcomed the information by Poland that they can agree on the proposed wording for the two measures on agriculture, by which the final agreement has been reached on this part of the declaration as follows:

*7 (N). WE DECIDE to investigate measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization with the objective to come to an agreement on national level by 2018;*

*8 (N). WE AGREE to promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses;*

4.14 The proposal of Poland on agriculture related part of the draft Ministerial Declaration was presented at HELCOM HOD 44/2013 and is included in the Minutes of that Meeting.

4.15 The Meeting went on considering the open issues in the draft Declaration on submission of an application to IMO for the designation of the Baltic Sea as a NOx Emission Control Area (NECA) (three open paragraphs).

4.16 The Meeting recalled that in 2010 at the HELCOM Moscow Ministerial Meeting, the environment ministers and high-level representatives of HELCOM Contracting Parties agreed to “*work towards submitting, preferably by 2011, a joint proposal by the Baltic Sea countries to the IMO applying for a NOx Emission Control Area (NECA) status for the Baltic Sea, taking into account the results of the study by HELCOM on economic impacts of a Baltic Sea NECA and to welcome and support the idea of a NOx Emission Control Area in other sea areas, in particular with regard to the North Sea.*”

4.17 The ministers and high-level representatives carried out negotiations involving multilateral meetings and discussions as well as drafting of alternative proposals regarding NECA. Eventually, the Meeting reached an agreement on the following two paragraphs:

*RECALLING the decision of the Moscow Ministerial Meeting on reduction of air-borne nitrogen pollution from shipping which will lead to the reduction of 6930 tons on nitrogen over thirty years WE ALSO STRESS that the achievement of good environmental status in relation to eutrophication in the Baltic Sea also relies on additional reduction efforts by shipping;*

*8 (M) WE TAKE NOTE of the fact that due to the need for further technical consultations amongst some of the Contracting Parties as regards to the availability of technology to implement the Tier III NOx emission standards under MARPOL Annex VI, the application on the Baltic Sea NECA has not yet been submitted to IMO. WE NOTE that in that context, in order to move forward, HELCOM Stakeholder Conference “Baltic Sea – NOx Emission control area” was organized in March 2013 which discussed the availability of technology to implement the Tier III NOx emission standards under MARPOL Annex VI, including further enhancement of existing and development of new relevant technology. A review of the status of technological developments to implement the Tier III NOx emissions standards has been prepared by IMO and considered in May 2013;*

4.18 The Meeting took note of the position of Russia that they are at present unable to agree on a timeframe for the submission of joint NECA application by the HELCOM countries to IMO due to economic considerations.

4.19 The Meeting took note that the remaining Contracting Parties regretted the lack of progress with agreeing on a timing of the joint application to IMO.

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4.20 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union that bearing in mind the HELCOM Moscow Declaration with regard to the submission of a Baltic NECA, the EU and its Baltic Member States that are Contracting Parties to HELCOM confirm their intention to proceed forthwith to submit a formal application to designate the Baltic Sea as NECA in light of the expected IMO MEPC 66 decision on the timeframe for the entry into force of NOx Emission Control Areas.

4.21 The Meeting acknowledged that all possible measures should be taken to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and recognized the potential of shipping to contribute to fighting eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and be a sustainable form of transport and felt that development of new innovations and clean technologies for fuel efficient ships and use of alternative fuels should be promoted.

## **Agenda Item 5 Adoption of the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration**

Documents: None

5.1 The Meeting adopted the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, including:

adopted the following HELCOM Recommendations:

- 34E/1 "Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea";
- 34E/2 "Further testing and developing the concept of pro-active route planning as well as other e-navigation solutions to enhance safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Region";
- 34E/3 "Amendments to Annex VII 'Response to Pollution Accidents' of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, concerning response on the shore";
- 34E/4 "Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea Area";

adopted the following deliverables:

- Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020;
- HELCOM Response Manual Volume III "Response to Pollution Incidents on the shore";
- Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines on the granting of exemptions under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4;
- BSHC-HELCOM Revised Baltic Sea Harmonised Hydrographic Re-Survey Scheme;
- HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy;

endorsed the following deliverables:

- HELCOM Interim Guidance on technical and operational aspects of delivery of sewage by passenger ships to port reception facilities;
- Revised Palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture;
- Palette of measures on cost-efficient management options to reduce discharges, emissions, and losses of hazardous substances.

The HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration is available on HELCOM [website](#).

**Agenda Item 6**

**Closure of the Meeting**

Documents: 6/1

6.1 The Meeting thanked Denmark for excellent hosting of the Meeting.

6.2 The Chair thanked the participants for their efforts to reach a common agreement and the adoption of the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration 2013 - Taking Further Action to Implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

6.3 The Minutes of the Meeting will be finalized in consultation with HELCOM Chair and will be submitted to all Contracting Parties and to any Government, intergovernmental organisation and non-governmental international organisation invited to send observers to the Meeting.

## ANNEX 1

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**ANNEX 2****WELCOMING ADDRESS BY Ms. IDA AUKEN, DANISH MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Dear Ministers and delegates. Dear observers of HELCOM and HELCOM's Secretariat. Welcome to Copenhagen and welcome to the HELCOM Ministerial meeting 2013. I am pleased to see you all.

I know that many of the delegates have had the opportunity to visit the Danish National Aquarium "The Blue Planet" yesterday evening. Unfortunately, I was not able to join you, but I am sure you all had a nice evening. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to study examples of the incredible diversity and beauty of the seas.

And that is exactly why we are gathered here today. We have an important issue to address: How to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea.

What is only too well known to us is that the Baltic Sea is a victim to toxic chemicals, polluting nutrients, negative side effects of modern fisheries and various other changes to its fragile ecosystem.

This unfortunate cocktail poses a direct threat not only to the Baltic Sea, but of course also to all the people and communities, who depend on the Baltic Sea.

My message today is therefore crystal clear: We do not need additional piles of reports documenting the present status of the Baltic Sea in order to make the right decisions. Failure to do so, is simply irresponsible to ourselves and future generations in particular.

Luckily, HELCOM is an ambitious organization and I know that we all work dedicated towards reaching our common goal of reaching good environmental status in the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM is an important platform to enhance and expand cooperation between Baltic Sea states on the one hand and private or public stakeholders on the other hand. Stakeholders, who share our goal of improving the environmental status of the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM cooperate closely with other organizations such as VASAB and OSPAR in order to make the most of our efforts. We engage in various projects with scientists around the Baltic Sea in order to gain more knowledge. Our partners count on HELCOM to deliver results. And so does the public.

Implementing HELCOM's prize-awarding 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan is a continuing challenge to all of us. By now much progress has already been made as a few examples will show.

HELCOM States have already been able to reduce the overall inputs of nutrients to the Baltic Sea by nearly 20% compared to input levels in the mid-nineties.

For biodiversity the good news is that the number of protected areas has been nearly doubled to 160 areas over a ten year period so that the goals of appointing 10% protected areas of the Biodiversity Convention has been fulfilled,

For the maritime area I have noted that all HELCOM countries now have ratified the Antifouling Convention and ratified the MARPOL Annex VI that will enter into force by 2015 just to do a little cherry-picking among the good results our cooperation has provided so far.

It has been and still is the ambition of Denmark as chair of HELCOM that HELCOM continues to be a dynamic, effective and credible partner.

Therefore, it is our ambition to seek an efficient implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in 2007. And to the extent necessary consider additional measures in order to reach the target of good environmental status of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

A key issue is the need to adopt the revised nutrient reduction targets, which we will return to later today.

Furthermore, it is our ambition to promote new initiatives in areas, where action is most needed.

Therefore, I hope we will be able to agree on taking action to curb the impact, which agricultural activity is having on the Baltic Sea.

We should agree to aim at improved farm nutrient management, including calculation of nutrient surplus in fertilization practices, nutrient accounting at the farm level by 2018.

In Denmark we already do this and we have had good results - our marine areas are becoming cleaner and at the same time farmers get more efficient. A win-win situation. If all the Baltic States will decide to follow this path – it will be a very important step in the right direction.

We have also addressed some new and emerging issues. It has been a priority for the Danish Chairmanship of HELCOM to work for achieving improved knowledge in areas, where there are gaps in our present knowledge. This goes for areas like marine litter and invasive species.

For example with regard to marine litter we have decided to develop a regional action plan by 2015 for the Baltic Sea region with the aim of achieving significant quantitative reductions of marine litter by 2025.

This is an ambitious goal and I am proud that all Baltic Sea States have committed to this today.

