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<b>Document title</b>	Discussion on follow-up of RAP on Marine Litter
<b>Code</b>	2-12
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	HELCOM 36-2015, document 2-11

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## Background

The Contracting Parties are to decide on the proposed Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as contained in document 2-11.

The Action Plan lists regional actions and associated “targets” – a non-exhaustive indication of first steps to be taken or expected outputs and the timetables.

An implementation plan is envisaged, to further detail the ways forward, identify targets and possibly prioritize activities. A lead country approach is to be taken, and Sweden has already indicated their willingness to lead actions RL7<sup>1</sup> and RS1<sup>2</sup> as contained in document 2-11.

The success of implementation will rest in the Contracting Parties offering leadership and in effective coordination and follow-up to be organized within HELCOM (Pressure Working Group leading this topic, however, other groups to be engaged as well). Furthermore, other actors and stakeholders in the region need to be engaged and take pro-active role as the number and scope of regional actions exceed the capacity of a single organization to accomplish the tasks. The implementation process needs to encourage ownership of the Action Plan among the regional players as well as combining efforts for actions best implemented on a European scale.

OSPAR has already started the implementation phase of their marine litter action plan, utilizing a country leadership approach. Thus, HELCOM will be in a position to benefit from the work being conducted within OSPAR, as well as other RSCs. HELCOM should also consider for which issues we could contribute and join forces to carry out activities together with other RSCs. Initial planning for inter-regional cooperation and coordination has already taken place among RSC Secretariats on the occasion of the Second HELCOM marine litter workshop ([HOD 47-2014, Annex 1 of the document 3-5](#)).

Other policy context such as the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region could potentially be utilized to support the implementation. Different financing sources for marine litter actions could be investigated or mapped.

There are already a number of marine litter initiatives being undertaken or planned by different stakeholders, to build knowledge and mitigate impacts. They represent an opportunity for sharing efforts and supporting HELCOM’s work in the implementation of the Action Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> “Investigate and promote best available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.”

<sup>2</sup> “Develop and promote best practice in relation to all relevant aspect of waste management (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbors and operational losses/net cuttings).”

### Action required

Once document 2-11 is considered, the Meeting might wish to exchange views and provide guidance on how to organize an implementation phase of the ML Regional Action Plan, e.g. to enable wide stakeholder involvement and effective follow-up in HELCOM.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider offering a leadership role for chosen regional actions.