



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach  
Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-11 May 2016

GEAR 14-2016

---

<b>Title</b>	Information on state of play in Germany
<b>Code</b>	4-5
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 – Coordination and information related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach and related policies
<b>Submission date</b>	9.5.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	Germany
<b>Reference</b>	Agenda item 4

---

### Background

Germany wishes to inform the Meeting on the national state of play concerning discussion points under agenda item 4.

### Action

The Meeting is invited to note the information.

---

## Information on the state of play in Germany

Discussion points under agenda item 4

To date no planning for the 2018 MSFD reporting round exists in Germany. The federal and state governments will discuss strategies and procedures for the 2018 MSFD reporting round at the beginning of May 2016.

### **HOLAS II: Management of national consultation processes**

We refer to the questionnaire reported to HELCOM on the potential use of HOLAS II and national consultation processes, as presented by the Secretariat as a part of document 4-1 to GEAR 13. Pending national discussions, no progress can be reported on those topics.

### **Plans for revising national environmental targets**

In 2012, Germany set environmental targets in form of operational targets to manage human activities and pressures. Germany considers this approach to conform to the interpretation of Art. 10 MSFD by the EU Commission. One of the main criticisms of the EU Commission's evaluation of the German 2012 report on Art. 10 MSFD is that the environmental targets are not 'smart', in particular that they are not measurable.

The approach to updating national environmental targets according to Art. 17(2)(b) in conjunction with Art. 10 MSFD still need to be decided in Germany. Pending national discussions, Germany will not be in a position to report to HELCOM the requested information by 3 May 2016. Depending on progress on national discussions, Germany will endeavour to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible of its plans or at least when such communication to GEAR can be expected.

### **Additional themes for which coherent environmental targets should be developed**

Germany considers the development of common principles for defining national environmental targets for pressures acting on seafloor integrity as well as the exploration of ways for establishing environmental targets for underwater noise a priority and appreciates the ongoing work under the BalticBOOST project. Pending national discussions on updating Art. 10 MSFD, no additional themes can be proposed at this stage for the development of coherent approaches.

### **Plans for addressing MSFD Articles 8, 9 and 10**

To date no planning for the 2018 MSFD reporting round exists in Germany. The federal and state governments will discuss strategies and procedures for the 2018 MSFD reporting round at the beginning of May 2016.

### **Finalisation and operationalisation of programmes of measures**

Germany finalised and reported its programmes of measures for its waters in the North and Baltic Seas on 31 March 2016. The documentation (in German) is accessible at <http://www.meeresschutz.info/berichte-art13.html>. An English summary of the programme of measures is under preparation.

Germany started with work on the operationalization of its programme of measures. This includes specification of measures and detailed planning of their implementation and associated timing.

### **Gothenburg Protocol**

Germany supports intensified cooperation of HELCOM Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol within the HELCOM area and in cooperation with third countries. As proposed previously, communications with UNECE and third countries about the contribution of long-range transport of pollutants to pressures in the Baltic Sea region and cooperation projects in third countries addressing pressure sources might be promising approaches to progress on this issue.