



Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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Category	DEC
Agenda Item	2 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	23.10.2014
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM 35-2014 (paragraph 3.20) and HOD 46-2014 (paragraphs 3.10 and 4.44)

Background

With reference to the Outcome of HELCOM 35-2014 (paragraph 3.20) and HELCOM HOD 46-2014 (paragraph 3.10 and 4.44), the First Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 1-2014) will be held on 20-21 November 2014 at the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (address: Strandgade 29, 1401 Copenhagen K). The Meeting will be **opened on Thursday, 20 November 2014, at 10:00** and it is expected to **close on Friday, 21 November 2014, no later than by 16:00**.

It is expected that the Meeting will be attended by relevant representatives from agriculture and environment authorities of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as EU, and HELCOM Observers.

The Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) for the Meeting in the HELCOM Meeting Portal no later than **by 13 November 2014**.

The main aims of the Meeting are:

- to elaborate a Work Plan for the future work of the Agri Group according to the Terms of Reference (ToR), including timetables and assigning lead parties,
- to discuss and plan activities aimed at implementation of the commitments of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting according to the ToR, in particular related to revision of the part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure and phosphorus recycling.

Meeting documents for AGRI 1-2014 will be submitted by the Secretariat via the HELCOM Meeting Portal. The Secretariat has prepared a document template and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat kindly requests the Contracting Parties and Observers to observe the deadlines for submission of documents to a HELCOM meeting. The basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision to the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to Professional Secretary, Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 29 October 2014**. Bulky documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the meeting. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat **by 13 November 2014**.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Election of Chair

The Meeting is invited to elect a Chair for the Group for a two-year period.

Agenda Item 3 Outcome of HELCOM modernization

HELCOM has gone through the process of streamlining its activities and modernizing its operation, including the working structure. The outcome of the streamlining is contained in document 3-1.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Terms of Reference of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri Group), adopted by the 46th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation, as contained in document 3-2. The tasks of the Group are defined by the ToR.

Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group

The Meeting is invited to take note of the HELCOM priorities during the Estonian Chairmanship (2014-2016) as contained in document 4-1.

The Meeting will be informed on outcomes of the recent meetings relevant to the Agri Group activities.

Agenda Item 5 Review and updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention

According to the Terms of Reference for the Group and following the commitments of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, one of the main tasks of the Group is to review and an update, by 2016, part II "Prevention of pollution from agriculture" of Annex III "Criteria and measures concerning the prevention of pollution from land-based sources" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching Good Environmental Status.

According to the ToR for the Group (see document 3-2), there are certain Ministerial commitments which should be associated to the review/update of Annex. These associated Ministerial commitments have been included in the agenda items below and represent a non exhaustive list.

Following the suggestion by AGRI-ENV 6-2014, HOD 46-2014 approved the establishment of a Drafting Group for review and updating of part II of Annex III as intersessional work to be able to meet the 2016 deadline. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden have nominated representatives for the Drafting Group. Also Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Baltic Farmers Forum on Environment (BFFE) and WWF, as HELCOM Observers, have nominated representatives for the Drafting Group.

The remaining Contracting Parties are invited to nominate their representatives.

The Meeting is invited to outline the scope of the review and update of the part II of Annex III and identify the next steps and Lead Country/Countries. The Secretariat will prepare an initial proposal for how to take the work forward to serve as a basis for discussion.

Agenda Item 6 Farm nutrient management and balanced fertilization, including annual nutrient accounting

Following the commitments of 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and according to the ToRs for the Agri Group, the Group is invited to organize activities addressed to introduction of annual nutrient accounting at farm level.

Denmark and Germany will be invited to inform on their possibility to lead the work on developing measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and introduction of annual nutrient accounting at farm level in particular.

The Meeting is invited to discuss possible contribution of the activity to the revision of part II of Annex III.

Agenda Item 7 Prioritization of measures in areas critical to nitrogen and phosphorus losses

AGRI-ENV 6-2014 considered that one of the ways forward with regard to areas critical to nutrients losses would be to prepare a project proposal that could apply for funding from e.g. next round of the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020. Such a project could address e.g. identification/verification of areas critical to nutrient pollution, including potential designation of such areas in Belarus and Russia, based on the same approaches as the ones applied for Nitrate Directive for EU Member States, as well as improvement of manure storage capacities across the BSR, especially beyond the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Outcome of AGRI-ENV 6-2014, paragraph 4.18).

As a follow-up the Secretariat has developed an idea for a project to deal with reduction of nutrients discharge to the Baltic Sea from intensive animal farming in catchment areas highly vulnerable to nutrient losses (to be submitted at a later stage). The project proposal has been presented at the Steering Committee meeting of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Priority Area Nutri and will be considered as a potential Flagship project for the Priority Area.

The Meeting is invited to consider the project idea and discuss possible next steps, including potential lead party and partners.

The Meeting is invited to discuss possible contribution of the activity to the revision of part II of Annex III.

Agenda Item 8 Nutrient content in manure

In order to fully utilize nutrient contained in manure, the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting committed to establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure. According to the ToR, the Group is invited to organize relevant activities.

Finland has confirmed the possibility to take the lead for the work on nutrient content in manure (Outcome of HOD 46-2014, paragraph 4.45). Finland is invited to present a proposal on the way forward. In line with the discussions in the Agriculture and Environment Forum, Russia is invited to consider co-leading this activity.

The Meeting is invited to discuss possible contribution of the activity to the revision of part II of Annex III.

Agenda Item 9 Phosphorous recycling

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress within the Pressure WG on a proposal for a draft recommendation on sewage sludge handling prepared by Germany and Sweden.

The Meeting is invited to propose other measures aimed at recycling of nutrients, especially phosphorus, and consider possibilities to develop appropriate methodologies.

Agenda Item 10 Work Plan

Following the ToR for the Agri Group and taking into account commitments of the 2013 Ministerial Meeting and also the outcome of AGRI/ENV 6-2014 the Secretariat will come up with an outline for the Work Plan for the Group. The Meeting is invited to consider the outline and develop the Work Plan further with the aim to have it presented to HOD 47-2014 for adoption.

Agenda Item 11 Any other business

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to check the list of official contacts for the Agri Group and to nominate members to the Group.

Finland and Poland, acting as the Coordinators of the Priority Areas Nutri and Agri of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) are invited to inform on the progress of the flagship projects under specific priority areas of relevance to the Group, as well as in general the progress in implementation of the Strategy and future plans.

The Contracting Parties, being EU Member States, might wish to provide information on national plans on how the new rural development programmes under the next period of EU Common Agricultural Policy are expected to contribute to water protection and nutrient load reductions, including specific measures, mechanisms and financing for these activities.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues relevant for the work of the Group.

Agenda Item 12 Future meetings

According to the ToR, the Agri Group will meet once per year/three times per two years taking into account any window of opportunities for contributing to or interacting with other processes.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the date and venue of the next meeting(s) of the Group. Contracting Parties are invited to consider hosting the meeting(s).

Agenda Item 13 Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with a draft Outcome of the Meeting for adoption. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.