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<b>Document title</b>	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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A Jubilee Session on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention and the regular 35th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be held at the Marina Congress Center in Helsinki, Finland, from 5 to 6 March 2014.

The Jubilee Session and Regular Meeting of the Commission will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Mrs. Helle Pilsgaard.

The Jubilee Session of HELCOM will be opened at 10:00 on Wednesday, 5 March 2014 and it will finalize at 12:30 on the same day. The programme of the Session will be submitted in a separate document.

The Meeting of the Commission will be opened at 13:30 on Wednesday, 5 March 2014. The Meeting is expected to terminate on Thursday, 6 March 2014 no later than 16:00.

## **Agenda Item 1                      Adoption of the Agenda**

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda (HELCOM 35/2013, document 1-1).

## **Agenda Item 2                      Outcome of the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting**

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013 in Copenhagen adopted HELCOM Ministerial Declaration "Taking Further Action to Implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan – Reaching Good Environmental Status for a healthy Baltic Sea".

The Meeting is invited to reflect in general on the Ministerial outcome and the way forward to implement it, including the future strategic approach for HELCOM as decided on in the Declaration.

At the Ministerial Meeting Poland informed that at that point of time they accepted the Polish Country Allocated Reduction Targets (CART) for nutrients as indicative due to the ongoing national consultations, and confirmed their efforts to finalize these consultations as soon as possible.

Poland is invited to inform on the outcome of the consultations and confirm their agreement on the CART figures for Poland.

The Roadmap for HELCOM's activities on ecosystem approach, updated with the major deliverables stemming from the Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration will be submitted to the Meeting at a later stage.

The Commission will be invited to consider and endorse the updated Roadmap, to serve as a tool to prioritize and plan the work on HELCOM deliverables in line with the Baltic Sea Action Plan and follow up commitments, including the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting. Further, the Meeting will be invited to agree to use the Roadmap when considering the streamlining of HELCOM (cf. Agenda Item 3).

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**Agenda Item 3 Streamlining of HELCOM**

In the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration it has been decided, as one of the strategic actions, to further streamline HELCOM working structures, make resources available for identified priorities and foster cross-sectorial cooperation and synergies, in a focused, cost efficient way.

According to the decision by HELCOM HOD 40/2013, HELCOM streamlining has started, being implemented gradually, first focusing on fine-tuning of existing working methods so as to provide better possibilities to the Contracting Parties for preparations and consultation prior to the meetings and smoother decision-making process on the issues put on the agenda.

A second step of the streamlining concerning working structures of HELCOM has been initiated after the Ministerial Meeting. Following the discussions in HELCOM HOD 45/2014, the Meeting will be presented with proposals for streamlining. The Meeting will be invited to consider and decide on the proposed course of action.

**Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies**

The Meeting will be informed about the progress of work of the HELCOM Groups.

*Monitoring and assessment*

Outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Group, held on 19-22 November 2013 in Helsinki, Finland is contained in document 4-1.

The HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting adopted the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and agreed to start implementing it immediately.

A progress report on the implementation of the Strategy will be submitted to the Meeting.

*Maritime activities*

Outcome of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Maritime Group, held on 26-28 November 2013, in Szczecin, Poland, will be submitted to the Meeting

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen agreed to work towards creation of a joint “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping” together with other regional actors in the Baltic Sea.

An event on Green Technology and Alternative Fuels in shipping with focus on air emissions is organized on board LNG-fuelled passenger ship Viking Grace on 16 January 2014, upon an initiative of the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS and HELCOM and in cooperation with the Baltic Development Forum and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics.

Finland is invited to report on the outcome of the event, including the development of a “Roadmap for future actions”.

The Russian Federation is invited to inform on the developments related to green shipping under the St. Petersburg Initiative.

Outcome of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Response Group, to be held on 21-23 January 2014 in Szczecin, Poland, will be reported to the Meeting.

*Ecosystem services and maritime spatial planning*

In the Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, the Contracting Parties agreed to initiate or intensify the work to attribute economic value to marine and coastal ecosystem services with a view of starting more comprehensively embracing an ecosystem accounting approach.

Regional Workshop on the valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services in the Baltic Sea took place on 7-8 November 2013, in Stockholm, as a joint initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Sweden, Stockholm Resilience Centre, HELCOM and UNEP, with support of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Background Paper “The Baltic Sea and the valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services”, including the outcome of the workshop discussions and suggestions for a way forward in HELCOM, will be submitted to the Meeting.

HELCOM workshop “Fishing for Space” on maritime spatial planning and fisheries was organized on 14 November in Vilnius, Lithuania, back-to-back with the European Workshop – Fisheries and Aquaculture on 15 November 2013. The findings of the HELCOM workshop are contained in document 4-2.

Information on the status of HELCOM projects will be submitted to the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 5                      Activities of the Commission during 2013 and contributions to the work of the Helsinki Commission**

The Executive Secretary will give a statement in accordance with the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 4/17, Paragraph 2.4) on the work of the Secretariat including her comments and evaluation of the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the statement.

Having regard to Rule 11.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission the Executive Secretary will submit a report giving an account on the activities of the Commission during 2013. The Meeting might wish to take note of the report on the activities and decide to have it published in an overview form.

The Contracting Parties, Observer Governments and Observer Organizations are invited to give their statements, if so wished, under this Agenda Item. If possible, the statements should be received by the Secretariat in written form in advance of the Meeting. The oral statements should not last longer than five minutes and should concentrate on concrete contributions to the work of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 6                      Accounts 2012–2013, budget 2014–2015 and other institutional and organisational matters of the Commission**

The Meeting is invited to take note of the explanatory memorandum on the accounts of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 , to adopt the Audit Report by the State Audit Office of Finland together with the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and to discharge the accountables from responsibility in respect of the implementation of the budget 2012-2013. The documents will be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the budget for the financial period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and a draft budget estimate for 2015–2016, both to be submitted at a later stage. Applications for observer status at HELCOM have been received from the European Network of Freshwater research organisations (EurAqua), John Nurminen Foundation and the Council of Great Lakes Governors, and forwarded to the Heads of Delegation. The applications are contained in document 6-1. The Meeting is invited to consider the applications and decide as appropriate.

**Agenda Item 7                      Any other business**

The Meeting might wish to discuss any matters under this Agenda Item.

**Agenda Item 8                      Next meeting(s) of the Commission**

A preliminary reservation for the year 2015 has been made at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki for 2-4 March 2015.

The Meeting will be invited to decide on the dates of the next meetings of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 9                      Outcome of the Meeting**

A draft outcome of the Meeting, reflecting decisions made will be prepared and presented for consideration and adoption before the closing of the Meeting.