Another emerging issue which we need to pay more attention is the issue of invasive species. Unfortunately, not all Baltic Sea States have yet ratified the Ballast Water Management Convention, but let me encourage all States to do so as soon as possible – we need this Convention to enter into force. It will effectively improve our ability to combat marine invasive species!

It is important that we cooperate in the Baltic Sea Region in order to have this important Convention implemented in the best possible way. This will be to the benefit of both marine environment, ship owners and producers of ballast water cleaning equipment. Therefore, I am also happy that HELCOM is taking important steps in this direction.

Another important issue which we need to discuss today is the decision to designate the Baltic Sea as a Nox Emission Control Area - a so-called NECA.

At the Moscow HELCOM ministerial meeting in 2010, the participating states agreed to submit an application for a Baltic Sea NECA to the IMO.

I believe most of us expected that now 3 years later, the application for a NECA would already have been submitted to IMO. But to my regret, it has not yet been possible to agree on the timing for this until now.

I believe that it is essential to send a clear message to the industry quickly, and give the industry an opportunity to adjust to the new rules.

It is my sincere wish that today we will be able to agree on sending the application to the IMO. If we fail to do so the marine environment will pay the price. And so will developers of green technology and the possibility for having important blue, green growth in our region.

This is a key issue for Denmark and I believe it is a key issue for HELCOM in order to continue to be the credible, ambitious and proactive regional player it is today.

Today we need to take key decisions to improve the environment of the Baltic Sea. The decisions will form the path for our future work towards this goal.

It is my sincere hope that today's discussions and decisions will guide us in this direction.

Thank you for your attention and I wish us all a good meeting.

**ANNEX 3**

**AGENDA**

- 1** Adoption of the Agenda
- 2** Presentation of the draft Declaration/Introduction to the Ministerial debate
- 3** Statements by HELCOM Observers and International Financial Institutions
- 4** The Ministerial debate on the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration
- 5** Adoption of the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration
- 6** Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX 4****STATEMENT BY MR. PETER EHLERS ON BEHALF OF THE BALTIC SEA FORUM**

Madame Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. The Baltic Sea Forum is a NGO, networking closely within partners from industry, politics, social, cultural and other fields in all Baltic Sea states. It understands itself as an interest group for the Baltic Sea region to support integration and cooperation, not at least with regard to a sustainable, environmentally friendly development of this region.

Having been granted observer status the Baltic Sea Forum aims at contributing to the successful work of HELCOM. In addition to all the substantial matters and decisions to reduce pollution and protect the ecosystem it is necessary to raise the awareness in particular of the young generation as concerns the environmental problems, but also the opportunities of the Baltic Sea. For that reason the Baltic Sea Forum has organized several HELCOM Youth Forums in Germany with the generous support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment. The latest one took place in Rostock at the end of last year, arranged by the Baltic Sea Forum and Rostock University. 33 students from all Baltic Sea States attended this three days event. The students got the latest information about Baltic Sea issues from high ranking experts and discussed in several interdisciplinary working groups the topic "The Baltic Sea between blue growth and green limits". They summarized their visions, demands and ideas in the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Resolution. We are very grateful that we have got the opportunity to present the resolution at this meeting. Two students from the Russian Federation and Denmark will now hand over the resolution to you, Madame Chair. We hope very much that the resolution will be considered by the Commission and may contribute to protect the Baltic Sea ecosystem and advance the sustainable development of this sea area.

Thank you for giving me the floor.

**ANNEX 5****STATEMENT BY MS. CHRISTINA GESTRIN AND MS. SYLVIA BRETSCHNEIDER ON BEHALF OF THE BALTIC SEA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE (BSPC)**

BSPC has been a staunch supporter of the HELCOM BSAP since its inception in 2007. We hope and believe that we – being elected representatives of our citizens – can serve as a stakeholder that adds political weight and popular credibility to the work of saving the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM and the BSAP have been instrumental in pushing ecological progress. Waste water treatment capacity has been improved. Many hot spots have been deleted. The ban on phosphorous in detergents will contribute to a cleaner sea, just like the ban on ship sewage that will hopefully enter into full force by 2018. Large volumes of phosphorous leakage emanating from gypsum mountains have been detected.

But the work is far from over. We urge the governments to undertake firm, concrete and persistent commitments to realize the BSAP on time. Governments, financial institutions and private financial actors should provide sufficient financial resources both to project development and to concrete investments.

