



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Helsinki Commission
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HELCOM 39-2018

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Background

HOD 53-2017 endorsed the draft provisional agenda for the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, which has been developed into an annotated agenda as in this document. A provisional programme for the Ministerial Meeting is also included.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the attached provisional programme and annotated agenda for the Ministerial Meeting.



BRUSSELS
**MINISTERIAL
MEETING 2018**
HELCOM

Provisional Programme

Monday, 5 March 2018

Location: Berlaymont building, 13th floor, Rue de la Loi 200, Brussels

19:00 Dinner hosted by Commissioner Vella

 Attendance: 22 persons (Ministers + one person MAX may accompany the Minister, HELCOM Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Secretary)

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

Location: [Palais d'Egmont](#), 8 Place du Petit Sablon, Brussels

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and welcome coffee (*Salon des Tapisseries*)

10:00 - 12:30 Ministerial Meeting (*Arenberg room*)

 Attendance: Delegations from Contracting Parties, registered HELCOM Observers and invited guests

 Maximum sitting around the main table: Minister + MAX 3 accompanying persons per Contracting Party delegation. Additional people may sit at the back.

12:30 – 12:45 Family Photo (*Arenberg room*)

 Ministers and Commissioner available for possible media enquiries

12:30 – 13:30 Walking lunch (*Salon des Tapisseries*)

 Attendance: All persons attending the Ministerial meeting and the side event (see below), including Ministers.

Participants are invited to view a display of drawings by Mr Seppo Leinonen on HELCOM work for environmental protection, located in the meeting facilities.

13:30 – 15:00 Side Event by WWF and CCB

 Attendance: 100–150 persons: all persons attending the Ministerial meeting, including Ministers, are invited, as well as additional participants (MEPs, Perm Rep, and Commission Officials)



BRUSSELS
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Provisional Annotated Agenda

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be opened at 10:00 on Tuesday, 6 March 2018, and is expected to terminate at 12:30.

The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Marianne Wenning.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda.

Agenda Item 2 Introduction

A short introduction to Ministerial debate, including presentation of a video on the HELCOM "State of the Baltic Sea" report.

Agenda Item 3 Ministerial debate

Contracting Parties are invited to consider a draft Ministerial Declaration and exchange their views on issues topical for the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. The following questions are proposed for the Ministerial debate:

- What should be HELCOM's priorities to accomplish the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021? Which are the national actions you will take in your country and which are the top three actions that Parties should do jointly to achieve good environmental status?
- What opportunities do you see from our cooperation to support implementation of UN Agenda 2030 in the Baltic Sea? Is HELCOM as organization fit to do it, and if not, what are the key changes needed so we would be?

Two documents provide background information for the debate and consideration of the draft Ministerial Declaration:

The first version of the HELCOM "State of the Baltic Sea" report was published in July 2017 and is available at <http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/>. It reflects the latest environmental situation in the Baltic Sea.

The HELCOM report "Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2018 – three years left to reach good environmental status" is submitted to the meeting. The report focuses on the implementation of agreements in HELCOM in comparison with the results of the first version of the "State of the Baltic Sea" report. It covers the actions agreed in the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations in 2010 and 2013.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and resolve any potential open issues in the draft Ministerial Declaration.

Agenda Item 4 Statements by HELCOM Observers

Observer Governments and Observer Organizations, who will have expressed the wish to do so by 1 February 2018, are invited to give their statements under this Agenda Item. The contributions based on which the statement will be made should be received by the Secretariat in written form in advance of the Meeting. The oral statements should concentrate on concrete contributions to the work of the Helsinki Commission.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the statements by HELCOM Observers.

Agenda Item 5 Adoption of the HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Declaration

The Ministers are invited to adopt the HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Declaration.

Agenda Item 6 Closure of the meeting

A list of decisions will be prepared and presented for consideration and adoption before the closing of the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting will be finalized in consultation with the Chair and will be submitted to all Contracting Parties and to any government, intergovernmental organization and non-governmental international organization invited to send observers to the Meeting.