



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices  
Braunschweig, Germany, 28-29 May 2015

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### Background

The attached document contains proposals for amendments by Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and make use of it as considered appropriate.



To

HELCOM AGRI-2, 28-29 May 2015

## **Proposals for amendments to HELCOM Annex III, part II, Prevention of pollution from agriculture**

HELCOM ministerial meeting in October 2013, decided e.g. on the following:

**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;

**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;

HELCOM ministers agreed to initiate a review and an updating of part II of the Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, by 2016, which means that this process needs to start up now.

The HODs has re-confirmed that the current part II of Annex III should be regarded as minimum requirements for the revision process. The Helsinki Convention includes certain provisions which go beyond the existing EU regulations. As agreed earlier by HELCOM Heads of Delegation the intention of the review and update is not to align the provisions with the existing EU-regulations, which would not create any added value.

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HELCOM Annex III, part II, Prevention of pollution from agriculture, have the following legally binding requirements for all HELCOM Contracting parties:

*1. Animal density*

To ensure that manure is not produced in excess in comparison to the amount of arable land, there must be a balance between the number of animals on the farm and the amount of land available for spreading manure, expressed as animal density. The maximum number of animals should be determined with consideration taken of the need to balance between the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in manure and the crops' requirements for plant nutrients.

*7. Application rates for nutrients*

The application of nutrients in agricultural land shall be limited, based on a balance between the foreseeable nutrient requirements of the crops and the nutrient supply to the crops from the soil and the nutrients with a view to minimize eutrophication.

National guidelines should be developed with fertilizing recommendations and they should make reference to:

- soil conditions, soil nutrient content, soil type and slope;
- climatic conditions and irrigation;
- land use and agricultural practices, including crop rotation systems;
- all external potential nutrient sources

The HELCOM ministerial meeting in October 2013, agreed on steps to specify the existing requirements for "Applications rates for nutrient" (see above) and in a more adequate way express how Nutrient-balanced fertilization practices shall be defined and interpreted. These Ministerial agreements are very relevant to include in the updated HELCOM Annex III, part II, Prevention of pollution from agriculture.

***Proposals for amendments in Annex III, Part II, Prevention of pollution from agriculture***

For the Annex III, Part II review process we have the following proposals:

Under point 7, adding:

- introduce annual nutrient accounting at farm/field level, and calculation of nutrient surplus levels (as kg N / ha, y and kg P / ha, y )
- the full content of nutrients in manure will be forwarded as input to the nutrient accounting at farm/field level
- introduce national tolerable nutrient surplus levels for nitrogen and phosphorus, to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization