



Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 8-2019)

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Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 8-2019)

Introduction

- 0.1 The Eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 8-2019) was held in Berlin, Germany on 5-6 November 2019, upon invitation by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for the European Union as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers' Forum for Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Race for the Baltic and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (**Annex 1**).
- 0.3 The Meeting was moderated by the Secretariat.
- 0.4 Mr. Kai Schlegelmilch, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, welcomed the participants to Berlin.
- 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, 1-2

- 1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1.
- 1.2 The Meeting took note that document 7.1-1 will be considered under Agenda Item 3.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group

Documents: 2-1

- 2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for the Agri group (document 2-1). The Meeting took note that there will be a workshop on HELCOM Nutrient Input Ceilings on 20 April 2020 in Helsinki back-to-back with the 12th Meeting of the HELCOM Pressure Working Group on 21-24 April 2020.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 7.1-1

- 3.1 The Meeting recalled that according to the strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, agreed by HOD 54-2018, an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM goals and objectives is carried out to support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP. The Meeting took note that HOD 56-2019 endorsed the approach for analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM) and its use to support the BSAP update (document 3-4).
- 3.2 The Meeting encouraged the submissions of synopses on potential new measures for the updated BSAP.
- 3.3 The Meeting took note of the planned review of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions of relevant to the Group to take place at the next meeting of the Agri group.
- 3.4 The Meeting took note of the proposed thematic BSAP UP workshops, in particular that eutrophication is to be addressed during the week 11-15 May 2020 (dates tbc).

- 3.5 The Meeting noted that the project BONUS RETURN is evaluating new measures on nutrient recycling and will supply the information to HELCOM.
- 3.6 The Meeting took note of the progress in HELCOM ACTION project work package 4 on nutrient inputs (document 3-5).
- 3.7 The Meeting took note that Finland has been calculating the effectiveness of measures under Water Framework Directive (WFD). The modelling results show that if measures are targeted at the right places, their effect is much better. Also, if soil phosphorus content could be reduced, measures would be more effective. There is not enough information on the implementation of measures and especially on their location.
- 3.8 The Meeting took note that Denmark has a different approach regarding WFD targets focusing on loads on coastal areas of sub-basins rather than concentrations in individual rivers.
- 3.9 The Meeting took note of the approach for nutrient inputs in the SOM analysis and the planned expert-based survey on the efficiency of agricultural measures. The Meeting also recalled that a request to nominate experts on the input of nutrients from agricultural sources by 11 November has been sent to the group via correspondence and invited the Secretariat to resend the request to ensure that all members of the group have received it.
- 3.10 The Meeting took note that the draft survey and list of measures will be sent for comments to the nominated experts and the Agri group.
- 3.11 The Meeting acknowledged that an expert-based survey is the only available option to gather information on the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input from diffuse sources which would be compatible for all Baltic Sea countries. The Meeting also pointed out that the description of methods used by experts to evaluate effectiveness of measures is of high importance to assess the uncertainty of the survey's outputs.
- 3.12 The Meeting noted that Germany faces challenges to respond to the expert-based survey as it requires involvement of experts from Federal States and also might be hampered by ongoing revision of the fertilizer ordinance and programmes of measures for WFD due to the challenge by the EU Commission regarding the full implementation of the EU Nitrates directive in Germany.
- 3.13 The Meeting took note that Poland has recently adopted a nitrogen action plan, and since it will most likely be revised in four years, it is difficult to estimate future developments.
- 3.14 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the expert-based evaluation will be based on the currently adopted policies and the measures that will be implemented under them.
- 3.15 The Meeting encouraged experts to take part in the expert-based survey.
- 3.16 The Meeting agreed that **by the end of November** the Secretariat will send the draft expert-based survey to the Agri group and nominated experts for a one-week commenting round.
- 3.17 The Meeting pointed out that the expert based-survey on effectiveness of measure and its results require thorough consideration by regional expert community and suggested to organize an online meeting for the experts to discuss the effectiveness of measures.
- 3.18 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities (document 7.1-1).
- 3.19 The Meeting recalled that to support to the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), HELCOM Working Groups were invited to consider how the actions agreed in the BSAP and the subsequent Ministerial Meetings of 2010 and 2013 have been implemented. The Meeting also recalled that AGRI 7-2019 Meeting considered the HELCOM actions from BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 related to the Agri group and their implementation status.
- 3.20 The Meeting took note that HOD 56-2019 approved the removal of some actions from the follow-up and the new follow-up criteria of some actions as suggested by AGRI 7-2019 (document 3-2).

