



Outcome of the Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural
Practices dedicated to the revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki
Convention
(AGRI 6a-2018)

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Outcome of the Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices dedicated to the revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention

(AGRI 6a-2018)

Introduction

0.1 The Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices dedicated to the revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention (AGRI 6a-2018) was held in Warsaw, Poland, on 8 November 2018, upon invitation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for Latvia and Lithuania as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers Forum for Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and by the coordinators of EUSBSR PA Nutri (**Annex 1**). Consent for publication of the list of participants and the information contained therein was received from all participants.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Ms Tarja Haaranen, Chair of HELCOM Agri group.

0.4 Ms Monika Zabrzenska-Chaterera, Head of unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland, welcomed the participants.

0.5 Mr Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary and Ms Susanna Kaasinen, Project Manager at the HELCOM Secretariat, acted as secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1.

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

Documents: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4

2.1 The Meeting took note that the Heads of Delegation (HOD 54-2018) decided to prolong the mandate of the Agri group until 2022, to cover the period of updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

2.2 The Meeting took note that the HODs considered the timeline suggested by the Agri group for the revision of Annex III part II and were of the view that the timeline could be too tight. HODs thus approved the time frame and working method for the revision with small amendment "HODs to discuss a first draft in summer 2019".

2.3 The Meeting recalled that the Agri group agreed in the AGRI 6-2018 Meeting to form a drafting group to carry out the revision of the annex and share the work between four lead countries.

2.4 The Meeting took note that an online meeting of the drafting group was organized on 25 September. In the meeting, the lead countries presented the first draft paragraphs and got feedback for further drafting. The glossary of terms was not yet discussed at the drafting group meeting as the work for the glossary will start later.

2.5 The Meeting took note of the position of WWF regarding the current work on the revision of Annex III as reflected in the document 2-4.

2.6 The Meeting took note of the draft revised regulation 2 Item 6 as presented by Germany (document 2-1).

- 2.7 The Meeting welcomed the German proposal, provided comments on the draft and agreed on it as in the **Annex 2**.
- 2.8 The Meeting agreed to add the phrase "In cases of nutrient surpluses in regions with high livestock density the organic fertilizer/manure should be processed and transported in other regions to replace a part of mineral fertilizer rates there" to the new paragraph on nutrient recycling.
- 2.9 The Meeting took note of the information on the German national guidelines on application of organic fertilizers and invited Germany to provide this document to the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to share the document with the group.
- 2.10 The Meeting agreed to scrutinize the terms used in the paragraph when the glossary is ready.
- 2.11 The Meeting took note of the draft revised Regulation 2 Item 3 as presented by Poland (document 2-2).
- 2.12 The Meeting welcomed the proposal by Poland and provided feedback on the draft.
- 2.13 The Meeting took note of the positions of CCB and WWF that the suggested version weakens current regulations of the annex which is against the agreed principles of the revision and thus the regulation 2 item 3 should be elaborated further.
- 2.14 The Meeting also agreed on using the wording "should be covered" instead of proposed "possibly covered" in the second bullet point of the third paragraph of the proposed version of Regulation 2 Item 3 in document 2-2.
- 2.15 The Meeting invited Contracting Parties and Observers to provide concrete written comments on the proposed text of the regulation 2 item 3 to Poland (andrzej.podscianski@minrol.gov.pl) with a copy to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 23 November 2018**.
- 2.16 The Meeting invited Poland to elaborate the regulation 2 item 3 further taking into account the written comments and present the updated version to the next session of the drafting group in January 2019.
- 2.17 The Meeting took note of the draft revised Regulation 2 Item 7 as presented by Poland (document 2-2).
- 2.18 The Meeting thanked Poland for the work done and provided feedback on the draft.
- 2.19 The Meeting took note that Estonia and Sweden would be in favour of using 5-year average rate for phosphorus application.
- 2.20 The Meeting took note of the position by Finland that any kind of averaging of the phosphorus application rate would weaken the annex which is against the agreed revision principles.
- 2.21 The Meeting invited Contracting Parties and Observers to provide concrete written comments on the proposed text of the regulation 2 item 7 to Poland (andrzej.podscianski@minrol.gov.pl) with a copy to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 23 November 2018**.
- 2.22 The Meeting invited Poland to elaborate the regulation 2 item 7 further taking into account the written comments and present the updated version to the next session of the drafting group in January 2019.
- 2.23 The Meeting took note of the draft new paragraph on nutrient recycling as presented by Finland (document 2-3).
- 2.24 The Meeting thanked Finland for the work done and commented on the proposed text.
- 2.25 The Meeting invited Contracting Parties and Observers to provide concrete written comments on the proposed text of the new paragraph on nutrient recycling to Finland (marja-liisa.tapio-bistrom@mmm.fi) with a copy to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 23 November 2018**.

