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<b>Agenda Item</b>	5 - Review and updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention
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### Background

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting adopted the [HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration](#) including the [Revised Palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture](#). The attached document contains extracts of the 2013 Declaration in relation to agro-environmental measures.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and use it as background for the discussion.

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## Extracts from the Declaration of the Ministers of the Environment of the Baltic Coastal Countries and the EU Environment Commissioner (HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration 2013)

### Nutrient Pollution from air and waterborne sources on land

#### *Agriculture*

**1 (N).** RECOGNISING challenges in addressing diffuse pollution, ACKNOWLEDGING that sustainable agricultural production is a key to the success of reaching Good Environmental Status, and BEING AWARE that modernization and future development of agriculture production in the Baltic Sea region, including effective nutrient management can bring opportunities for better addressing nutrient losses to the sea;

**2 (N).** WE AGREE to make use of appropriate policy and economic instruments such as full implementation of EU *aquis* including EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Common Agricultural Policy for EU Member States and funding opportunities on national and international level, as well as economic levies and incentives, in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture and thus contribute to keeping the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea below the Maximum Allowable Inputs;

**3 (N).** WE AGREE to initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environment effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs;

**4 (N).** WE AGREE to facilitate enhanced transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples as well as development of co-operation projects to reduce agricultural impact on the Baltic Sea;

**5 (N).** WE RE-ITERATE the commitment to implement and enforce the provisions of part II of Annex III "Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture" of the Helsinki Convention and SUPPORT its effective and cost-efficient implementation;

**6 (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;

**7 (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;

**8 (N).** WE AGREE to follow-up and exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments, both voluntary and mandatory, as well as measures for improved farm nutrient management;

**9 (N).** With a view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization WE ALSO AGREE to establish by 2016 national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure and to develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards;

**10 (N).** WE AGREE to initiate and accomplish by 2016 a review and an updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching good environmental status;

**11 (N).** Awaiting the release of the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs (to become legally binding under the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions), WE AGREE on the application of at least equally ambitious BAT throughout the region, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses;

**12 (N).** RECOGNIZING the concerns about limited future supplies of nutrients, especially phosphorus, and the water and soil pollution caused by the losses at several steps of their lifecycle, STRESSING the need for

sustainable use of nutrients, AGREE to enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and waste water treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology;

**13 (N).** WE AGREE to apply innovative water management measures, in particular under difficult soil conditions, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations in the outlets of the adjacent catchment;