



Document title	Extracts from recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
Code	2-1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
Submission date	27.10.2017
Submitted by	HELCOM Secretariat
Reference	

Background

This document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017:

- 6th Meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries ([FISH 6-2017](#)), Helsinki, Finland, 22-24 May 2017;
- 52nd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 52-2017](#)), Brussels, Belgium, 20-21 June 2017;
- 6th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation ([State and Conservation 6-2017](#)), Uppsala, Sweden, 15-19 May 2017;
- 7th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation ([State and Conservation 7-2017](#)), Sopot, Poland, 23-27 October 2017;
- 17th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 17-2017](#)), St. Petersburg, Russia, 10-12 October 2017.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

6th Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries ([FISH 6-2017](#)), Helsinki, Finland, 22-24 May 2017

The Meeting took note of the following information by the Contracting Parties on fisheries and maritime spatial planning (MSP):

- Denmark plan to have their MSP ready by 2020. Work has started and is focused on identifying possible conflict areas. There is a lack of data on boats <12m and for spawning grounds, which challenges the MSP work.
- Finland has foreseen three spatial plans and work is ongoing to draft these plans. A maritime portal is being developed during the next two years.
- Sweden has drafted three initial proposals for MSPs which are currently under initial dialogue. Potential impacts on Swedish commercial fisheries are currently in the process of being analysed. Formal consultation will take place in the beginning of 2018.

The Meeting acknowledged that the fisheries industry organizations have not been very involved in HELCOM-VASAB MSP and BalticSCOPE discussions, despite MSP being likely to have important impacts on fisheries.

The Meeting discussed how foreign fishing interests are reflected in national MSP processes. The Meeting noted that Sweden has carried out initial dialogues with neighbouring countries in order to gather information on their interests in Swedish waters when developing their MSPs. Any inputs regarding foreign fisheries interests that concern Swedish MSPs should be channelled through the Swedish dialogue with neighbouring countries. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to inform the meeting of HELCOM FISH 7-2017 on how they are addressing this issue nationally.

The next meeting of the group will be held on 14-15 November 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

52nd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 52-2017](#)), Brussels, Belgium, 20-21 June 2017

The Meeting took note of the 14th Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017), 10-11 May 2017, Stockholm, Sweden.

The Meeting took note of the draft working document on the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to be held on 6 March 2018 (document 2-1).

The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that the formal invitation letter to the Ministerial Meeting to be held on 6 March 2018 in Brussels has been sent to the responsible Baltic Sea Ministers. The Meeting took note that the EU has shared the draft outline with OSPAR, inviting OSPAR representatives to attend the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting discussed the draft outline material for the 2018 Ministerial Meeting (document 2-7) and agreed in general on the proposed approach and that the document is a good basis for further work on the Ministerial Meeting outcome. The Meeting agreed that:

- in a process of renewal of the BSAP to be taken up by the Ministerial Meeting the term “update” better suits the foreseen process, the previously agreed commitments should not be opened, and an analysis of the results of the first version of the ‘State of the Baltic Sea’ report will be an important next step to understand the underlying reasons for not reaching a good environmental status yet;
- it would be important that the Ministerial Meeting highlights the need to update and finalize the HOLAS II report by June 2018;
- Ocean-related SDGs provide the overall background framework for the Ministerial preparations and the BSAP update.

The Meeting took note of further input by the Contracting Parties in a tour-de-table as follows:

- Germany: A circular economy is more suitable for the objectives of the Helsinki Convention rather than a sustainable blue economy; Biodiversity status should be covered better, and Germany is ready to contribute.
- Finland: The review of the HELCOM monitoring programme and further development of assessment tools and methods for possible updating HOLAS in the future could be covered.
- Denmark: The outcome could include the role of Regional Seas Conventions in relation to the new MSFD decision, especially for subjects such as underwater noise, sea bottom and marine litter where HELCOM should not set targets or define GES; An update of data used in setting reference levels of the nutrient reduction scheme as well as timeframes for reaching the targets would be important.
- Poland: The economic and technical aspects of the implementation of BSAP would be of interest; further cooperation and the exchange of fisheries data for assessing impacts of fisheries on the marine environment is an important topic.
- Russia: HOLAS II is important scientific material for further consideration and action; climate change should preferably not be a separate segment in BSAP; Further work on reducing loads and PLC follow-up are important; Underwater noise is a new issue and might not be matured enough for inclusion in the Ministerial Meeting; Cooperation with regional fishery bodies is important, however, needs to be carefully scoped.
- Latvia: For the segment on climate change the results of BONUS projects could be used and adaptation aspects should be covered; A sustainable blue economy and circular economy aspects should be kept on the agenda.
- Estonia: Estonia can contribute to the Marine litter action plan (sources), however, setting quantitative targets is likely unrealistic.

