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<b>Document title</b>	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-2
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	3.10.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
<b>Reference</b>	Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016, paragraph 6.13

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## Background

The 13th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 13-2016) will be held at Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija (address: Elizabetes street 55) in Riga, Latvia, on 24-25 November 2016 upon invitation by the VASAB Secretariat. The Meeting will be opened on Thursday, 24 November, at 14:30 and is expected to terminate no later than by 15:00 the following day. The Meeting will take place back-to-back with the second Baltic MSP Forum (23-24 November 2016).

The major themes for the meeting are the future work plan for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and outcome of the MSP and ecosystem approach workshop held within the Baltic MSP forum.

The Meeting will be chaired jointly by the Working Group Co-Chairs Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland, and Mr. Andrzej Cieslak, Poland.

## Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

### **Agenda Item 1                      Adoption of the Agenda**

The Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) and the Annotations to the Provisional Annotated Agenda (document 1-2) have been prepared on the basis of the Outcome of the Twelfth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as well as consultations among the Co-Chairs and Vice-chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

### **Agenda Item 2                      Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work**

The Meeting will be informed of matters within HELCOM (document 2-1) and VASAB of relevance to the group, including past and upcoming meetings.

### **Agenda Item 3                      Regional coordination and policy follow-up**

The HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to check and update the list of national maritime spatial planning focal points for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries (document 3-1). A request for updates was also circulated on 10 August 2016 as requested by HOD 50-2016.

The European Commission is invited to provide information on developing processes related to the EU Framework Directive on MSP.

The countries are invited to update on any new national MSP developments, especially those of regional relevance.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on activities related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning for which HELCOM and VASAB act as the Horizontal Action Coordinators and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part and act as appropriate.



#### Agenda Item 4

#### Ecosystem-based approach in MSP

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016 welcomed an offer by Germany to organize a one day HELCOM-VASAB workshop on MSP and ecosystem approach in autumn 2016 and invited members of the MSP WG to provide input to the agenda of the workshop. The Meeting agreed that the workshop could be organized within the second Baltic MSP Forum on 23-24 November 2016, Riga, Latvia.

The workshop will be organized by the Baltic SCOPE project and its Task Force on the ecosystem approach, on 24 November 2016 back-to-back with this meeting. Outcome and main recommendations from the workshop will be presented to the meeting.

The Meeting is invited to take note that Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP was adopted by the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR without prejudice to the national legislation on MSP taking into account its non-binding nature and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016.

The Meeting is invited to consider the outcome of the workshop, including the application of the Guidelines based on national experiences, as well as to discuss the potential tools to facilitate consultation and cooperation and existing practices with regard to ecosystem-based approach in MSP, with the view to e.g. identifying future needs to be reflected in a new work plan for the group (cf. Agenda Item 5).

The previous Meeting was positive towards the action on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in MSP and vice versa (cf. HELCOM-VASAB MSP 12-2016, document 6-1) as a joint activity between the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and HELCOM State and Conservation group and agreed, as a first step, to request Contracting Parties/Member States to inform how MPAs are taken into account in the MSP, which could be used to amend information in the country fiches. A separate request has been submitted on this issue and the countries are invited to report accordingly.

The Co-Chairs of State and Conservation and the HELCOM VASAB MSP Working Group are encouraged to initiate communication on further cooperation between the groups on this topic prior to STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 (7-11 November 2016, Tallinn, Estonia) and this meeting, and propose further steps to the meeting accordingly.

#### Agenda Item 5

#### Planning future work and a new Work Plan

The Meeting might wish to recall the current Mandate of the group (document 5-1) as well as the document on coordination between HELCOM and VASAB in preparing the future MSP tasks (document 5-2).

##### *Mandate for WG*

HELCOM 37-2016 and the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR prolonged the mandate for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. The Meeting is invited to note that:

- The 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR held on 8 June 2016 decided to prolong the mandate of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for three years, i.e. till the end of 2019. The meeting requested that the Work Plan of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG has to be worked out and submitted to the VASAB

CSPD/BSR meeting in January 2017 for adoption. The Committee discussed the tasks and agreed that the presented paper on identified MSP topics is too detailed and ambitious, and could not be fulfilled in 3 years' time. Fewer tasks (3-4) would be more feasible, MSP WG should focus on the issues which could be done together in the BSR, such as exchange of experience and information, coherence of the plans and data information.