3.21 The Meeting agreed on lead countries for rephrasing of actions that are not likely implemented by 2021 as included in **Annex 2**. The Meeting also agreed on lead countries for rephrasing of actions that were previously deemed too general (**Annex 2**).

3.22 The Meeting invited the lead countries to send proposals for rephrasing to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 31 January 2020**.

3.23 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM 40-2019 agreed to develop a HELCOM science agenda, concomitantly with the update of the BSAP to outline existing and foreseen HELCOM regional science needs and that request to provide proposals had been sent to the Agri group via correspondence (document 3-1).

3.24 The Meeting discussed the submitted proposals and was of the view that the proposal on socio-economic aspects is not sufficiently reflected and that, in addition to costs, also economic benefits should be considered as part of the proposed science needs. The Meeting highlighted that, in addition to the submitted proposals, there are also other knowledge needs related to agriculture such as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures related to agriculture, and the changes in carbon and nitrogen cycles due to climate change.

3.25 The Meeting encouraged the members of the group to submit proposals to the Science Agenda to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi; susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 30 November**.

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

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

4.1 The Meeting recalled that AGRI 7a-2019 agreed to submit to the Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019) a progress report on the revision of Annex III part II containing draft texts agreed by the group and working drafts that had not yet been fully agreed on.

4.2 The Meeting recalled that the following parts have been agreed by the Agri Group:

- Draft Regulation 2 item 3 (agreed in AGRI 7a-2019)
- Draft Regulation 2 item 6 (agreed in AGRI 7-2019)
- New paragraph on nutrient recycling (agreed in general in AGRI 7a-2019, pending study reservation by Poland on bullet points 4 and 5).

4.3 The Meeting took note that HOD 56-2019 took note of the progress achieved and the remaining open issues, encouraged the Contracting Parties to continue the discussion and cooperation on the important issue of the Annex revision in order to reach a compromise, and requested the Agri group to continue the work in accordance with the work plan with guidance from HODs when needed (document 4-1).

4.4 The Meeting discussed a draft text for Regulation 2 Item 7.

4.5 The Meeting took note that Finland cannot accept the 5-year averaging of phosphorus and considers it as a weakening of the Annex. The Meeting took note of the view of Finland that there is a need for concrete actions to reduce P loading. Finland has received feedback from the EU Commission regarding adding mandatory measures for reducing P loads into national legislation. Finland is of the view that 5-year averaging period does not practically limit manure use because it allows to use 125 kg of P from manure in one year which increases the risk of P loading.

4.6 The Meeting took note of the position by Poland that there should be 5-year averaging of phosphorus fertilization. Poland considers that it is difficult to limit both N and P from manure. It would add additional costs to the farmers and would be especially difficult for small farms. According to the view by Poland, N and P should be regulated differently as they behave differently in the soil. Restricting P use from manure could lead to increase of the use of mineral P fertilizers.

4.7 The Meeting took note of the information that, in Lithuania, approximately 60 % of soils have low or medium P status, and the view of Lithuania that the limitation of N also limits P. Thus, Lithuania would be in favour of 5-year averaging of P application rate

