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<b>Document title</b>	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-2
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	13.01.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

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The 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be opened at 9:00 on Thursday, 10 March 2016. The Meeting is expected to terminate on Friday, 11 March 2016 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 37-2016, document 1-1).

#### **Agenda Item 2                      Outcome of the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference**

HELCOM Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference will be held on 9 March 2016, back to back with HELCOM 37-2016. The outcome of the Conference will be presented to the Meeting for consideration.

#### **Agenda Item 3                      Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting**

The Meeting will be invited to consider and endorse the Roadmap of HELCOM activities, updated based on the outcome of HOD 49-2015. The Meeting might wish to use the Roadmap as background information when discussing the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

HOD 49-2015 tentatively agreed that the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held in 2018 and identified HOLAS II and MAI/CART as the most important issues suitable for ministerial attention, with the possibility to include other issues as well.

The Meeting is invited to continue the consideration of the next Ministerial Meeting and plan for timely preparations of the Meeting.

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

Information on the progress of work of the HELCOM Groups and the status of HELCOM projects will be submitted to the Meeting.

#### ***Implementation follow-up***

HOD 49-2015 agreed on a step-wise approach to the reporting of national actions implementing BSAP and the 2010 and 2013 Ministerial Declarations according to the new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements:

- the countries are invited to finalize the reporting for two themes: hazardous substances and eutrophication by mid-February 2016 and two themes: biodiversity and maritime activities by the end of February 2016 as far as possible,
- all countries are invited to prioritize reporting by mid-February for one specific theme on eutrophication in order to be able to present results at HELCOM 37-2016.

The Meeting will be presented with the results of the reporting of the national actions according to the information submitted by the Contracting Parties.

The Meeting may wish to make observations on the status of the implementation of the BSAP and follow-up Ministerial commitments.

HOD 49-2015 agreed to discuss the progress in implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme at HELCOM 37-2016.

The Chair of the Pressure Working Group is invited to present the current status with regard to inputs of nutrients to the sub-basins of the Baltic Sea based on the Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI) core indicator, as background information for the discussion by the Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information on the national measures to be put in place to further reduce nutrients to the Baltic Sea, taking into account the scientific results of the preliminary HELCOM assessment of the Country-Allocated Nutrient Reduction Targets. The Contracting Parties are invited to provide contributions in writing.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the progress in implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and consider how to further enhance the implementation of appropriate national and regional measures.

#### ***HELCOM Recommendations***

HOD 49-2015 agreed to establish a correspondence under the lead of the HELCOM FISH Chair to pave the way to be able to agree on the draft Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region and its follow-up regarding BAT/BEP at HELCOM 37-2016. The HELCOM FISH Chair is invited to present the outcome of the correspondence work.

The Meeting is invited to reconsider the draft Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region and decide as appropriate.

Germany offered to continue leading the finalization of the draft Recommendation on Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List and the further elaboration of the text bilaterally with Denmark, who holds a study reservation on the Recommendation. All Contracting Parties are to be consulted in this intersessional work with a view to reaching an agreement in time for adoption of the Recommendation at HELCOM 37-2016. In parallel, the action to support conservation of Baltic species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List is also to be taken up with a possibility to start work on some species / habitats / biotopes.

The Lead country Germany is invited to present the outcome of the intersessional work on the finalization of the Recommendation on Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft Recommendation as well as a proposed way forward regarding the action to support conservation of Baltic species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List and decide as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the draft Recommendation on co-operation and coordination of research vessel based monitoring in off-shore areas and procedures for granting permits for monitoring and research activities (document 4-1) pending clarification of the study reservation by Russia on paragraph c. Russia is invited to clarify the study reservation as soon as possible.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the draft HELCOM Recommendations on waterborne pollution input assessment and on monitoring of airborne pollution input pending the confirmation by Germany.



The Meeting is invited to consider the applications for observer status at HELCOM by PlasticsEurope and Marine Stewardship Council (document 6-2) and decide as appropriate.

**Agenda Item 7                      Any other business**

Following the request by Finland and Estonia, Russia is invited to provide information regarding dredging activities in the Port of Bronka and how the requirements of the Helsinki Convention are followed.

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

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

A preliminary reservation for the year 2017 has been made at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki for the week 28 February - 2 March 2017.

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.