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| Document title | Proposal for Work Plan for updating the Annex III |
| Code | 5-3 |
| Category | DEC |
| Agenda Item | 5 - Review and updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention |
| Submission date | 14.11.2014 |
| Submitted by | Finland |
| Reference | |

Background

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to initiate and accomplish by 2016 a review and updating of part II of Annex III of the 1992 Helsinki Convention. The HELCOM Heads of Delegation have also addressed the need for revision and reconfirmed that the needs of BSAP as well as current part of II of Annex III "Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture" should be regarded as minimum requirements for the revision process. Moreover, in the Terms of Reference of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices the work of updating the part II of the Annex III of the Convention has been assigned one of the duties of the Group.

Since the inception of the Annex III, there have been changes in legislation and also developments in manure management and cultivation technology as well as in animal feeding. In addition to animal manure and mineral fertilizers, new organic fertilization products have been employed but the major part of the Annex is still valid and should not be opened. To smoothen the updating, Finland proposes to focus on the following existing or new areas and topics:

- checking the equivalence of headings with contents of the regulations and sub-regulations
- application of other organic fertilizers
- use of national nutrient balances
- manure spreading technologies
- animal feeding in reducing nutrient load
- nutrient recycling issues such as cooperation between crop and animal farms
- checking the validity of Regulation 3 (Plant protection products) against current EU legislation.

The HELCOM Revised Palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture should be utilized in the updating.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposed topics for revision and to decide on the Work Plan and schedule for updating the Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention as appropriate.