- 4.8 The Meeting took note that Estonian national legislation stipulates the 5-year averaging due to practical reasons in line with current farming practices.
- 4.9 The Meeting took note that Denmark has a system for regulating P fertilization for all P-containing fertilizers, where in the whole country the limit of 25 kg/ha P from manure alone is met on average, but individual farms have more flexibility based on the local conditions. The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that there should be P regulations for countries. The text in the current proposal would allow for countries to either use the limit of 25 kg/ha P or develop a more targeted regulation with variable limits taking into account local conditions, avoiding nutrient surpluses and assuring no negative impact on the aquatic environment.
- 4.10 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that there should not be 5-year averaging of P and that in the Helsinki Convention there is no possibility for derogations. CCB supports the currently valid text of the Annex regarding P and N limits and is of the view that, in case of 5-year averaging of P, national nutrient accounting should be ensured.
- 4.11 The Meeting suggested to use the word “deviate” instead of “derogate” in the text.
- 4.12 The Meeting took note of the position by WWF that there should not be 5-year averaging of P application rate.
- 4.13 The Meeting took note of the view by BFFE on the importance of the second paragraph in the current working draft to allow for more targeted regulation of P application rate.
- 4.14 The Meeting discussed the new draft paragraph on nutrient recycling and changes suggested by Finland and Poland (document 4-1-Rev.1).
- 4.15 The Meeting took note of the view by Germany that balancing the number of animals and farm land should be part of the text.
- 4.16 The Meeting took note of the position of Poland that limiting the phosphorus in manure application will be counterproductive for nutrient recycling increasing the use of mineral fertilizer.
- 4.17 The Meeting took note that in Germany, there is a problem with excess manure leading to high content of nitrogen in the ground water which has both environmental and human health consequences (c.f. paragraph 3.12). Thus, there is a need to have limits for manure application rate.
- 4.18 The Meeting acknowledged the need to take into account different conditions in the Baltic Sea region, the intensive livestock production that can lead to nutrient surplus and the common goal to protect the Baltic Sea when drafting the new paragraph.
- 4.19 The Meeting clarified that the new paragraph on nutrient recycling deals with agriculture while the planned Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy also deals with other nutrient enriched biomasses and has a more holistic regional perspective. The work on both the new paragraph and the recycling strategy is harmonized and is to be accomplished by end of 2020.
- 4.20 The Meeting took note that Poland is not ready to lift their study reservation on the fourth and fifth bullet points of the new paragraph.
- 4.21 The Meeting took note of the updated working draft of the glossary of terms (document 4-2).
- 4.22 The Meeting discussed the draft glossary and the possibility to reduce the list of terms by streamlining the text of the Annex.
- 4.23 The Meeting suggested to rearrange the glossary of terms in an alphabetical order or in the order of appearance.
- 4.24 The Meeting took note that Finland sees that the definitions in the glossary might conflict with the terms used in national legislation. Therefore, Finland proposed to keep in the glossary only the most important terms crucial for common understanding of the Annex’ provisions.
- 4.25 The Meeting clarified that the aim is not to transfer the definitions into national legislation but to have a list of terms to clarify what is meant by different terms in the Annex revision. The Meeting took

note that the draft glossary of terms only includes the terms that are used in the part of the Annex III part II under revision and not the terms of the whole Annex.

4.26 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties and Observers to send comments on the draft glossary in track changes to Denmark and the Secretariat (wibch@mfv.dk; susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 20 December 2019**. The Meeting invited Denmark to circulate the updated glossary **by 21 January 2020** to the drafting group.

4.27 The Meeting agreed to organize the meeting of the drafting group to continue the discussion in Helsinki in the morning of 5 February 2020. The members of the drafting group can also join the meeting online.

Agenda Item 5 Development of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure

Documents: 5-1, 5-1-Rev.1, 5-2, 5-2-Rev.1, 5-3

5.1 The Meeting took note of the new version of the draft HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards that had been developed as part of the Manure Standards project (document 5-1).

5.2 The Meeting took note that Finland has a study reservation on updating and reviewing national manure standards every four years. The Meeting invited Finland to clarify their study reservation at HOD 57-2019.

5.3 The Meeting took note that Denmark is in favour of updating the manure standards at least every four years. In Denmark, the standards are updated yearly.

