



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate C - Quality of Life
ENV.C.2 - Marine Environment & Water Industry

Mrs. Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
Helsinki Commission
monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi

Brussels, 17. 11. 2017

Dear Madam,

With reference to the outcome of HELCOM 38-2017 (paragraph 8.1), I have the pleasure to invite the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and the Observer Organizations of the Helsinki Commission to the 39th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission to be held on 5 March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The Meeting will be hosted by the European Union at the premises of Palais d'Egmont, Arenberg room (Place du Petit Sablon, 8, B-1000 Brussels, <http://www.ccegmont.be/en>).

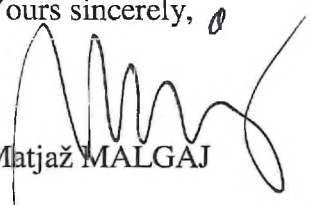
The meeting will start on Monday 5 March at 10.00 o'clock and will terminate by 17.00 o'clock.

It is also my pleasure to invite the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and the Observer Organizations of the Helsinki Commission to the HELCOM Ministerial meeting, to be held on 6 March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium, in the same venue. I attach the invitation sent by Commissioner Vella to the Ministers of Environment of the contracting parties.

Please find attached information for participants on the venue, transportation and accommodation for both meetings.

Participants are kindly requested to confirm their participation in both meetings no later than 15 February 2018.

Looking forward to meeting you in Brussels,

Yours sincerely, 

Matjaž MALGAJ

Annexes



Karmenu VELLA
Member of the European Commission

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Brussels, 13. 06. 2017
Ref. Ares(2017)3067099

Dear Minister,

I have the pleasure and honour to invite you to the next Ministerial meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM), which will take place on 6 March 2018, in Brussels, Belgium, under the European Union Chairmanship of HELCOM.

During the meeting the forthcoming publication "State of the Baltic Sea – Second HELCOM holistic assessment of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea" (HOLAS II) will allow for a review of the progress made in view of implementing the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and achieving good environmental status.

At the same time, the meeting will be an opportunity to decide on further steps to address the next challenges the Baltic Sea will be facing, especially in terms of diffuse pollution from agriculture, impacts from fisheries, marine litter (in particular microplastics), and climate change. This could be done for instance by considering the renewal of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, with a view towards 2030.

I trust the Ministerial meeting will also be an excellent opportunity to have a regional follow-up to both 2017 conferences on oceans, namely the June 2017 SDG14 "The Ocean Conference" (New York) and the October 2017 "Our Ocean Conference" (Malta).

My services will be in contact with your office shortly to seek confirmation. Practical details and an agenda will follow in due time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karmenu Vella", written over a horizontal line.

Karmenu Vella