



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	18.12.2014
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

The 36th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be opened at 09:00 on Tuesday, 3 March 2015. The Meeting is expected to terminate on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 no later than 16:00.

The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Harry Liiv.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda (HELCOM 36-2015, document 1-1).

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies

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

State and Conservation

The Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt a draft Recommendation on conservation of Baltic Sea species threatened according to the HELCOM Red List to be submitted at a later stage. The draft Recommendation is being finalized under the lead of Germany.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the revised HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 on Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations affecting the Baltic Sea (document 2-2).

Fish

The Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the draft HELCOM Recommendation “Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region”. The draft Recommendation is to be finalized taking into account additional comments or clarification to be provided by the Contracting Parties by 30 January 2015 and in a possible online meeting in early February 2015.

Pressure

The Meeting will be invited to consider the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to be submitted at a later stage and decide as appropriate.

The Meeting is also invited to discuss priorities for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter at national and regional levels and consider possibilities for the Contracting Parties to lead implementation of the regional measures.

HOD 47-2014 considered the draft follow-up assessment on progress towards the country-wise allocation of nutrient reduction targets (CART) and invited the Contracting Parties to provide feedback to the draft from

the point of view of presentation of results and policy needs, especially on the key message. The work on the follow-up assessment will continue and the Meeting will be informed of the progress.

Maritime

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the revised HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 "Safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea Area" (document 2-1).

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt revisions to the joint HELCOM-OSPAR procedure on ballast water management to be submitted at a later stage.

Denmark is invited to report on the progress with development of a roadmap regarding the future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application.

Response

The Meeting will be invited to consider the further developed draft HELCOM Recommendation on marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between the Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area and decide as appropriate.

The Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the revised HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4 "Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea area" to be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the funding of the Sea Track Web oil spill drift modelling tool, based on a document to be submitted at a later stage.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP

The outcome of the tenth meeting of HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group to be held on 29-30 January 2015 will be submitted at a later stage for consideration by the Meeting.

Gear

The outcome of the ninth meeting of the Gear Group to take place on 4-5 February 2015 will be submitted at a later stage for consideration by the Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to consider and approve the draft HELCOM plan to improve regional coherence in moving towards Good Environment Status of the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted later).

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

Agenda Item 3 Cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions and organizations

Information on developments in relation to cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions will be submitted for consideration by the Meeting.

HOD 47-2014 concluded that it is important to develop a proposal to institutionalize the cooperation between HELCOM and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), and to define the specific tasks of the Working Groups, Chairs, the HELCOM Secretariat and the EUSBSR Coordinators and Steering Committees.

Further, HOD 47-2014 agreed to bring up the cooperation issue again in HELCOM 36-2015 and requested the Secretariat to initiate the preparation of a consolidated input by HELCOM to the revision process of the EUSBSR utilizing the expertise of the working groups.

The Meeting will be invited to consider and agree on the draft HELCOM consolidated input to the revision of the EUSBSR as well as on a proposal for operationalization of the cooperation between HELCOM and EUSBSR (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Agenda Item 4 Activities of the Commission during 2014 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 2014. 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 5 Accounts 2013–2014, budget 2015–2016 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 2013 to 30 June 2014, to adopt the Audit Report by the State Audit Office of Finland together with the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet (document 5-1) and to discharge the accountables from responsibility in respect of the implementation of the budget 2013-2014.

The Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the budget for the financial period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and a draft budget estimate for 2016–2017, both to be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the modernized observer guidelines (document 5-2).

The Meeting is invited to consider the applications for observer status at HELCOM (document 5-3) by:

- the European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations (EurAqua),
- the John Nurminen Foundation (JNF),
- the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), and
- the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC)

and decide as appropriate.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

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

Agenda Item 7 Next meeting(s) of the Commission

The Meeting is invited to exchange initial views regarding the next Ministerial Meeting.

A preliminary reservation for the year 2016 has been made at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki for 8-10 March (week 10) 2016.

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

Agenda Item 8 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.