5.4 The Meeting took note that Lithuania and Poland placed study reservations on the Recommendation. The Meeting invited Lithuania and Poland to clarify their study reservations **by 14 November 2019**.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the position by BFFE that it is important to update national manure standards frequently.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Manure Standards Project Coordinator that the draft HELCOM Recommendation is in line with the overall recommendations of the Manure Standards project.

5.7 The Meeting clarified that the Recommendation recommends setting targets for nutrients to be recycled from manure but does not suggest that the target should be common for all Contracting Parties. However, regional targets might be agreed in the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

5.8 The Meeting agreed to submit the draft Recommendation (document 5-1-Rev.1) to HOD 57-2019 pending the study reservations by Finland, Lithuania and Poland.

5.9 The Meeting recalled that AGRI 7-2019 suggested that the Manure Standards project could make an overview of the implementation of the action "Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure" for consideration by AGRI 8-2019. The Meeting took note of the overview of national manure standards in the Baltic Sea region prepared by the Manure Standards project (document 5-2). The Meeting encouraged Lithuania to provide information on the current situation with national manure standards **by 14 November 2019**. The Meeting took note of the editorial comments by Poland (document 5-2-Rev.1).

5.10 The Meeting supported regular update of the document including the web link to national manure standards, if possible.

5.11 The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to make the national manure standards publicly available.

5.12 The Meeting agreed to submit document 5-2-Rev.1 with the addition of Lithuanian information as a background document for HOD 57-2019.

5.13 The Meeting took note of the activities and final outputs in the regional project Manure Standards (“Advanced manure standards for sustainable nutrient management and reduced emissions”)(document 5-3, **Presentation 1**).

5.14 The Meeting took note of the position of CCB that the proposed draft Recommendation is very general and does not provide guidance on application of manure standards.

Agenda Item 6 Nutrient recycling

Documents: 6-1

6.1 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM Heads of Delegation endorsed the vision and objectives of the Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy in HOD 56-2019 meeting and approved the organization of a workshop on nutrient recycling measures in 2020.

6.2 The Meeting took note that The HELCOM workshop on nutrient recycling measures will be held on 5-6 February 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. The workshop will be organized by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, HELCOM, European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Policy Area Nutri as well as SuMaNu and BSR Water project platforms.

6.3 The Meeting took note and discussed the draft concept of the workshop (document 6-1).

6.4 The Meeting suggested that manure processing and economic measures stimulating nutrient recycling are relevant topics for the workshop.

6.5 The Meeting discussed that it is important to establish both national and regional actions, consider the present situation and decide on goals and next steps in the workshop.

6.6 The Meeting acknowledged that it would be valuable to have also experts on economic incentives to take part in the workshop. The Meeting invited Denmark to inform of their fertilizer tax in the workshop.

6.7 The Meeting encouraged national expert to attend and contribute to the workshop.

6.8 The Meeting took note that the invitation and the draft programme to the workshop will be circulated as soon as possible. The Contracting Parties will also be invited to contribute to the programme of the workshop.

Agenda Item 7 Transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples

7.1 Innovative water management

Documents: none

7.1 The Meeting took note that Denmark aims to reduce greenhouse gas emission with 70% by 2030 compared to 1990. The Agri group could share examples of both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including the water management aspect.

7.2 The Meeting took note that Finland is starting work on water management dealing with climate change adaptation. Finland is considering climate proofing of all actions and this perspective could be useful for HELCOM as well.

7.3 The Meeting suggested to collect information on ongoing projects regarding water management and climate change and conclude on the exact needs of regional actions based on that information.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB on a project to support small scale farming and sustainable agriculture.

7.2 Best available technology in animal farming

Documents: none

7.5 The Meeting recalled that the group acknowledged in AGRI 5-2017 that countries have different views of the BAT and BEP for cattle farms and AGRI 6-2018 agreed to organize a workshop on BAT and BEP for cattle in 2019.

7.6 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by CCB that BAT and BEP for cattle farming could be one of the themes for the Green Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea Conference in 2020.

7.7 The Meeting agreed that the topic is important and a workshop on BAT and BEP for cattle farming could be considered for the second part of 2020, welcoming the offer by CCB to support organization of the workshop. A regional project on the topic could be considered based on the outcome of the workshop.

