



Outcome of the Second Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 2-2020)

Introduction

0.1 The Second Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 2-2020) was held online on 11 September 2020.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except for Estonia and Lithuania, attended the Meeting, as well as Observers from the Baltic Sea Advisory Council, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers and World Wide Fund for Nature. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Rüdiger Stempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary. Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Associate Professional Secretary from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

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

Agenda Item 2 Latest activities in the BSAP update process

Documents: None

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the four BSAP UP workshops on evaluation of new actions that took place in the end of August and beginning of September 2020. The Meeting recalled that the outcomes and recommendations of the workshops for new actions to be included in the BSAP will be elaborated and endorsed by the HELCOM Working Groups for submission to HOD 59-2020. The Meeting recalled that the actions will be further developed by the DG BSAP in spring 2021.

2.2 The Meeting took note that the results of the sufficiency of measures (SOM) analysis were presented at the BSAP UP workshops and will again be presented at the Working Group meetings as well as SOM Platform 4-2020 and HOD 59-2020 meetings. The Meeting took note that the results of the SOM analysis will provide background information on which topics there are gaps in reaching the good environmental status and new actions could be needed.

2.3 The Meeting took note that the new HELCOM Explorer, the online tool for following up on HELCOM commitments, is soon operational and that the reporting on existing national actions will be done via national contact points and reporting on joint actions via Working group meetings in autumn 2020.

Agenda Item 3 ToR and organization of work for DG BSAP

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

3.1 The Meeting took note of the updated Terms of Reference for DG BSAP approved by Heads of Delegation via correspondence (document 3-1).

3.2 The Meeting discussed the ToR and agreed that they should be amended as follows:

- The section on background should refer to the “updated” BSAP and not the “new” BSAP and the word “political” should be deleted;
- In the section about tasks and working mode, it should be clarified to whom DG BSAP will make suggestions;
- In the section about the members of the drafting group, the word “political” should be deleted;
- The drafting group could be renamed as Ad hoc Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP).

3.3 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to update the ToR based on the comments and submit them to the Heads of Delegation for intersessional approval.

3.4 The Meeting recalled that DG BSAP 1-2020 agreed that the whole drafting group will work on the overarching preamble while the segments teams will be established to work on the different segments (eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, sea-based activities, biodiversity and horizontal actions). The Meeting further recalled that DG BSAP 1-2020 also agreed that the segment teams will start their work by reviewing the drafts of the segment-specific preambles in the autumn 2020, concomitantly with their submission to the GEAR 23-2020 meeting, and focus on the continued drafting of the preambles and operative sections based on the guidance from HOD, in spring 2021.

3.5 The Meeting took note that there are nominations for segment teams but currently no lead countries.

3.6 The Meeting took note that, in addition to reviewing the segment-specific preambles, there are some additional tasks for the segment teams already in autumn 2020 such as taking into account comments on existing actions that were given in HOD 58-2020 and received via correspondence after HOD 58-2020.

3.7 The Meeting recalled that DG BSAP has been requested to propose a structure for the horizontal actions segments and that the topics covered are socio-economic aspects, monitoring, financing, climate change and possibly MSP.

3.8 The Meeting took note that the Intersessional Meeting of the Heads of Delegation on 17 September will discuss the financing part of the horizontal segment.

3.9 The Meeting agreed that there is no need for an additional segment team on horizontal actions, but the structure of the segment will be discussed at DG BSAP 3-2020, noting that some Working Groups that are dealing with the relevant topics could be included in the work as well.

3.10 The Meeting recalled that HOD 58-2020 requested the DG BSAP to identify how best to incorporate the updated nutrient input reduction scheme in the updated BSAP. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat has made an initial proposal on integrating parts of the nutrient input reduction scheme as part of the segment-specific preamble but further discussion on integrating the whole scheme needed in the eutrophication segment team.

3.11 The Meeting recalled that, in addition to the overarching preamble, the segments of the BSAP will start with a segment preamble. The four segment preambles have been drafted by the Secretariat and they will be reviewed first by the Working Groups. The Meeting took note that the segment-specific preambles have been drafted in a more general introductory style to make them more accessible for the reader.

3.12 The Meeting emphasized that as the BSAP is a document to be adopted at the political level, also the segment-specific preambles should be politically relevant and kept as short as possible.

3.13 The Meeting invited further nominations to segment teams and encouraged Contracting Parties to take the lead of segment teams.

3.14 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to schedule the first meetings of the segment teams for the week 12-16 October 2020.

Agenda Item 4 Overarching preamble for the updated BSAP

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

4.1 The Meeting recalled that according to the work plan for BSAP update, one of the tasks of DG BSAP is to draft the overarching preamble for the updated BSAP, guided by the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP approved by HOD 58-2020. The first full draft of the BSAP, including the overarching preamble, is to be submitted to HOD 59-2020.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the first draft of the overarching preamble drafted by the Secretariat (document 4-1).

4.3 The Meeting took note that the detailed plan for drafting does not specifically give instructions on the style of the preamble i.e. whether it should be written in the traditional preambular style or in a more general introductory style.

4.4 The Meeting discussed the style of the preamble and provided the following comments:

- The traditional preambular style is clear in indicating which parts of the text are stressed and also the Ministers are used to such style. The overarching preamble is politically oriented and the traditional style makes this clear;
- The traditional style is less accessible for stakeholders, the general public and the press. Also, a more general style might work better with the rest of the text since a more general introductory style is used in the segment-specific preambles;
- Editing the current draft by shortening the paragraphs and using the present tense would make the text more reader-friendly and could be a compromise between the two styles.

4.5 The Meeting agreed to keep the traditional preambular style for now but edit the text to make it more accessible for the reader.

4.6 The Meeting took note of the comments by Finland on the draft preamble (document 4-2).

4.7 The Meeting made specific comments on the text that were noted by the Secretariat.

4.8 The Meeting provided the following general comments regarding the draft preamble:

- The text is somewhat repetitive and could be edited;
- There is some similarity to the current BSAP preamble. The new preamble could lift also other themes and emerging issues such as sustainable consumption and use of resources, the ecosystem-approach, strong regional cooperation, ocean governance and global context, climate change, sea-floor integrity, uniqueness of Baltic Sea species;
- The text could refer to different sectors that should contribute to reaching the goals of the BSAP, e.g. agriculture, maritime, fisheries;
- The text cannot be too broad either and it should be made clear what is the link to marine environment;
- The preamble should be relevant politically and should not contain too many expert terms;

- The reference to EU legislation could be more general not mentioning all Directives. When there is a reference to EU legislation there should also be a reference to the relevant Russian legislation keeping in mind that not all Contracting Parties are EU members;
- The preamble should reflect that as agreed by HOD 58-2020, the year 2030 will be the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the HOD 58-2020 agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.

4.9 The Meeting took note that Sweden will send additional comments via correspondence.

4.10 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to take into account all comments received and submit a revised version of the preamble to DG BSAP 3-2020.

Agenda Item 5 Next meetings

Documents: None

5.1 The Meeting agreed that the next meeting of the drafting group will be held on 1 October 2020

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

Documents: None

6.1 The Meeting did not discuss any other business.

Agenda Item 7 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: None

7.1 The draft outcome was prepared by the Secretariat and adopted via correspondence.

Annex 1. List of participants

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