



Document title	Extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings
Code	3-3
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Agenda Item	3 - Organization of work and Group's working methods
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Reference	

Background

The issues related to the follow-up the Status report on pharmaceuticals were discussed at HELCOM, HOD, PRESSURE and STATE AND CONSERVATION meetings. The relevant outcomes of those meetings are listed below.

HELCOM 38-2017

4.39 The Meeting considered establishing a Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals and approved the proposed draft Terms of Reference (document 4-5-Rev.1).

4.40 The Meeting noted that the ToR includes a task to further develop the pharmaceutical indicators, instead of within the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances, and contribute to the HOLAS II assessment and decided to revisit the ToR together with the ToR of the expert network on hazardous substances in 2018.

4.42 The Meeting took note of the comment of Russia that implementation of the tasks in the ToR of the Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals will require financial resources.

4.43 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to take a lead in the work of the Correspondence group on Pharmaceuticals and inform the Secretariat of their possible offers by the Pressure 6-2017 meeting.

PRESSURE 4-2016

6.6 The Meeting considered how the results of the Status report can be used for the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 31E/1 "Implementing HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances" with regard to the list of priority substances and substances of concern as well as implementation of the new HELCOM action "Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants" (cf. doc. 6-2).

PRESSURE 5-2016

7.19 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden regarding release of a report on WWT techniques to remove pharmaceuticals and by CCB on the plan to be involved in promotion of the take-back system and other upstream measures and on the carried out international conference on obsolete pharmaceuticals in Minsk, Belarus. The Meeting also noted the information by Finland regarding ongoing activities aimed at WW from medical institutions and treatment techniques. Lithuania and Latvia informed on ongoing and planned activities aimed at monitoring of medical substances in the aquatic environment.

STATE AND CONSERVATION 4-2016

4MA.4 The Meeting noted that limited conclusions can be drawn from the report due to the shortage data and since the analytical detection limit often exceeds proposed threshold levels for pharmaceuticals substance on the WFD Watch list, i.e. for estrogens and diclofenac.

4MA.5 The Meeting proposed to analyze, in the future, available data to identify if current detections of e.g. diclofenac and estrogens are random or not and to determine how many samples are needed to detect relevant pharmaceutical substances reliably. Furthermore, development of technical advice for analyzing the pharmaceutical substances is needed.

4MA.6 The Meeting supported the continued development of the pre-core indicators on 'Diclofenac concentration' and 'Estrogenic-like chemicals and effects,' however noting that monitoring to support their evaluation will not be available for HOLAS II.

4MA.9 The Meeting took note that in Latvia pharmaceuticals are monitored during 2016.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the major HELCOM meetings relevant to the issue and use them when planning the CG Pharma work.

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