7.3 National measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture

Documents: 7.3-1

7.8 The Meeting recalled that AGRI 5-2017 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. AGRI 5-2017 also agreed that the Recommendation 24/3 is outdated and requires revision.

7.9 The Meeting also recalled that 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.

7.10 The Meeting took note of the Overview of measures to mitigate ammonia emissions (document 7.3-1).

7.11 The Meeting took note that manure acidification should be considered also as a measure in connection with manure storage and application techniques.

7.12 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB to include in the document links to relevant national legislation. The Meeting also took note of the position of CCB that the possible HELCOM Recommendation should include a list of recommended measures to mitigate ammonia emissions but preferably they should be included in the Annex III part II in the future revision of the Annex.

7.13 The Meeting took note that Germany considers the presented document mainly as a comprehensive compilation of technical measures to reduce ammonia emissions from agriculture and would be in favour of better reflection of various policy instruments in the document in terms of content and headings.

7.14 The Meeting took note that all EU countries have targets according to the EU NEC Directive but there is no regional document recommending the measures to mitigate ammonia emissions. However, the EU countries are required to make national action plans and farmer guides. For this purpose, sharing information on measures or the HELCOM Recommendation could be useful tools.

7.15 The Meeting took note of the comment by BFFE that it is important to share experiences on ammonia mitigation measures but there is no need for a Recommendation.

7.16 The Meeting took note that Lithuania will provide information on national mitigation measures **by 12 December 2019**.

7.17 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that the HELCOM Recommendation would be a tool to support reaching the targets to reduce ammonia emissions.

7.18 The Meeting in general supported the revision of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 based on the overview in document 7.3-1. The Meeting agreed to send comments to the overview **by 30 November 2019** and requested the Secretariat to circulate final draft of the overview together with an

invitation to the Contracting Parties to take a lead on the revision of the Recommendation **by 31 December 2019**.

Agenda Item 8 Future work

Documents: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting recalled that 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 and approved the group's Work Plan for the period 2018-2019.

8.2 The Meeting took note of the tentative evaluation of the implementation of the Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices 2018-2019 and agreed on it as in document 8-1.

8.3 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that there has been no progress in exchange of experiences and analyses of impact of CAP.

8.4 The Meeting agreed on the Work Plan for 2020-2022 (**Annex 3**).

8.5 The Meeting agreed that the next meeting of the group will be organized on 30-31 March 2020 and invited the Contracting Parties to consider hosting of the meeting and inform of the possibility for hosting not later than at HOD 57-2019.

Agenda Item 9 Any other business

Documents: 9-1-Rev.1, 9-2-Rev.1, 9-3, 9-4

9.1 The Meeting elected Ms. Sari Luostarinen as the Chair of the Agri group for 2020-2021.

9.2 The Meeting checked and updated the list of contact addresses and observers of the Agri group (document 9-1-Rev.1).

9.3 The Meeting took note of the draft report on the potential nutrient inputs and losses from horse keeping and sheep, goat and fur farming (document 9-2-Rev.1). The Meeting thanked CCB for bringing the issue to the attention of the group, pointed out that there are some erroneous data used in the report and agreed to send written comments to CCB (Mikhail.durkin@ccb.se) **by 20 December 2019**.

9.4 The Meeting took note of the information on HELCOM work on climate change (document 9-3) and encouraged national experts to take part in the work.

9.5 The Meeting took note of information that Finland is suggesting the inclusion of gypsum application to fields as part of the Finnish CAP strategic plan. There is an action programme for water protection in 2019-2023 which includes a project on gypsum application to the catchment area of the Archipelago Sea that is an agricultural hotspot in HELCOM hotspot list. Finland is embarking on a 2-year project (2020-2021) to promote gypsum application in the Baltic Sea region. The project will be carried out by John Nurminen Foundation, University of Helsinki and Finnish Environment Institute. The aim is to produce information on the readiness of farmers to use gypsum, potential areas and operation methods and logistics, and a plan for a gypsum pilot in one Baltic Sea region country.