We are concerned about the status and future of the so-called BSAP Fund. The Fund has a proven track record and functions as an important catalyst for facilitating project development and innovation.

Saving the Baltic Sea is a matter of ecological survival and of preserving continued deliveries from its ecosystem services. It is also an opportunity to gain competitiveness in Clean Tech and Green and Blue Growth, which will bring jobs, a sounder environment and better health.

There is no time to lose. The promise that was given to our citizens in 2007 – to restore the good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021 – must be honoured.

The national and regional parliaments have and also will in the future support the BSAP goals through appropriate parliamentary resolutions. As sitting vice chair of the BSPC and observer to HELCOM for many years I recognize the close and efficient cooperation between both institutions as vital part of that process.

In the BSPCs latest resolution we underpinned the necessity to immediately take measures to reduce eutrophication and pollution of the Baltic Sea, in particular by joint efforts to improve the capacity for purification of sewage waste.

The promotion of green technology and alternative fuels in shipping, to reduce airborne emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases from ships is an essential necessity when it comes to combatting eutrophication within the Baltic Sea.

Therefore we see the necessity to strengthen innovation in support of new cleaner technologies as well as best current available technologies, to improve marine safety and clean fuels as well as energy efficient solutions for transportation on land and sea within the Baltic Sea region.

However, without the consistent engagement of the shipping industry this will be an even more difficult task. The BSPC therefore, explicitly supports in its resolution the efforts of the Helsinki Commissions “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping”.

I would like to conclude by conveying our sincere appreciation for this opportunity to elaborate on the main concerns of the BSPC. Many thanks for your attention.

**ANNEX 6****STATEMENT BY MS. ANNE CHRISTINE BRUSENDORFF ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION FOR THE SEA (ICES)**

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear HELCOM colleagues:

During my intervention I would like to raise three issues,

- the role of ICES in providing regionalized science, advice, as well as data and operational products;
- how ICES through this work is ready to further support and contribute to the work of HELCOM; and
- how this is embedded in the upcoming renewed ICES Strategic Plan, which HELCOM is invited to provide their specific comments to.

As regards to the first issue; ICES recognizes the importance of regionalization and development of understanding at the scale of specific eco-regions. ICES links this work to the requirements under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as to national and international obligations which require countries to use an integrated ecosystem based approach in managing how humans use the goods and services provided by the marine environment.

This work takes the form of various activities, such as;

- our role as coordinator - in four eco-regions (the Northeast Atlantic, the North Sea, the Bay of Biscay, and the Baltic Sea) - of international data collection, and as facilitator of access to marine data. For example, every year ICES coordinates and receives data from over 1200 ship days at sea, from 109 surveys, with extensive dataset collections accessible via online web portals which can be displayed both thematically and geographically, and thus make up the basis for integrated monitoring surveys,
- our contribution to the development of indicators for how to describe the status of the marine environment, and to further the development of these into operational data products to be used in assessments,
- our integrated ecosystem assessments, and overviews, including assessment criteria, enabling a comparison across eco-regions,
- our work related to ecosystem modeling, scenarios, and risk based approaches, as well as,
- specific advice on: common methods for indicators for biodiversity, alien species, food webs, and sea-floor integrity, maximized use, and integration of existing data sources to develop the indicators.

This leads me to my second issue, the cooperation between HELCOM and ICES.

To follow-up on this work ICES has arranged meetings with representatives from four Regional Seas Commissions: HELCOM, OSPAR, Black Sea Commission, and Mediterranean Coordination Unit, as well as the European Environment Agency, and the European Commission, DG Environment. This is to ensure synergies in the work with other organizations, and to make sure that ICES is providing added value, as we want to guarantee that we are using our expertise as efficiently and effectively as possible in fulfilling the requirements of an ecosystem based approach.

ICES would be interested in furthering this cooperation with HELCOM, in the same spirit as the already well-established relations in the field of data platforms, data management and provision of data products. We see good examples of our joined forces, such as the on-going work to establish a joint VMS data-call for a Marine Spatial Planning Workshop arranged later during this year; and would like to further explore opportunities for such joint actions.

Finally, and as my third and last issue – I would like to point out that ICES is charting its direction and activities for the next five years, 2014-2018, through the adoption of the ICES Strategic Plan.