2.26 The Meeting pointed out that the new paragraph on nutrient recycling should be in line with the elaboration of the regional nutrient recycling strategy and that the strategy will go into more detail than the new paragraph.

2.27 The Meeting invited Finland to elaborate the new paragraph on nutrient recycling taking into account the written comments and present the updated version to the next session of the drafting group in January 2019.

2.28 The Meeting took note of the position of WWF that the issues of application of mineral fertilizers are to be also addressed in the current work.

2.29 The Meeting invited the lead countries to submit the next versions of the draft paragraphs to the next meeting of the drafting group in January 2018 and then to AGRI 7-2019 meeting in March 2019.

Agenda Item 3 HELCOM Workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy

Documents: 3-1, 3-1-rev1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the notes from the HELCOM Workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy took place in Warsaw on 7 November 2018 (documents 3-1, 3-1-rev1).

3.2 The Meeting welcomed the suggestion by the Secretariat to compile a comprehensive report on the workshop results and publish the report on the HELCOM web site. The report will lay a basis for further elaboration of the nutrient recycling strategy.

Agenda Item 4 Any other business

Documents: 4-1

4.1 The Meeting took note of the strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the draft work plan for updating the BSAP and the role of the working groups.

4.3 The Meeting welcomed the invitation of Russia to AGRI 7-2018 in St. Petersburg on 19-20 March 2019. AGRI 7-2019 will precede the XX International Forum "Baltic Sea Day" 21-22 March 2019.

4.4 The Meeting took note of the invitation by CCB to the Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea Conference to be arranged in Minsk, Belarus on 13-14 December 2018. The Conference is organized in cooperation of Belarus authorities and NGOs with the support of CBSS, its Baltic 2030 Unit and CCB. It will be devoted to sustainable development and agriculture, and inter alia will address nutrient recycling strategy.

Agenda Item 5 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 5-1

5.1 A draft outcome was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and adopted via correspondence.

Annex 1. List of participants

| Name | Representing | Organization | Email address |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Tarja Haaranen | Chair | Ministry of the Environment | tarja.haaranen@ym.fi |
| Liva Vejlgard | Denmark | Danish Agency of agriculture | livvej@lbst.dk |
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| Vladislav Minin | Russia | Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production | minin.iamfe@mail.ru |
| Josefin Hjort | Sweden | Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management | josefin.hjort@havochovatten.se |
| Ann Kristin Eriksson | Sweden | Swedish Board of Agriculture | AnnKristin.Eriksson@jordbruksverket.se |
| Mikhail Durkin | HELCOM Observer | Coalition Clean Baltic | mikhail.durkin@ccb.se |
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| Rikard Korkman | HELCOM Observer | BFFE | rikard.korkman@slc.fi |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Susanna Kaasinen | HELCOM Secretariat | HELCOM Secretariat | susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi |

Annex 2. Draft revised regulation 2 item 6

New version 2.6.2:

Application of organic fertilisers and organic residual materials

Organic fertilisers and organic residual materials are valuable sources of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and organic carbon which are required for the replenishment of nutrients and humus in soil.

In addition to the amount of these nutrients, amounts of harmful substances, phyto-/ bioavailability and mineralisation rate of different organic fertilizers types should also be considered in order to ensure the optimal supply of the plants and to avoid eutrophication and contamination.

~~In cases of nutrient surpluses in regions with high livestock density the organic fertilizer should be processed and transported in other regions to replace a part of mineral fertilizer rates there.~~

In order to facilitate high utilization efficiency, the best available application technique should be used, depending on the type of fertilizer, crop and location characteristics.

Organic fertilisers and organic residual materials should be incorporated ~~if~~ as soon as possible after spreading and always in case of application on bare soils.

The nutrients should be available to the plants during the growing season taking into account the turnover rate of different fertilizers.

If soils are frozen, water saturated or covered with snow no application of organic fertilisers and organic residual materials is permitted. Further periods with high risk of leaching ~~and GHG losses~~ shall be defined when no application is accepted.

Old version:

Application of organic manure

Organic manures (slurry, solid manure, urine, sewage sludge, composts, etc) should be used in such a way that a high utilisation efficiency can be achieved. Organic manures shall be spread in a way that minimises the risk of loss of plant nutrients and should not be spread on soils that are frozen, water saturated or covered with snow. Organic manures should be incorporated as soon as possible after application on bare soils.