The Meeting took note of the comment by WWF that it is very important not to lose track of the implementation of the agreed MAI/CART targets, a particularly innovative dimension of HELCOM work. The Ministerial outcome could also utilise the cumulative impacts approach used in HOLAS work. Further, it is important to ensure and steer towards a sustainable blue economy. WWF will produce a Scorecard report for the 2018 Ministerial Meeting and welcome the Contracting Parties to provide and support structure to the analysis.

The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that the fisheries-related actions are largely missing and should be included. The blue growth agenda should be considered with caution especially with regard to nutrient removal and aquaculture growth. The document should in general focus on the quantifiable impact of the measures, not the number of actions completed.

The Meeting took note of the proposal by Finland for developing a regional strategy on nutrient recycling (document 2-4), supported the initiative and agreed in principle to include it as a topic to the 2018 Ministerial preparations and outcome. At the same time, the Meeting agreed that the work should be based on a step-by-step approach starting with elaboration of definitions, general vision and strategic targets for nutrient recycling, taking into account also contributions of different pollution sources, which will form a basis for discussion at the Ministerial Meeting. The further steps might be embarked after the meeting based on the Ministerial decisions (two-year horizon).

The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to lead drafting on this topic and mandated both Agri group and Pressure group to support the preparatory work.

The Meeting took note of the background document on marine litter (document 2-5) and of the comment by the EU to further cooperate on the issue with technical groups, e.g. the EU marine litter group, utilizing the ongoing EU-funded SPICE project.

The Meeting took note that Sweden, Germany and Denmark will submit comments to document 2-5 on marine litter.

The Meeting agreed to divide the work on the Ministerial outline thematically to four drafting groups according to the segments of document 2-7 (1. Reflecting on current state, pressures and impacts on the Baltic Sea, 2. Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021 and towards 2030, 3. Enhancing economic and social analysis and innovation to implement ecosystem approach, 4. Implementing SDGs and regional ocean governance, with designated leads for each). All Contracting Parties will be informed of the progress in the drafting groups.

The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to lead drafting for segment 1, by the EU to lead work under segment 2, and by Sweden to lead drafting for segment 4. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will lead segment 3. The Meeting took note of the following information on the sharing of the work:

- Finland will actively contribute to segment 2 (BSAP), in addition to leading the drafting on the nutrient recycling strategy.
- Germany considers contributing to segment 4 (on regional governance); also interested in segment 2.
- Denmark is especially interested in segment 2; will inform on contact persons after the Meeting.
- Latvia is interested especially in segments 3 and 4; will inform on contact persons after the Meeting.
- Lithuania will inform on contact persons after the Meeting.
- Poland is willing to especially contribute to segment 4, in particular on the use of fisheries data within HELCOM as well as BALFISH cooperation.

The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to submit further feedback on the draft Ministerial Meeting outcome included in document 2-7, as well as expressions of interest to contribute to individual topics within the four themes, by 21 August 2017 (monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi), to be compiled by the Secretariat. The Meeting took note that the work will continue in online planning meetings, the first of which will be organised on 26 September 2017 and another on 13, 16 or 17 November 2017.

The 53rd meeting of the Heads of Delegation will be held on 12-13 December 2017 in Helsinki.

6th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation 6-2017), Uppsala, Sweden, 15-19 May 2017

The Meeting took note of the updated information on adjacent transnational HELCOM MPAs (document 4N-1). Russia is invited to provide names of responsible managers for the transnational adjacent HELCOM MPAs to the Secretariat (minna.pyhala@helcom.fi).

