



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*

30 June 2017

To: Contact addresses of HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST
cc: Contact addresses of HELCOM MARITIME
Observers of HELCOM MARITIME
(OSPAR Contacts to be circulated by OSPAR Secretariat)

Eighth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Exemptions (HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 8-2017), Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 November 2017

Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the outcome of HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 7-2016 (Paragraph 9.7), please find attached the invitation by Finland to the Eighth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Exemptions to be held in Helsinki, Finland, at the premises of the Finnish Environment Institute (address: Mechelininkatu 34a, FI-00251 Helsinki) on 16-17 November 2017. The Meeting will be hosted by the Finnish Transport Safety Agency (Trafi). The Meeting will start at 10:00 on Thursday, 16 November 2017 and it is expected to close by 12:00 on Friday, 17 November 2017.

Please find also attached the Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) for the Meeting.

Documents for the Meeting will be inserted on both the OSPAR and [HELCOM](#) websites as soon as they become available. **Please register for the Meeting via the [HELCOM](#) or OSPAR Websites by 9 November 2017 at the latest.**

For further information and for advice or help do not hesitate to contact the Secretariats or Mr. Ville-Veikko Intovuori (ville-veikko.intovuori@trafi.fi) or Ms. Maiju Lehtiniemi (majju.lehtiniemi@ymparisto.fi).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hermanni Backer".

Hermanni Backer
HELCOM Secretariat

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mouat".

John Mouat
OSPAR Secretariat