A draft version of this plan has been sent to stakeholders and cooperation partners, including HELCOM, and ICES would be delighted to get feedback from HELCOM by 17 October on whether special Baltic issues and needs have been addressed.

The potential for cooperation and synergies is high but requires efficient coordination at regional and interregional level. ICES is ready for and would welcome such further cooperation with HELCOM.

**ANNEX 7****STATEMENT BY MS. ULLA KOSKI ON BEHALF OF VISION AND STRATEGIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA (VASAB)**

VASAB (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea) is a cooperation of ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of eleven countries in Baltic Sea Region (BSR) – the EU countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden as well as Norway, Russia and Belarus. The main mission of the inter-governmental pan-Baltic organization is to prepare policy options for spatial development of the Region and to provide a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the BSR countries. Since 1992 VASAB had been working with macro-regional spatial developments issues in the Region. It is part of the network of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS). VASAB is steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of the respective ministries responsible for spatial planning and development as well as of regional authorities of Germany and Russia.

VASAB appreciates the work carried out jointly by VASAB and HELCOM towards better coordination of maritime spatial planning processes in the Baltic Sea Region. The work has mutually benefited both organisations by bringing closer together the VASAB experience on long-term territorial development as well as on terrestrial and maritime spatial planning with HELCOM experience on safeguarding the marine eco-system of the Baltic Sea.

Since the adoption of HELCOM Ministerial Declaration in Moscow in 2010 considerable progress have been achieved by the established Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.

Work carried out by the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group has contributed to the implementation of VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP), endorsed by the 7th VASAB Ministerial Conference on 16 October 2009. The LTP covers policies for which the transnational cooperation in spatial planning may contribute substantially and maritime spatial planning and management is one of the three prioritised issues underlined by the LTP and its action agenda.

This approach followed in the Baltic Sea Region is also a concrete example of implementing the Territorial Agenda 2020 of the European Union at macro-regional level and in close collaboration of EU and non-EU states.

The Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles adopted by HELCOM Heads of Delegations and VASAB CSPD/BSR have already been applied via pilot maritime spatial planning projects as well as by regular maritime spatial planning activities commenced and carried out by the Baltic Sea Region countries.

VASAB is looking forward to evaluate how the practical use of these Principles affects maritime spatial planning and accordingly how and to what extent they contribute to the improvement of the environmental state of the Baltic Sea and the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

VASAB notes the prominent role that both organizations - VASAB and HELCOM have been designated by the EU Member States in relation to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) - Leaders of the Horizontal Action "Spatial planning". In addition, the "Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation to the year 2020" and the "Development Strategy of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation" show efforts made by the Russian Federation in tackling environmental problems and promoting economic development in the Baltic Sea area.

The EUSBSR Horizontal Action "Spatial planning" is encouraging the use of maritime and land-based spatial planning in all EU Member States around the Baltic Sea and develops a common approach for cross-border cooperation. A strategic target of the Horizontal Action

“Spatial planning” is to draw up and apply of trans-boundary, ecosystem–based Maritime Spatial Plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region in 2020 and to better integrate land-based and maritime spatial planning.

VASAB supports necessary steps for drawing up and implementing Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea region proposed by the Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap. Furthermore, VASAB also supports extension of the mandate of the Working Group in order to implement the Roadmap. The Roadmap shall be periodically updated according to the need.

VASAB underlines the need to take into consideration all existing knowledge on maritime spatial planning in the Region inter alia gained via pilot cases and transnational projects and utilize full potential of multi-level and cross-sectoral stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the Roadmap.

VASAB urges to make further use of programmes in particular the transnational Baltic Sea Region programme 2014-2020 in order to tackle the challenges for sustainable spatial planning and management of the Baltic Sea through respective projects.

VASAB as a community with spatial planning competence deems maritime spatial planning as a steering wheel for ensuring sustainable use of sea resources and it’s space. VASAB also consider that at the moment it is of the utmost importance to find solutions how to use natural capital of the sea for development of the regions that are being suffering from economic decline (due to fishery downturn for example). Innovative activities with foreseeing appropriate spaces have to be looked for these regions.

Furthermore, new ideas and solutions might be to be looked for purification of the marine waters. Spatial measures can be very helpful there. Along with traditional land-based activities that are being widely recognised and applied for improvement of the quality of sea water, much significance should be paid to the promotion of measures/activities that can be properly planned and carried out in marine waters, like development of aquacultures and planting of suitable vegetation useful for water purification and diminishing of nutrients.

