



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	03.02.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of AGRI 2-2015 (paragraph 4.11), Outcome of HOD 48-2015 (paragraph 3.50)

Background

The Third Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 3-2016) will be held at the Conference Centre of the Tartu University Library (address: Wilhelm Struve 1) in Tartu, Estonia, on 5-6 April 2016 upon invitation by the Estonian Ministry of the Environment.

The Meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 5 April, at 9:00 and is expected to terminate by 14:00 on Wednesday, 6 April.

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

The focus of the Meeting will be on sustainable nutrient management in agriculture, reduction of nutrient losses and recycling of phosphorus.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the AGRI 3-2016 [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 by answering the [Participation survey](#) not later than by 29 March 2016.

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 15 March 2016. 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 29 March 2016.

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, HELCOM 37-2016, meetings of HODs, PRESSURE, GEAR, etc.

The Meeting will be presented with the results of the assessment of accomplishment by the HELCOM countries of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the 2010 and 2013 Ministerial commitments based on the new simplified indicator-based follow-up system.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the preliminary scientific assessment of the progress in reaching the Country-Allocated Reduction Targets by 2021. Also other information related to the compilation of data on nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme will be presented.

Further, the meeting is invited to take note of the information on the draft Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted at a later stage) and consider to use it in its further work as appropriate.

Agenda Item 3 Farm nutrient management and balanced fertilization

3.1 Development of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure

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.

In order to implement the commitment of the Ministerial Declaration 2013 the workshop on manure nutrient content in the Baltic Sea countries took place 19-20 November 2015 in Vantaa, Finland. The workshop was co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and HELCOM. The workshop discussed the current state of the systems of nutrient standards in manure in the Baltic Countries, identified major benefits of advancing the national systems as well as obstacles of their use. The Meeting is invited to consider and discuss the outcomes of the HELCOM Workshop on manure nutrient content in the Baltic Sea countries (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Proceedings of the workshop compiling brief information on the systems of nutrient standards used in the countries will be published by LUKE (document to be submitted at a later stage). The Meeting is invited to take note the information in the proceedings.

The 39th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation supported HELCOM involvement as a project partner in the planned project on advanced manure standards for sustainable nutrient management led by Finland and invited potential project partners from the Contracting Parties to contact Luke (Natural Resources Institute Finland) as soon as possible. The Meeting is invited to consider the concept for the project on advanced manure standards, including the scope of the project, its timeframe and main deliverables and agree on the role and a possible contribution of the Agri group to the further development and a future implementation of the project

One of the deliverables foreseen for the project is a common guideline/recommendation on the use of the standards for nutrient content in manure. The Meeting is invited to discuss the scope of the guideline/recommendation and decide on the tentative content of the document which would cater needs of Contracting Parties (document to be submitted at a later stage).

3.2 Promotion of nutrient accounting at farm level

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.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and consider the proceedings of the HELCOM Workshop on status of nutrient bookkeeping in the Baltic Sea countries which was co-organized by the Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony, the Federal Environmental Agency in Germany and HELCOM on 28-29 April 2015 in Oldenburg, Germany. The Meeting is also invited to identify and discuss possible next steps in implementation of the Ministerial Declaration 2013 regarding advancing national systems of nutrients accounting at the farm level

and advancing the existing national systems in individual countries. Delegates are also invited to report on the way in which fermentation leftovers from biogas plants and biocomposts are included in farm nutrient schemes in their countries. Such next steps could form national roadmaps towards applying by 2018 advanced nutrient accounting at farm level in the Baltic Sea region. A document on this issue will be submitted at a later stage.

Agenda Item 4 Nutrient recycling

2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and waste water treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology.

The meeting will be informed about the latest initiative by the EU - Circular Economy Package adopted by the European Commission on 2 December 2015 (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Contracting Parties will be invited to provide information on national policy priorities related to nutrient recycling prior to the meeting and, if considered relevant, to give a presentation on the topic at the meeting.

Taking into account the above mentioned policy framework the Meeting will be invited to consider a possibility to organize HELCOM workshop on nutrient recycling aimed at implementation of the MD 2013 commitment in different spheres. The Meeting will be invited to develop an initial suggestion for the scope and timeframe of the workshop to be further discussed at PRESSURE 4-2016.

Agenda Item 5 Future work

The Meeting is invited to consider and amend, if needed, the Work Plan 2014-2016 of the Agri group and elaborate suggestions for the next period.

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 6 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 to be submitted at a later stage).

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

Agenda Item 7 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.