



17 September 2015

To: Contacts and Observers to HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices

cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
HELCOM Observers

Invitation to the HELCOM Workshop on manure nutrient content in the Baltic Sea countries, 19-20 November 2015, Vantaa, Finland

Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the Outcome of the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 2-2015, paragraph 3.11) and following the invitation by Finland, I have the honor to invite experts from the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention and the Observer Organizations to the HELCOM Workshop on manure nutrient content in the Baltic Sea countries.

The workshop is to be held at the premises of the Natural Resources Institute Finland (address: Jokiniemenkuja 1, Vantaa; close to the airport) in Vantaa, Finland, on 19-20 November 2015. The workshop will start on **Thursday, 19 November 2015 at 09.00** and is expected to **end by 14.00 on Friday, 20 November 2015**.

The workshop is organized by Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and the Ministry of the Environment.

The Baltic Sea countries agreed at the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure by 2016 and to develop guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards with a view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid over-fertilization by 2018.

Finland has taken the lead to coordinate the work towards fulfilling the ministerial commitment and the HELCOM Agri group welcomed the offer by Finland to organize a workshop as a step forth to identify, or jointly develop methodologies that could be recommended for use in the Baltic Sea region when nationally establishing standards for nutrient content in manure.

More precise information on provisional program and other organization for the workshop will be circulated for the participants by 25th September 2015 and 8th October 2015, respectively.

Please register to the workshop by sending an e-mail to Jaana Nuorteva (jaana.nuorteva@ymparisto.fi) and Laura Meski (laura.meski@helcom.fi) by Wednesday, 10 November 2015 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary