



27 August 2019

To: HELCOM Expert Network on Hazardous Substances
Contacts of HELCOM SOM Platform
Contacts of HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM PRESSURE
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM GEAR

Cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
Observers of HELCOM

Re. Invitation to the HELCOM Workshop on the analysis of sufficiency of measures for hazardous substances (HELCOM SOM-HZ WS 1-2019), Brussels, Belgium, 22 October 2019

Dear Madam/Sir,
Dear Colleagues,

As agreed intersessionally by HELCOM HOD, I have the pleasure to invite the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and Observer Organizations to the HELCOM Workshop on the analysis of sufficiency of measures for hazardous substances (HELCOM SOM-HZ WS 1-2019) hosted by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, on 22 October 2019. The Workshop will be held back-to-back with the Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 11-2019) on 23-25 October.

The Workshop will be opened **at 10.00 on Tuesday, 22 October**, and it is expected to terminate **by 17:00 on the same day**. The Workshop will be held at the premises of M.C.E (rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Brussels). The Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) is attached.

The workshop is convened to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM analysis) which is carried out to support the updated of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Key issues to be addressed at the Workshop are 1) the effectiveness of measures to reduce the input of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea, and 2) the response in the state of the environment when the input of hazardous substances is reduced. Experts on measures to control the release of hazardous substances to the environment are encouraged to participate, in particular for mercury, TBT, PFOS, and diclofenac which are targeted in the SOM analysis. Conclusions and proposals of the Workshop will be submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 for consideration.

Information for the Workshop will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the HELCOM SOM-HZ WS 1-2019 [Meeting site](#) (please see the [instructions](#) for *signing up* and *signing in*). Participants are kindly requested to *register to the Workshop* by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **14 October 2019**.

Yours sincerely,

Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky
Professional Secretary