



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	28.04.2015
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of AGRI 1-2014 (paragraph 12.1), Outcome of HOD 47-2014 (paragraph 3.43)

Background

The Second Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 2-2015) will be held at the Forum of the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries (address: Bundesallee 50) in Braunschweig, Germany, on 28-29 May 2015 upon invitation by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

The Meeting will be opened at 9:00 on Thursday, 28 May, and is expected to terminate by 12:00 on Friday, 29 May. Please note that the participants are also offered to take part in an excursion on Wednesday, 27 May (full-day or half-day).

The Meeting will be chaired by Mr. Dietrich Schulz, Chair of the Agri Group.

The focus of the Meeting is on reduction of nutrients input to the Baltic Sea from agriculture through development of sustainable practices of nutrients management and balanced fertilization. This overarching theme will be considered in two practical aspects:

- development of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure;
- promotion of nutrient accounting at farm level.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the [AGRI 2-2015 Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please find [here](#) instructions for signing up as a first time user of the Meeting Portal. After sign up, the participants are kindly requested to sign in and register to the Meeting and the excursion by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than [by 20 May 2015](#).

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 6 May 2015](#). 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 May 2015](#).

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 relevant recent HELCOM meetings, in particular, HELCOM HOD 47-2015, HELCOM 36-2015, GEAR 9-2015, GEAR 10-2015 and GEAR 11-20015, and the PLC-6 project.

Within the HELCOM Gear group a stock tacking and analysis of new national programs of measures being proposed to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status in the Baltic Sea (under MSFD for EU Member States and under relevant legislation for the Russian Federation) are carried out. The aim is to identify opportunities for regional coherence of national measures and for additional joint regional actions. All relevant working groups will be requested to provide input to this activity. The Meeting will be informed of this activity with the view to start preparing an input by the Agri group.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated Roadmap of HELCOM activities by 2021 (document 2-1).

The simplified indicator-based system to follow up the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Ministerial commitments and HELCOM Recommendations is under development by the Secretariat and the working groups. The Meeting will be informed about the actions and commitments which are suggested to be followed up and invited to propose the follow-up system of actions relevant to agriculture.

The Meeting will be informed about the latest results of implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme based on the data up to 2012.

Agenda Item 3 Farm nutrient management and balanced fertilization

3.1 Session on development of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure

The session will be moderated by a representative of Lead Country Finland.

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to establish by 2016 national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure and develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards.

Finland has taken the lead for the work on nutrient content in manure and presented at AGRI 1-2014 an ongoing project by the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE) and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) on building a calculation system for Finnish manure standards. Finland is invited to give an overview of the existing systems for assessing the nutrient content in manure and the national regulations based on examples of some countries in the region. The environmental and economic benefits and challenges of a more advanced system from a local and regional perspective will also be needed to substantiate discussion.

The Contracting Parties might wish to complement the overview with additional information about the existing national approaches to the development of standards for nutrient content in manure as well as about ongoing national projects and legislative initiatives aimed at development and introduction of the standards at national level.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the possibilities for advancing the current systems for assessing the nutrient content in manure following best practice examples that may exist in the countries and identify preconditions for putting improved systems in place. The Meeting might wish to discuss if a common methodology could be developed or recommended for use in the Baltic Sea region as a first step.

3.2 Session on promotion of nutrient accounting at farm level

The session will be moderated by a representative of Lead Countries Germany/Denmark.

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 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.

Germany has taken the lead together with Denmark to coordinate work towards fulfilling the ministerial commitment and the AGRI 1-2015 welcomed the offer by Germany to organize a workshop as a first step for stocktaking of the ongoing activities related to the nutrient accounting at farm level in the Baltic Sea countries. The workshop will be held on 28-29 April 2015 in Oldenburg, Germany with focus on identifying the status of the nutrient bookkeeping and balance calculations in the Baltic Sea countries (relevant legislation, mandatory or voluntary schemes, reporting systems, responsible authorities etc.) and to exchange experiences and ideas for the benefit of the work in the countries, including potential development of policy and other possible instruments on nutrient bookkeeping.

The Meeting is invited to consider the conclusions/recommendations of the HELCOM Workshop to be based on the presented status of nutrient bookkeeping in the Baltic Sea countries, with the aim to discuss options and agreeing on steps for advancing towards nutrient accounting at farm level in the Baltic Sea region.

Agenda Item 4 Future work

The Work Plan of the Agri Group as approved by HOD 47-2014 is contained in document 4-1.

The Secretariat will submit a proposal for Terms of Reference for agri-environmental advisor to support the work of the Agri Group at a later stage. The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the proposed ToR with a view of submitting the proposal to HOD 48-2015.

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). 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 5 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 if needed (document 5-1).

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

Agenda Item 6 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.