The Meeting welcomed the presentation by the Wadden Sea Secretariat, Ms. Annika Bostelmann (Presentation 4). The Meeting noted that the cooperation between Denmark, Germany and Netherlands to conserve the area builds on a "Joint Declaration on the Protection of the Wadden Sea" and that the implementation of the declaration is based on common agreements of e.g. objectives and management principles, targets, and monitoring and assessment programme. Quality Status Reports are regularly published based on the joint monitoring and assessment programme.

The Meeting welcomed information about the bilateral cooperation between Finland and Sweden on conservation of threatened species and habitats in the Quark area as presented by Finland (Presentation 5). The Meeting noted that the basis for the cooperation has been supported by EU Interreg funded projects over a 15 year period, starting with a project to build an understanding of joint objectives and concerns, and building the foundation for cooperation. The Meeting noted that there are management boards for the projects but no formal organization structure for the cooperation. Examples of applied results from recent project include:

- an open online GIS service with data on habitats and pressures to serve planning and nature conservation purposes
- by early 2018, results from modelling of HUB biotopes in the Quark area will be available, and
- the development of a 'conflict probability' map between benthic habitats and pressures in the Quark.

The Meeting thanked for the presentations and found them to be a source of inspiration for future transnational cooperation for protection and conservation of marine areas.

The Meeting took note of information by Germany of their national activities to map biodiversity and pressures, including mapping of HUB biotopes.

The Meeting took note of the OCEANA report *The Sound Biodiversity, threats, and transboundary protection* (document 4N-3) and welcomed the information that the data compiled by OCEANA is available for use by Contracting Parties.

The Meeting welcomed the information by CCB on a project to protect the Baltic harbour porpoise (documents 4N-5 and 4N-5-Rev.1).

The Meeting congratulated Sweden on establishing large Natura2000 sites for protecting harbour porpoise in offshore areas, noting that the work is based on the results of the SAMBAH project that identified areas of particular need of protection. The Meeting invited Sweden to inform the State & Conservation WG on the development of a management plan for the site.

The Meeting acknowledged that the designated new Natura2000 sites for protecting harbour porpoise may be relevant for transnational cooperation and encouraged Contracting Parties to cooperate with Sweden in the upcoming international process to create fisheries regulations for the designated N2000 area around the Baltic Proper offshore banks as soon as it is initiated.

The Meeting recalled the Work Plan action to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa and took note of information by the co-chairs on communication with HELCOM VASAB MSP WG. The Meeting suggested launching intersessional activities connected with implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Marine Spatial Planning, green infrastructure and connectivity of MPAs. The Meeting welcomed the offer of Sweden to elaborate, in cooperation with Germany, Latvia Finland, representatives of the HELCOM State & Conservation Group, and with assistance from the HELCOM Secretariat, a working plan for the task summarizing related ongoing processes, and to present the plan at the next HELCOM VASAB MSP WG and State & Conservation group meetings.

The Meeting welcomed the German offer to present project work related to Marine Spatial Planning and MPAs in the German EEZ at State & Conservation 7-2017.

The Meeting took note that Germany has currently no new information on the progress in assessing management effectiveness of the OSPAR MPA Network and will inform on the status at State & Conservation 7-2017.

The Meeting considered the suggested MPA Road Map 2017-2020 proposed by Finland (document 4N-2) and agreed to discuss the MPA Road Map further intersessionally and to develop it further for the meeting of State & Conservation 7-2017.

The Meeting was of the view that a new HELCOM MPA project is needed and welcomed that Germany is willing to contribute to develop and present a project proposal to State & Conservation 7-2017. The Meeting proposed to convene an online meeting of the MPA Task Group on 14 September 2017 to consider a preliminary draft proposal by Germany.

The Meeting suggested that this online meeting could be held back-to-back with the online meeting regarding Recommendation 15/1 on 'Protection of the coastal strip' (cf. paragraph 6J.1).

The Meeting recognized the need to improve the analysis of connectivity that is part of the assessment of ecological coherence of the MPA network, and include information from areas outside the MPAs in the analysis. The Meeting acknowledged that the work and collection of data to be carried out on in relation to the EBSA workshop could be used for developing an approach to assess connectivity.

The Meeting welcomed the information on funding opportunities as presented by Mr. Peter Torkler from the [Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation](#), BaltCf (document 4N-7, Presentation 6), noting that the foundation can support projects related to nature conservation in the Baltic Sea, for example on MPAs, rivers, wetlands, waste and pollution.

