



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Meeting of the Hazardous substances and litter segment
team

DG BSAP HZ 1-2020

Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan

Online, 3 November 2020

Document title	Comments on existing actions
Code	3-1
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 – Rephrasing existing actions
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place. Contracting Parties were invited to provide concrete proposals for rephrasing of specific actions to the Secretariat to be considered in the further development of the actions.

HOD 58-2020 discussed whether the provisions of Minamata Convention should be repeated in the operational part of the updated BSAP. The attached document includes the proposed rephrased actions regarding mercury and a comment by Latvia received after HOD 58-2020.

HOD 58-2020 also noted that the style of some of the actions should be changed to the agreed style avoiding formulations such as “WE AGREE and tasked drafting group to check the style but not change the content of the actions in question. HOD 58-2020 invited the drafting group to check the style of one action under the hazardous substances and litter segment included in the attached document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the comments and continue drafting of the actions based on the comments received with the aim of submitting a final proposal for HOD 59-2020.

Comments on existing actions

Actions on mercury

PRESSURE 12-2020 discussed that issues of regional importance could be highlighted also in the BSAP although they are covered by international conventions. The Pressure group agreed to ask for guidance from HOD 58-2020 on whether actions related to mercury should be included in the BSAP although they are mostly covered by the Minamata Convention.

HOD 58-2020 noted views that provisions of Minamata Convention should not be repeated in the operational part of the updated BSAP but that some regionally specific measures strengthening prevention of contamination of the Baltic Sea marine environment by mercury could be proposed. HOD 58-2020 took note that Russia is not a Party to the Minamata Convention, being a signatory, and thus considers it premature to include the implementation of the Convention as a measure in the updated BSAP.

After HOD 58-2020, Latvia sent a comment informing that Latvia considers that regionally specific measures strengthening prevention of contamination of the Baltic Sea marine environment by mercury should be proposed and reference to the Minamata Convention should be made in the updated Plan, taking into account mercury as a significant pollutant of the Baltic Sea ecosystem.

Existing action	Proposal for rephrased action
<p>Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: National Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>enhance implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>undertake all possible measures to reduce mercury emissions from energy sector</p> <p>control concentration of mercury in dredged material and undertake possible measures to prevent its release during dredging operations and handling of dredged material</p> <p>introduce the ban of the use of mercury-based amalgam in dentistry by [2030], except when deemed strictly necessary</p> <p>establish and maintain procedures (rules) to handle mercury containing wastes to prevent entering of the contaminant to the environment, including public information on the procedures (rules)</p> <p>PRESSURE 12-2020: <i>The Meeting <u>discussed</u> that issues of regional importance could be highlighted also in the BSAP although they are covered by international conventions but <u>agreed</u> to ask for guidance from HOD 58-2020 on whether actions related to mercury should be included in the BSAP although they are mostly covered by the Minamata Convention.</i></p>

Changing the style of a rephrased action

HOD 58-2020 noted that the style of some of the actions should be changed to the agreed style avoiding formulations such as “WE AGREE and tasked the drafting group to check the style but not change the content of the actions in question. HOD 58-2020 invited the drafting group to check the style of following action under the hazardous substances and litter segment.

Existing action	Proposal for rephrased action
<p>Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8.</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>[in order to decrease dioxin emissions] we agree to perform information campaigns and other instruments that focus on the quality and species of the firewood, and what is burned in the small-scale combustion appliances</p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: BSAP drafting group to change the style to the agreed new style but not change the content.</i></p>