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<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the group
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic

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## Background

For the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in Brussels in March 2018, Coalition Clean Baltic, a network of grass root environmental NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region, submitted this declaration expressing serious concern on the lack of progress towards reaching Good Environmental Status as envisaged by the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The signing organizations request committed leadership to more effectively protect the Baltic Sea environment and ecosystem, where identification of problems leads to development and implementation of concrete and targeted actions to reach the set goals. The signatories also propose actions in several areas to reach GES in the Baltic Sea Region.

With only a few years left before the original BSAP deadline in 2021, HELCOM Contracting Parties should strongly focus on implementation of already agreed commitments and consider how HELCOM can regain the forerunner position and become a model region for water and sea management by truly applying the ecosystem based management throughout its all actions, not just in words.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Letter to ministers and the civil society declaration, in particular the proposals within linked to Fish:

- Bycatch mitigation harbor porpoise – developing and using seal safe pingers;
- Protecting the eel – cooperating to safeguard the migration out from the Baltic Sea including halting fisheries;
- Establish salmon river management plans in weak rivers in Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
- Finalize a common BAT concept for aquaculture – channeling public funds only to best performers; and
- Meet the BSAP and MSFD goal for fish stocks including a healthy size and age structure