9.6 The Meeting took note of the information on WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year 2019 (document 9-4).

Agenda Item 10 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 10-1

10.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of AGRI 8-2019 as contained in document 10-1.

10.2 The Outcome of the Meeting was finalized by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentation given during the Meeting

Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Representing	Organization	Email
Wibke Christel	Denmark	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark	wibch@mfvm.dk
Merje Põlma	Estonia	Ministry of Rural Affairs	merje.polma@agri.ee
Sonja Pyykkönen	Finland	Ministry of the Environment	sonja.pyykkonen@ym.fi
Marja-Liisa Tapio-Biström	Finland	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	marja-liisa.tapio-bistrom@mmm.fi
Sari Luostarinen (online)	Finland	Natural Resources Institute Finland	sari.luostarinen@luke.fi
Sirkka Tattari	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute	sirkka.tattari@ymparisto.fi
Katrin Kuka	Germany	Julius Kuehn-Institut	katrin.kuka@julius-kuehn.de
Wera Leujak	Germany	German Environment Agency	wera.leujak@uba.de
Kai Schlegelmilch	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Kai.Schlegelmilch@bmu.bund.de
Axel Borchmann	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Axel.Borchmann@bmu.bund.de
Ieva Branicka	Latvia	Ministry of Agriculture	ieva.branicka@zm.gov.lv
Jolanta Lapinskiene	Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture	jolanta.lapinskiene@zum.lt
Tatjana Zabuliene	Lithuania	Ministry of the Environment	tatjana.zabuliene@am.lt
Andrzej Podscianski	Poland	Ministry of Agriculture	andrzej.podscianski@minrol.gov.pl
Piotr Skowron	Poland	The Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (IUNG)	pskowron@iung.pulawy.pl
Vladislav Minin	Russia	Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production – Branch of FSBSI “Federal Scientific AgroEngineering Centre VIM	minin.iamfe@mail.ru
Annika Svanbäck	Sweden	Swedish Board of Agriculture	annika.svanback@jordbruksverket.se
Airi Kulmala	HELCOM Observer	Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment	airi.kulmala@mtk.fi
Anu Suono	HELCOM Observer	WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme	anu.suono@wwf.se
Marc Klaus	HELCOM Observer	Race for The Baltic	marc@raceforthebaltic.com
Maria Staniszevska	HELCOM Observer	Coalition clean Baltic	mw.staniszevska@gmail.com
Mikhail Durkin (online)	HELCOM Observer	Coalition Clean Baltic	mikhail.durkin@ccb.se
Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky	HELCOM	HELCOM Secretariat	dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi
Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM	HELCOM Secretariat	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi
Kaisa Riiko	HELCOM	HELCOM Secretariat	kaisa.riiko@helcom.fi

Annex 2. Rephrasing of HELCOM actions

Categorization:

- 1) The actions can remain with current formulation,
- 2) Specification is needed e.g. smaller changes, adding deadline, but the action will basically remain the same
- 3) Major changes might be needed to ensure that the action is up to date with current HELCOM work. The rephrasing should however not be used to formulate completely new actions. In this regard it should be noted that the updated BSAP should maintain the ambition level of agreed objectives and actions (HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 20).

Rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions

Joint actions

Action removed from follow-up (agreed by HOD 56-2019)

Action	Comments from AGRI 7-2019	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Establishment of a list of hot spots concerning animal farms for intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs not in compliance with part 2, Annex III of the Helsinki Convention	The group suggested to consider inclusion of action to the updated BSAP in modified form with a new focus. The modified action could take into account that for the EU countries the Industrial Emissions Directive sets requirements for large pig and poultry farms but does not include cattle farms.	No need to rephrase this action but to create a new action on sharing experiences with BAT and BEP for cattle.

Partly accomplished joint actions

Action	Comments from AGRI 7-2019	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Review and update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching good environmental status (GES)	The revision is ongoing and thus this action is still partly accomplished	1 If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it will be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.
Develop guidelines/recommendation on the use of standards for nutrient content in manure	The development of the recommendation is ongoing and thus this action is still partly accomplished	1 If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it will be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.

