



Document title	Annotations to the provisional agenda of the meeting
Code	1-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	
Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 13-2016, paragraph 5.9

Background

The 14th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017) will be held at Solidens Galleri at Djurgårdsslätten 49-51, in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10-11 May 2017, upon invitation by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and upon the joint invitation by HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats. The Meeting will be opened on Wednesday, 10 May 2017 at 12:00 and is expected to terminate no later than by 16:00 the following day.

The major themes for the meeting are regional coordination and intergovernmental cooperation on MSP as well as implementation of ecosystem-based approach.

The Meeting will be chaired jointly by the Working Group Co-Chairs Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, 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 Thirteenth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as well as consultations with the Co-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 on matters within HELCOM (HOD 51-2016 and HELCOM 38-2017) (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 Meeting will be invited to discuss an input to the EU Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial Planning meeting regarding Ecosystem-based approach in MSP (14-15 June 2017) and Conference on Land-Sea Interactions (15-16 June 2017)

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 new national MSP developments.

Sweden, representing a lead partner in the Baltic SCOPE project, is invited to present Consideration of Baltic SCOPE project outcomes and recommendations of relevance for further regional work on MSP for consideration and potential support by the meeting. The Meeting is invited to consider Baltic SCOPE project outcomes and recommendations.

The countries are invited to check and update the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries.

Agenda Item 4 Ecosystem-based approach in MSP

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 13-2016 took note of the results of the workshop on application of ecosystem approach organized by the Baltic SCOPE project and the information on the development of “green infrastructure” concept for the purpose of MSP in Sweden. The Meeting highly appreciated the presented concept, however, pointed out that the concept is mainly based on biodiversity when the connectivity part needed further development. Germany also informed the Meeting on the ongoing project related to, among other issues, the connectivity and identification of the priority areas for nature conservation and highlighted that the tasks are quite similar to the “green infrastructure” concept and invited Sweden to be in contact on the project level to continue a dialogue.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the current development of the concept and implementation of the action from the group work plan on regional development of concepts such as green infrastructure/blue corridors to make the tool available for use in the region.

As a follow-up on a suggestion on cooperation on MPAs in MSP, Germany provided comments on strengthening of cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB and State & Conservation on MPAs and MSP. The work plan of State&Conservation for 2017-2018 includes a number of activities, which might contribute to the development of the maritime spatial planning in the region such as regularly collect harmonized data based on HELCOM reporting for HELCOM assessments; development of HELCOM indicators of the environmental status of the Baltic Sea; how to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa; and other.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the ways to strengthen cooperation between the groups, based on examples of related national processes, and suggest concrete joint activities for the groups e.g. workshops, identifying themes, targets and timeframe for the activities.

Agenda Item 5 The new Work Plan and follow-up of the progress

The meeting will be invited to follow up the implementation of the Work Plan of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP group for 2017-2019.

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 cooperation (adopted by 72th VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting without prejudice to the national legislation on MSP taking into account their non-binding nature and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 with clarification the Guidelines apply without prejudice to obligations emerging from national and international legislation and do not substitute the obligations and existing standard practice of parties to the Espoo Convention and its SEA protocol) and discuss the experiences gathered in the process.

The HELCOM and VASAB members are invited to report on the steps taken, or planned, to apply the Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea Area (adopted by 72th VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting (without prejudice to the national legislation on MSP taking into account their non-binding nature and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016) and discuss the experiences gathered in the process.

The BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group is invited to present the progress towards achieving main tasks of the group. The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress and provide a feedback regarding further steps towards achieving main tasks of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group.

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

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

The meeting is invited to take note of the information provided by Sweden on intended Baltic SCOPE 2 project proposal.

The meeting is invited to take note of the information about EU/UNESCO-IOC MSP Conference, held on 15-17 March 2017 in Paris

The Baltic LINES project representative is invited to present the progress and the meeting is invited to take note of the Baltic LINES project progress.

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.



The meeting is invited to take note of HA Spatial Planning representation at the 8th Annual EU SBSR Forum: Workshop on Scenarios for shipping/energy and MSP – responsible organizer Baltic LINES project

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 Meeting is invited to consider election of vice-chairs for the group.

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.