VASAB is looking forward to close collaboration with HELCOM in further application and assessment of Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles in practice.

**ANNEX 8****STATEMENT BY MR. GUNNAR NORÉN ON BEHALF OF ENVIRONMENTAL NGO (COALITION CLEAN BALTIC, OCEANA AND WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE)**

Dear Ministers, High-level representatives, friends

On behalf of the environmental NGO observers to HELCOM, we Coalition Clean Baltic, Oceana and WWF appreciate the opportunity to address this Ministerial Meeting focused upon the review of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. As you know, we welcomed HELCOM's initiative and ambition in 2007 to deliver wide-scale and decisive actions necessary to achieve a good environmental status for the Baltic Sea by 2021.

In practice, however, despite the high ambitions and the frequent reference to the innovative approach of this action plan, six years after its signing it has yet to deliver upon its promise. Countries are lagging far behind on their National Implementation Programmes. Concerted initiatives and concrete actions to achieve a sufficient reduction of nutrient input from agriculture, to control the spread of hazardous substances, reduce the impacts from fisheries and to protect biodiversity are still largely lacking. In other words, the real work to deliver the BSAP is yet to be done, a fact which we believe should be at the core of discussions today. Importantly, this challenge – the lack of implementation as well as ambition - is an opinion that is shared by some contracting parties not simply the environmental NGOs.

It has been further highlighted that the ministerial statement you will soon agree to, will likely be much less ambitious than the original BSAP. Thus, there is a danger that the BSAP is turning into an empty paper. Should the BSAP fail, it will prove devastating for not only the Baltic Sea environment, but undermine the entire basis for prosperous development in the region. This current non-action is not only jeopardizing the BSAP but the timely implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the realization of other EU policies that rely on effective regional coordination such as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Water Framework Directive and expected future legislation on Maritime Spatial Planning.

We are aware that that the political situation in countries is making the setting and follow through of ambitious plans increasingly difficult. Which is why we realize your position as environment ministers is not an easy one – as in many cases the pressures are coming from elsewhere. This is why we believe your counterparts from other ministries – agriculture, fisheries, finance, enterprise, etc. ought to be meaningfully engaged in this discussion which is why we have urged their support of your strong leadership at this meeting as well as their continued commitment to work with you closely on these issues going forward. It is clear that a much more integrated approach to the management of the Baltic Sea, involving all relevant ministries and sectors, is urgently needed in order to secure sustainable economic and social development in the region.

Importantly, there is an increasing body of evidence which demonstrates the case for action is not simply environmental. A recent report produced by the Boston Consulting Group, *Turning Adversity into Opportunity* shows that measures to restore the health of the Baltic Sea could bring 550,000 jobs and €32 billion Euros in annual value added to the region by 2030. Saving the Baltic Sea is therefore of interest for not only the environment itself, but for the development of the entire region. This study is complemented by the BalticSTERN report which states that the economic benefits of reaching the BSAP targets are in the magnitude of one billion Euroes per year.

So, we and other citizens of the Baltic Sea region can rightfully ask: what is holding you back? The recovery of the Baltic Sea should be the one issue that we all agree on.

Given these clear signals about the environmental and economic case for action, and the increasing awareness and engagement of the general public in demanding action to save the Sea, we urge you ministers and your entire governments to show strong leadership and

agree to implement the actions your countries have already committed to – as well as identify additional actions where needed.

We furthermore urge you to use your time wisely today to discuss and answer the following key questions:

- What concrete steps will you take to ensure the successful implementation of the BSAP?
- How will you secure effective cooperation across all contracting parties, recognizing that costs and benefits must be shared in an equitable manner in order to reach the BSAP and that financial support must be identified?
- How will you address the present failures in implementation, cooperate to address these and agree upon an ambitious but realistic plan to set the Baltic Sea Action Plan back on track?

