



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 11-2021), will be held online, 27-28 April 2021.

The Meeting will be opened on **Tuesday, 27 April, at 9:00 CEST/10:00 EEST** and is expected to terminate by **16:00 CEST/17 EEST on Wednesday, 28 April 2021**.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the AGRI 11-2021 [Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please find [here](#) instructions for signing up as a first-time user of the Meeting Portal. After the sign up, the participants are kindly requested to sign in and to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **by 20 April 2021**.

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; susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 5 April 2021**. 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 20 April 2021**.

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 Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group

The Meeting will be informed of the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings which are of relevance for the Agri group, in particular, meetings of HODs, PRESSURE, GEAR, etc.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress with the BSAP update, to be presented by the Secretariat.

Additional information on the actions

As outlined in the workplan for the BSAP update, the HELCOM Working Groups will in spring 2021 collect additional information for the actions planned to be included to the updated BSAP. Such additional information includes, for example, the possible effect of the action, relevant pressures and activities targeted by the actions, the implementing entity etc. and the information is planned to be used to support the implementation of the actions as well as the follow-up. Originally, the information was planned to be included as an annex to the updated BSAP and approved by HOD 60-2021 in June 2021, but HELCOM 42-2021 agreed that, instead, the information should be presented as a supporting document for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 to provide context for and support the implementation and follow up of the actions. HELCOM 42-2021 also agreed that the supporting document will be submitted for review to HOD 60-2021 and for approval to an intersessional HOD meeting in early September in 2021.

The Meeting is invited to consider additional information on the actions related to agriculture and agree on possible further step to advance the work ensuring that it is finalized prior to HOD 60-2021 (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

HELCOM Explorer

The Meeting is invited to note that the updated [HELCOM Explorer](#) was launched in autumn 2020 and that reporting on national actions by the countries as well as the reporting on the joint actions by the Working Groups endorsed by HOD 59-2020 has been included to the HELCOM Explorer.

Agenda Item 4 Revision of part 2 of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention

The Contracting Parties agreed in the 2013 Ministerial Meeting to review [Part 2 of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention](#) "Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture", in order to better serve the purpose of reaching good environmental status.

The following scope for the revision was agreed by HOD 54-2018:

- Glossary of terms;
- Regulation 2 item 3 "Manure storage";
- Regulation 2 item 6 "Application of organic manures";
- Regulation 2 Item 7 "Application rates for nutrients" only starting from the sentence "The amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year...";
- New paragraph on nutrient recycling based on the outcome of MM 2018.

HOD 59-2020 approved the revised Regulation 2 Item 3, the revised Regulation 2 Item 6 and the glossary of terms based on the proposal by the Agri group.

HOD 59-2020 considered the proposed alternatives for revising Regulation 2 item 7 and did not come to an agreement on the selection of one of those alternatives. HELCOM 42-2021 took note that the positions of countries regarding regulation 2 item 7 of the revised part 2 of Annex III to the Helsinki Convention remain unchanged and consensus on the proposal to revise the regulation could not be found and thus the current version remains valid.

HOD 59-2020 in general supported the new paragraph on nutrient recycling, taking note of a study reservation by Denmark on the first two bullet points of the new paragraph on nutrient recycling and that Germany finds that it would be desirable for the paragraph to be formulated with the same ambition as the Nutrient Recycling Strategy and the currently proposed texts for the BSAP. HELCOM 42-2021 noted that Denmark is not in the position to lift their study reservation on the nutrient recycling paragraph of the revised Part 2 Annex III and that Denmark will provide written proposal on the issue to AGRI 11-2021.

HELCOM 42-2021 requested the Agri Group to draft the HELCOM Recommendation required for adopting the revised Part 2 of Annex III to the Helsinki Convention and to submit the draft Recommendation to HOD 60-2021 for endorsement with subsequent adoption at 2021 Ministerial Meeting together with the updated BSAP.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the draft HELCOM Recommendation required for adopting the revised Part 2 of Annex III to the Helsinki Convention for submission to HOD 60-2021 (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

Denmark is invited to submit written proposal clarifying their position on the new paragraph on nutrient recycling. The Meeting is invited to consider updating of the paragraph on nutrient recycling based on the proposal by Denmark.

Agenda Item 5 Nutrient recycling

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 committed to elaborating by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy that aims for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. The strategy was to be established with a step-by-step approach and propose a common vision and objectives for nutrient recycling. The Ministerial Meeting further decided to develop, as a follow-up to the Strategy, possible nutrient recycling measures to be included in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021.

The Agri group is leading the elaborating of the Strategy in cooperation with Pressure Working Group. The first draft of the Strategy was submitted to HOD 59-2020 which supported it. HELCOM 42-2021 continued the discussion on the follow-up of the Strategy and supported the proposed approach based on following up of the implementation of priority actions on nutrient recycling in the updated BSAP. HELCOM 42-2021 requested the Agri Group and Pressure Working Group to finalize the document and submit it to HOD 60-2021 for endorsement with subsequent adoption at the 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy for submission to HOD 60-2020 for endorsement, taking into account the Outcome of PRESSURE 14-2021 to be held on prior to AGRI 11-2021 (document to be submitted by Finland with the assistance by the Secretariat).