- HELCOM HOD 50-2016 considered a suitable period for the extended mandate of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, taking into account the timeframe for implementation of the Regional MSP Roadmap (2013-2020) as well as other requirements the countries need to follow, and supported the prolongation of the mandate of the MSP WG up to 2021, to be followed by evaluation of the results and decision on further work. The Meeting noted the decision by VASAB to prolong the mandate of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP group by three years and agreed to have the mandate prolonged until 2021 as the first priority. The Meeting requested that also the ToR of the group is updated.

### *Modus operandi*

The Meeting is invited to evaluate the current working methods and consider and make proposals on any other matters related to the future *modus operandi* as needed.

### *New work plan*

The Meeting is invited to develop a new work plan for the WG, utilizing the identified MSP topics (document to be submitted at later stage) and taking into account the discussion on the items below.

The HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to provide input on national priorities for future work as well as background documents to substantiate discussion on the new work plan.

The HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to report on the steps taken, or planned, to apply the Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation (adopted by the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR without prejudice to the national legislation on MSP taking into account their non-binding nature and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 with some clarifications see document 2-1)) and discuss the potential tools to facilitate consultation and cooperation as well as existing practices, with the view to identifying future needs to be reflected in the new work plan for the group.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the progress towards achieving the main tasks of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group (c.f. [Terms of Reference](#) and [Work Plan](#)) including the outcomes of the third and fourth meetings of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group held on 12 April 2016 and 13 June 2016, respectively.

VASAB will inform about the support to the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group available through the EU funded "HASPS 2" project. The Meeting is invited to discuss prolongation of the mandate of the Sub-Group and amendments to the ToR of the Sub-Group.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR agreed to provide up to 10'000 EUR for preparation of future oriented report on marine and maritime activities. VASAB CSPD/BSR suggested that the future oriented report could be a compilation of results and outcomes of the past and ongoing MSP projects, covering also future oriented perspectives such as listed in the proposed Terms of Reference of the report. The report should take into account VASAB Long-Term Perspective and provide added value to national MSP processes and use the ongoing EU MSP scoping process arranged by DG Mare. The Meeting is invited to decide on preparation of the future oriented MSP report.

The Meeting is invited to decide on the date for and focus of the next meeting of the Group. The HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to consider hosting the meeting. Information on upcoming meetings within HELCOM and VASAB to facilitate scheduling the meeting will be submitted at a later stage.

**Agenda Item 6**                      **MSP related projects and events**

The Meeting may wish to follow up on MSP related projects.

The Meeting is invited to recall the agreed procedures for granting flagship project status and support letters for projects (document to be submitted at later stage).

The following EUSBSR HA Spatial Planning flagship projects are expected to regularly report on the progress to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG:

- [Baltic SCOPE project](#) – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans;
- [Baltic LINES project](#) – Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the first findings of the BONUS [BaltSpace project](#) (Towards Sustainable Governance of the Baltic Marine Space) (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the reflections on the second Baltic MSP Forum, which will take place on 23-24 November 2016.

EU is invited to present the outcome of the MSP Stakeholder Series 6<sup>th</sup> Conference: MSP Worldwide, held on 23-24 June 2016 in Ponta Delgada, Azores.

Sweden is invited to inform on the 7<sup>th</sup> Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR, which will take place on 8-9 November 2016.

**Agenda Item 7**                      **Any other business**

The Meeting is invited to take note of the country fiches on MSP status published on the [HELCOM](#) and [VASAB](#) pages. HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to check and update the fiches, if needed, prior to the meeting.

The HELCOM and VASAB members and Observers are invited to check and update the List of Nominated Experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 7-1).

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the HELCOM and VASAB members and Observers at the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 8**                      **Outcome of the Meeting**

A draft Outcome of the Meeting will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.