Specifically, we urge your commitment to agree upon stronger actions to:

- Apply nutrient-balanced fertilization practices on farmland in accordance with Helcom Annex III for all future investments for agricultural production should at least meet a requirement of maximum Nitrogen-surplus of 50 kg N/ha/year.
- BSAP to "establish a list of Hot Spots identifying existing installations for the intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs not fulfilling the requirements in the revised Annex III of the Helsinki Convention", has, in spite of two Ministerial decisions, not been implemented.
- Ensuring comprehensive management plans for marine protected areas, regulating unsustainable activities, like bottom trawling inside protected areas, which are threatening natural values and resources.
- Taking the necessary steps to reduce the negative impacts from fisheries by taking steps to address the insufficient selectivity that causes low survival of undersize cod in cod bottom-trawling which is jeopardizing the development of sustainable and natural cod stocks
- Prioritize development and implementation of fisheries management plans, including full closures, within existing protected areas
- Actively secure the conservation at least ten endangered/threatened wild salmon river populations in the Baltic Sea region as well as the reintroduction of native Baltic Sea salmon in at least four potential salmon rivers, which is today not being sufficiently addressed nor implemented.

Importantly, we should also remember the worsening of the eutrophication because of climate change effects, have not been taken into account when calculating Maximum Allowable Nutrient Input to the Baltic Sea. Which is why rather than looking to decrease the ambitious nature of the nutrient reduction targets, they should actually be strengthened.

The Baltic Sea belongs to us all and should be a source of enjoyment, beauty and sustainable use for generations to come. We stand ready to support you in our collective outreach work around the region to deliver the BSAP and thus its vision of *"a healthy Baltic Sea, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human, economic and social activities,"* by 2021 at the latest.

And finally, you should also be aware of the strong public support you have from Baltic region citizens, to decide on powerful actions to restore the Baltic Sea environment. The Race for the Baltic campaign this summer, will inform you more on these aspects asking you to show strong leadership and agree to implement actions speedy, that can make a real difference the coming years.

Thank you.

**ANNEX 9****STATEMENT BY MS. LIISA PIETOLA ON BEHALF OF BALTIC FARMERS' FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT (BFFE)**

Dear Ministers, Excellences and Delegates

On behalf of the around 2 million farmers around the Baltic Sea I appreciate being invited to provide the views on the revised Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Ministerial Declaration from the Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment.

First, let me congratulate the HELCOM contracting parties and observers representing NGOs and various sectors with the impressive nutrient load reductions that have taken place within all sectors and all countries since 1985. We believe that these massive reductions clearly demonstrate how seriously farmers and other sectors as well as all countries have taken on the Baltic Sea challenge. We observe the current levels are getting close to the optimal nutrient load levels as defined by the so-called Maximum Allowable Inputs according to recent authoritative studies by the Baltic Nest Institute.

We feel this positive trend and situation should be made more transparent and visible.

At the same time the Baltic Nest Institute have found that the recovery time of the Baltic Sea is most likely more than 50 years, thus far beyond the target year of 2021 the Ministers will now sign.

Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE) support ambitious but realistic objectives. BFFE notes that scientists explain the long recovery time of the Sea as a consequence of earlier decades of excessive loads of phosphorous that have accumulated in bottom sediments. The phosphorous rich bottom sediments have led to internal loads being five times or even more as large as the loads from the land areas. Thus, keeping focus exclusively on land based diffuse load will prolong the time it takes to reach the common target to reduce eutrophication. Waterborne nitrogen and phosphorous load to the Baltic Sea need to be seen as a part of complex nutrient recycling where the role of internal load is significant.

The present Ministerial meeting will further adopt the revised country-allocated reduction targets (CART) for nitrogen and phosphorous.

These national targets are taken directly from a model with major uncertainties, because of e.g. different soil and climate conditions and limited data base especially regarding diffuse loads from lands and sediments. Still, the targets are presented with one ton precision. Furthermore, the uncertainties have led to some countries getting national targets that are exceeding the current total loads and thus being physically impossible to achieve.

Despite of remarkable uncertainties we note with concern that these figures will be used quite directly. The updated BSAP should provide a framework with ambitious but realistic objectives, leaving sufficient flexibility to the farmers and others, recognizing that regional or even farm specific solutions are often needed.

Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE) firmly believes that undertaking a socio-economic impact assessment is necessary to make the BSAP more robust and improve its legitimacy, especially if the reduction targets and objectives will be connected to the environmental targets in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Clearly the countries around the Baltic Sea are in different phases of improved nutrient handling and efficiency and thus also as regards reducing nutrient losses from farming. This also means that the national mix of agri-environmental legislation and other instruments such as agri-environment advisory and the use of the agri-environmental scheme in the Rural Development Program differ among the HELCOM Contracting States.