National actions

Partly accomplished national actions

Action	Comments from AGRI 7-2019	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Apply as a minimum the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses	EU BREF has been released and Russia has introduced legislation on BAT. In the reporting, it should be taken into account that the action does not refer only to areas critical to nitrogen losses but also phosphorus.	1 If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it will be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.

Action	Comments from AGRI 7-2019	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture. Optional agro-environmental measures to be implemented through corresponding international and national instruments	The group has made a compilation of the implementation of palette of measures and discussed it in AGRI 5-2017 and AGRI 6-2018. The compilation can be used for reporting. The revision of the palette of measures could be considered as an action to the updated BSAP.	2-3 Lead country: Denmark
Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure with the view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization	The group suggested that the Manure Standards project will make an overview on the implementation of this action for consideration by AGRI 8-2019. The group acknowledged that it is even more important to implement the standards than to establish them and suggested that implementing the standards could be an action to updated BSAP.	2-3 Lead: Manure Standards project to rephrase taking into account the draft Recommendation
Aim for elimination of remaining [agriculture] Hot Spots under the HELCOM JCP	There is an established procedure in place to report on this action to Pressure WG. Agri group could provide support in evaluating suggestions to remove agricultural hot spots.	2 Lead: Secretariat
Implement and enforce the provisions of part 2 of Annex III "Prevention of pollution from agriculture" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention	The Meeting suggested to clarify that all the regulations and items in the Annex need to be implemented and should be reflected individually in the reporting in 2020. The Meeting clarified also that the reporting is likely to be done on the current annex since the revision is still ongoing.	1
Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology	The following criterion for accomplishment of this action was suggested: existing national strategy or other national policy setting a target for P recycling and a target year to achieve it. Targets could include substitution of mineral fertilizers or use of P from waste water sector etc.	3 the action will likely be rephrased as part of the work on the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy
Agreement on national level on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization	The following criterion for accomplishment of this action was suggested: existing national policies setting targets to reduce nutrient surpluses and/or nutrient losses, possibly with link to water quality. The Meeting suggested to reformulate the action to the updated BSAP to focus on reducing nutrient losses.	3 Lead: Secretariat
Promote and advance towards applying annual nutrient accounting at farm level, taking into account soil and climate conditions, in areas critical to nutrient losses as a first step and with an aim to apply it region-wise	The following criteria for accomplishment of this action were suggested: existing national guidelines on nutrient accounting (fertilization planning and/or nutrient balances) of both nitrogen and phosphorus as a minimum (as more advanced systems might be also established)	2 The action could be included as part of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy but make it stronger and add "implement".

Rephrasing of actions previously considered too general for follow-up

Action	Comments by AGRI 7-2019	Transfer to updated BSAP (yes/no) and need for rephrasing
Designation of relevant parts of agricultural land as zones vulnerable to nitrogen	The action is already accomplished by EU countries but could still be relevant for Russia. The action could be reformulated and considered for the updated BSAP.	No
Follow-up and exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments and measures for improved farm nutrient management	This is an ongoing action in the group and does not require follow-up.	No
Make use of appropriate policy and economic instruments as well as economic levies and incentives, in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture and thus contribute to keeping the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea below the Maximum Allowable Inputs	This is an important tool to advance the implementation of agri-environmental measures. The action should be made more precise and could be considered in the updated BSAP if it would be reformulated.	Yes, 3 Lead country: Germany
Apply innovative water management measures, in particular under difficult soil conditions, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations in the outlets of the adjacent catchment	The action could be considered to include in the updated BSAP and taking into account the results of the WATERDRIVE project.	Yes, 2 Drainage issue is important and climate change makes the situation more demanding. In the rephrasing at least the reference to “difficult soil conditions” could be removed. Lead: WATERDRIVE project
Facilitate enhanced transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples as well as development of co-operation projects to reduce agricultural impact on the Baltic Sea	This is an ongoing action in the group and does not require follow-up.	No