A new type of projects, called project platforms, was introduced by Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. Project platforms are aimed at integrating outputs of various international project capitalizing on their results and producing policy messages to support regional policy making. Two such projects SuMaNu and BSR water were financed by the Interreg BSR programme to support the development and further implementation of the Nutrient Recycling Strategy. The Meeting is invited to take note of the policy messages produced by the projects to support nutrient recycling in the BS region.

Agenda Item 6 Progress in integration of annual nutrient accounting at farm level and initial discussion on the development of a related Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 agreed 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.

According to the Work Plan for the Agri group, the group will regularly follow up progress in integration of annual nutrient accounting at farm level in group meetings, discuss measures to facilitate implementation of the action and identify what kind of assistance is needed from the Contracting Parties as well as develop a Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices to promote annual nutrient accounting at farm level.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the status of the action on annual nutrient accounting at farm level based on the information in the HELCOM explorer (will be submitted by the Secretariat). The Meeting is invited to exchange the latest information on the current state of annual nutrient accounting at farm level in HELCOM countries and plans for adoption of related requirements at national level. The Meeting is further invited to discuss steps to initiate the development of the Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices to promote annual nutrient accounting at farm level.

Agenda Item 7 Reduction of ammonia emissions from agriculture - Update of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3

According to the EMEP assessment of emissions of nitrogen in the region and its deposition on the Baltic Sea water area, proportion of nitrogen emissions from agriculture has increased, and the Agri group acknowledged in AGRI 5-2017 that some countries are at risk to exceed national ammonia emission ceilings of the NEC directive. The group agreed that the terminology and definitions used in the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 "Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture", adopted in 2003, are unclear and do not correspond to the current state of knowledge and legal requirements. The Meeting agreed that the Recommendation 24/3 is outdated and requires revision.

The Agri group decided in AGRI 6-2018 Meeting that an overview of the ongoing activities to mitigate ammonia emissions in the countries will be made as a first step of the revision. AGRI 8-2019 Meeting took note of the overview of measures to mitigate ammonia emissions and in general supported the revision of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 based on the overview. The overview was circulated after AGRI 8-2019 for additional comments together with an invitation to the Contracting Parties to take a lead on the revision of the Recommendation. No country has offered to lead the revision.

HELCOM Heads of Delegation supported in HOD 57-2019 the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture.

AGRI 10-2020 agreed to postpone the discussion on the revision of the Recommendation to AGRI 11-2021 and requested the Secretariat to, based on the overview of the ongoing activities to mitigate ammonia emissions in the countries already compiled for AGRI 8-2019, make an initial document on possible measures to reduce ammonia emissions which can be considered for the update of the Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the document on possible measures to reduce ammonia emissions (document to be submitted by the Secretariat) and agree on a scope and timetable for the revision of the Recommendation 24/3. The Contracting Parties are invited to consider taking a leadership of the revision.

Agenda Item 8 Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures – building HELCOM knowledge on climate change parameters and their impact on agriculture

The Meeting is invited to take note that HELCOM 42-2021 approved the Climate Change Fact Sheet (CCFS) for publication, pending minor reviews on some of the parameters. The CCFS has been produced by the HELCOM-Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME), consisting of more than 110 scientists from around the Baltic Sea. The CCFS contains concise and easily accessible information in the form of key messages on climate change effects for 34 parameters, varying from parameters directly affected by climate change, e.g. sea temperature, to those indirectly affected by climate change, e.g. benthic habitats. The key messages have been elaborated to include information on what is already happening, what is expected to happen and links to policy for each parameter.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and share knowledge on the climate change impact on agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea, mitigation and adaptation measures, including relevant projects.

Agenda Item 9 Transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples

9.1 Innovative water management

As part of the new Work Plan of the group, AGRI 8-2019 agreed to start compiling practices on sustainable water management (including assessment of efficiency to reduce input of nutrients) in agriculture which can be further developed to a relevant regional document. The regional document could take the form of a guidebook or Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the organization of the compilation, sources of information, contributors and timetable for the work.

9.2 Best available technology in animal farming

AGRI 8-2019 agreed, as part of the new Work Plan of the group, to launch an activity to collect information on national BREFs for cattle farming. Based on the results of the stock taking, a project application could be considered.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the organization of the compilation and timetable for the work.

AGRI 10-2020 recalled that CCB had intended to present information on BAT for intensive cattle farming and invited CCB to present such information to AGRI 11-2021.

Agenda Item 10 Future work

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 next meeting(s). According to the [Terms of Reference](#), 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.

Agenda Item 11 Any other business

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

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

Agenda Item 12 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.