This is justified, and works well. If the countries would like to introduce new legislation, it needs to be smart legislation which encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, and improved

resource utilization and that relies on the farmers' sense of responsibility and trust, instead of top-down control.

This is one of the main points advocated by the three large EU-financed international projects *Baltic Deal*, *Baltic Manure* and *Baltic Compass* implemented within the context of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The projects have engaged thousands of stakeholders in exchange about agrienvironment practices, technologies, advice and policy approaches. A concrete example of the successful cooperation is the major conference "*A Greener Agriculture for a Bluer Baltic Sea*" organized every year since 2009.

This type of dialogue and knowledge sharing on different levels can help to realize sustainable agriculture and bring new actors and sectors on board to contribute to the health of the Baltic Sea. Within the projects, there is common understanding that agriculture, which builds on modern food production and sustainable soil and water management, is a key to a sustainable and resilient Baltic Sea Region.

BFFE hopes that the HELCOM contracting parties surrounding the Baltic Sea thus can support the farmers' and other related organization's plans for continuation of these innovative macro-regional flagship projects.

We need resource efficient agriculture which slowly improves the Status of the Baltic Sea, but also more cost-efficient and immediate actions. According to recent results, we have a significant potential to reduce the nutrient load in a cost-efficient way by waste water treatments.

*Dear audience* – We, farmers do have our share to reduce nutrient load from the land areas. We work for a bluer Baltic Sea and for food security under varying climate and soil conditions. Our important task is to produce food for the people around the Sea. Nutrients are precious and essential for food production and we try to utilize them in the most efficient way. Our goal is to produce nutritious food with optimal nutrient use according to crops' needs.

To combine both natural and human needs, farmers need financial capacity to invest in modern technology, new technological solutions for better farming practices, and support from agrienvironmental advisory services.

Above all we need trust from the society – confidence that we care about the Sea and will save it together with other sectors. Sustainability and work over generations is a part of our everyday work.

**ANNEX 10****STATEMENT BY MR. MAGNUS RYSTEDT ON BEHALF OF NORDIC ENVIRONMENT FINANCE CORPORATION (NEFCO), NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK (NIB), EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD) AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)**

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates!

It is an honour for me to represent at this important meeting not only my own institution NEFCO but also our IFI colleagues from the NIB, EBRD and EIB., The international financial institutions have been actively involved in the HELCOM process already for more than 20 years, since starting preparation of the Joint Comprehensive Action Programme. Many important projects have been and are being implemented with the participation by the financial institutions and with donor support through the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership and the BSAP Fund. With regard to BSAP Fund 34 projects have been approved and are under implementation. Within NDEP 24 investment projects with a total value of 1 360 million EUR are under implementation or completed in Russia and Belarus aiming to reduce phosphorus loads into the Baltic Sea with 2,100 tonnes/a. Worth to note is that since October this year almost all wastewater in St. Petersburg is treated due to financing from IFIs, NDEP and the Russian federation. Despite the many successes we are discontent that the project in Kaliningrad is not yet completed, however, we are confident that a successful completion can be achieved if all efforts are focused to complete the project. Several actions are very satisfying but as many indicators show, it is still not enough. More concrete action is needed to restore the health of the Baltic Sea. In this respect the Baltic Sea Action Plan of 2007 was a welcome step forward in setting clearer goals. From the perspective of the financial institutions it is worthwhile to recall, once again, that banks and investors do not finance programs – they finance specific projects that demonstrate economic, financial, institutional, technical and environmental feasibility. In this respect the National Implementation Programs have to be developed further to provide the necessary guidance to identify and prioritize concrete projects that can attract and absorb investment financing. Still, the most tangible parameter for project selection is the HELCOM requirements for wastewater treatment. Of course there are various important actions that are not investment-related, but it stands clear that reaching the ambitious goals of HELCOM can only be achieved if and when substantial additional investments are carried out across the catchment area. We therefore encourage the HELCOM Contacting Parties to ensure that going forward, identification and prioritization of what we, using well established HELCOM terminology, can call “Hot Spot Projects” is kept in the forefront and we welcome and support the proposed Ministerial Declaration in this respect. The International and National Financial Institutions are committed to continue supporting the HELCOM process and stand ready to provide the financing for bankable projects in a structured manner as shown successfully by the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership.

Thank you for your attention!