Annex 3. Draft Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) 2020-2022

Footnotes provide full text of the commitments from MD2013 and MD2018 justifying actions in the Work Plan. Some of them might require revision.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention and implementation of the provision ¹				
1	Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention	Contracting parties Drafting Group Lead countries for specific sections	To use the input from activities below	2020
Action 2. Annual accounting at farm level ² :				
2	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 A Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices to promote annual nutrient accounting at farm level will be developed	Germany to lead national experts	SuMaNU project platform Other CPs	2022 2022
Action 3. Developing guidelines /recommendation to use of standards for nutrient content in manure ³				
3	Develop HELCOM Guidelines/recommendations for the use of national manure standards	Secretariat to lead with the support by the Manure Standards project	Cooperation with PA Bioeconomy of the EUSBSR	In accordance with the project implementation plan, 2020

¹ By 2016 review and an update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching Good Environmental Status, and implementation and enforcement of the provisions, in particular taking into account the following commitments of the Contracting Parties of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting

² 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

³ Support development by 2016 of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure, and develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards

	Follow up implementation of the Recommendation through regular discussion of the practices to use standards for nutrient content in manure Discuss measures to facilitate the use of standard			2022
Action 4. Promote development of appropriate methodology for phosphorus recycling (the action has been accomplished in the current context) Development of the Regional nutrient recycling strategy				
4	Elaborate a Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy ⁴ Follow up implementation of the Strategy starting from development of a regional mechanism to monitor the progress.	Finland Drafting group	In cooperation with PRESSURE PA Nutri, PA Bioeconomy and PA Hazard of EUSBSR Projects	2020 2022
Action 5. Enhance transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples				
5	With regard to application of innovative water management measures, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aims at reducing nutrient loads taking into account climate change consequences To start from compilation of practices on sustainable water management (including assessment of efficiency to reduce input of nutrient) in agriculture which can be further developed to a relevant regional document (Guidebook/Recommendation)	All Contracting Parties	In cooperation with PA Bioeconomy and Nutri of EUSBSR Projects WATERDRIVE project	Workshop 2021 continuous
5a	Address issues regarding BAT and BEP for cattle farms throughout the region taking into account its exclusion from BREF on intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. Launch an activity to collect information on national BREFS for cattle farming.	Contracting Parties [lead country approach] project	EU activities regarding BREF for the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs	Workshop 2021 Continuous

⁴ to initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environment effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs

	<p>Consider a project application based on the results of the stock taking</p> <p>Consider a HELCOM document providing guidance to develop BAT for cattle farming.</p> <p>Address issues related to handling of manure from horse, sheep etc. farming with the view to develop regional guidance.</p>			
5b	<p>Knowledge sharing on national measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture</p> <p>Update of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture</p>	Lead country to be identified	Contribution by EMEP, HELCOM PLC IG and RedCore DG	Workshop 2021 2021
5c	<p>Discuss and share knowledge on the climate change impact on agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea, mitigation and adaptation measures</p> <p>Contribute to the fact sheets of secondary climate change parameters⁵</p>	Contracting parties	EN CLIME CCB to contribute	Continuous 2021
Action 6. Exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments voluntary, mandatory and incentivizing, and contribution to the update of the BSAP				
6	<p>Contribute to the BSAP update through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -evaluating of the assessment of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient load from diffuse (agricultural) sources and -proposing of measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture <p>Exchange information on new measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture</p>	Contracting Parties	EU CAP reform PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy, Projects, Cooperation with observers HELCOM ACTION project HELCOM SOM platform GRASS (Conference)	2020 Continuous

⁵ to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by exploring the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations

<p>Sharing knowledge on the effectiveness of agri-environmental measures</p> <p>Elaboration of suggestions to facilitate implementation of effective measures based on analysis of the factors driving and hampering practical implementation of various measures</p> <p>Exchange of experiences and analyses of development of CAP strategic plans and other policy instruments</p>			2021
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