



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Third Meeting of HELCOM Correspondence Group on
Pharmaceuticals (HELCOM CG PHARMA)

CG PHARMA 3-2018

Online Meeting, 1st March 2018

Notes of the 3rd Meeting of the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (CG PHARMA 3-2018)

The Third Online meeting of the CG Pharma took place 1 March 2018 **from 13.00 to 15.00 CET**.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting took note and agreed on the agenda.

1.2 Representatives of Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden (PA Hazards) attended the meeting.

2. Discussion regarding the status of the HELCOM pre-core indicator for Diclofenac.

2.1 The meeting discussed the pre-core test indicator for Diclofenac, including the update carried out by the Secretariat in response to the joint data call by HELCOM working groups PRESSURE and State and Conservation (December 2017).

2.2 The Secretariat thanked participants for the excellent response to the data call, with data received from all HELCOM countries.

2.3 The Meeting welcomed the update and inclusion of new data from the 2014-2016 period.

2.4 The Meeting proposed some changes within the indicator text, including:

- Removal of the term 'of priority substances' from after watch list. The watch list is simply the watch list, whereas priority substances are those defined as requiring monitoring and for which the WFD has set environmental quality standards.
- Clarification of the current status of diclofenac to present more clearly that it is currently being considered for removal from the EU watch list and it remains to be confirmed if this substance will or will not be added to the priority list of substances requiring monitoring (at a future point for which the timeline is not currently clear).
- Clarify the text on page 20 related to current monitoring so that it is clear that this process for monitoring on the watch list has been carried out already and that future monitoring under the WFD is uncertain (i.e. is the data recently reported in the HELCOM data call).

2.5 The Meeting briefly discussed if diclofenac should be considered for inclusion on the HELCOM list of priority substances. The Meeting indicated that with a large number of research projects on the subject taking place (e.g. CW Pharma and Morpheus) that waiting for further data and information would be a valuable first step.

2.6 The Meeting discussed when the diclofenac indicator should next be considered for an update and suggested that further monitoring and project data would support the next update and that after the projects conclude in circa 2020 may represent a good opportunity to update the indicator.

2.7 The Meeting briefly discussed that updates could be linked to existing HELCOM related processes such as the Pollution Load Compilation (PLC) or the BSAP and MSFD reporting. The Meeting considered that annual updates would be too frequent, that updates every 6 years was too infrequent, and considered updates every 2-3 years would appear at this stage to be a reasonable frequency.

2.8 The Meeting generally considered the updated data to be well presented but agreed to carry out further additional checks and **supply corrections and comments on the diclofenac indicator report to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) by 15 March.**

2.9 The Meeting took note that after 15 March the indicator report would be prepared by the Secretariat for submission to PRESSURE and State and Conservation working groups to gain final approval for its publication on the HELCOM indicator web page.

3 Questionnaire on veterinary pharmaceuticals

3.1 The Meeting took note of the draft questionnaire on veterinary pharmaceuticals (document 3).

3.2 The Meeting discussed how to improve this draft to ensure that data requested was comparable and available in all countries.

3.3 The Meeting agreed to **provide written comments to the questionnaire by 15 March 2018**. The Meeting also invited the CW PHARMA project to contribute to further elaboration of the questionnaire via their project partners, in addition to members of CG PHARMA.

3.4 The Meeting took note that the aim of this process is to submit a final document to PRESSURE 8-2018 by 22 March 2018, for approval and launching the data reporting procedure.

4 Any other business

4.1 The Meeting took note of the request from Russia for advice on the methodology to measure diclofenac in biota.

4.2 The Meeting suggested that laboratories carrying out analyses within existing projects (SYKE laboratory – Finland, and Kristianstad University – Sweden) may be able to assist with such information.

4.3 The Meeting also proposed that national Food Security Agencies may be able to provide methodological advice as they would have greater experience.

4.4 The Meeting took note of information from PA Hazards that as part of their development of a pharmaceuticals platform they aim to create a digital sharing forum. This forum will allow people to share information such as publications, methodologies, relevant meetings, or ask questions. It is anticipated that it should be available in circa 1 month.

The Meeting discussed the timing of the next CG PHARMA meeting and concluded that, unless important issues arise in the mean time, an online meeting would be planned for autumn 2018.

Meeting participants:

| Representing | Name | Organization |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Estonia | Margus Korsjukov | Ministry of the Environment |
| Finland | Lauri Äystö | Finnish Environment Institute, SYKE |
| Germany | Arne Hein | German Environment Agency |
| Latvia | Maruta Vehi | Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre |
| Lithuania | Galina Garnaga-Budrė | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Sweden PA Nutri | Jenny Hedman | Swedish Environmental Protection Agency |
| Secretariat | Dmirty Frank-Kamenetsky Owen Rowe | HELCOM Secretariat |