The Meeting noted that the foundation is granting funds to NGOs, private and public bodies for projects that are focused on practical conservation work, while research activities are not funded. The Meeting noted that HELCOM, being a public body, can apply for project funds.

7th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation 7-2017), Sopot, Poland, 23-27 October 2017

The Meeting recalled that according to Task 6.3 of the State and Conservation Work Plan for 2017-2018, the Group should follow-up HELCOM Recommendation 34E/1 on safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea.

The Meeting acknowledge the lack of spatial data on migration routes and highlighted the relevance of developing region-wide maps of migration routes, including enroute wind farms, especially since migration of birds is not fully covered by Birds Directive.

The Meeting welcomed information from the Contracting Parties:

- A map of German Baltic coastal areas made 16 years ago, depicting important resting areas and their associated migration routes of water birds.
- There have been recent activities by BirdLife Finland, at the request of the Ministry of the Environment, to map the migration routes of several species of birds (report available in Finnish only).

The Meeting noted that in Finland, radar has been used in an offshore windfarm to detect e.g. approaching sea eagles, which activates temporary closure of the wind turbines.

The Meeting discussed how to initiate a follow-up of the Recommendation as a whole in 2018 and welcomed the offer of Lead Country Sweden, with support of Germany and possibly Finland, to elaborate a proposal for consideration by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018 of a project to compile maps on migration routes of birds and other necessary activities for following up on the implementation of the Recommendation 34E/1.

The Meeting was of the view that support from JWG Birds should also be requested in the follow-up to this Recommendation.

The Meeting recalled that STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 supported the further development of guidelines for standardizing the MPA pressure evaluation for use by HELCOM.

The Meeting recalled that a draft has been considered by prior State & Conservation group meetings and that no comments have been received from Contracting Parties (except from Germany), which can be considered as general support for the proposal. However, the Meeting also noted that the information is now somewhat outdated.

The Meeting welcomed the offer of Finland to update the proposal based on information which has become available since the latest version of the draft was circulated. The updated version of the draft will be presented at STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.

The Meeting discussed how cooperation of management measures of pressures and impacts on MPAs, in particular for adjacent transnational MPAs can be taken further in HELCOM, and reiterated the proposal by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017 that a workshop among the experts should be arranged as a first step.

The Meeting noted that no concrete steps have been taken in arranging a workshop, but that discussion have been initiated with MEDPAN to look into the possibility to share experiences and lessons learned and that two workshops for managers are planned within the MPA project proposal (cf. document 3N-3).

The Meeting recalled the Work Plan action to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa. The Meeting took note of information by Sweden on progress in drafting a work plan for the task summarizing related ongoing processes in the HELCOM VASAB group and welcomed that a more concrete proposal will be presented for the consideration of State & Conservation 8-2018.

The Meeting welcomed the information by Germany on MSP and MPAs in the German Baltic Sea (**presentation 2**) and discussed the opportunities and challenges.

The Meeting was of the view that it would be valuable if Contracting Parties would inform at future meetings of State & Conservation how natural values and nature conservation interests have been taken into account in their national maritime spatial plans.

The Meeting thanked Germany for providing information on the progress of OSPAR in assessing management effectiveness of the OSPAR MPAs (presentation 3).

The Meeting welcomed the interest of OSPAR to cooperate with HELCOM for assessing management effectiveness of MPAs. The Meeting acknowledged the challenge of developing specific and measurable objectives which would allow for assessment, as well as the lack of suitable monitoring.

The Meeting welcomed the information by Finland on national activities for assessing ecological effectiveness of the MPA network (presentation 4) using the species mapping data compiled under the VELMU project.

The Meeting welcomed the information about the work carried out under the BONUS BAMBI project (document 3N-4) and agreed to make use of the information when discussing the future MPA project plans, and in particular items related to coherence.

The Meeting took note of the overview of BONUS BIO-C3 project results, specifically their work on MPA connectivity, climate change, linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and the effect on these factors from interacting with natural and anthropogenic drivers (document 3N-5) and agreed to make use of it, e.g. when discussing the proposals for a HELCOM MPA project and HELCOM dedicated work on climate change.

The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the sixth Meeting of the Task Group on HELCOM Marine Protected Areas (MPA TG 6-2017) which was held as an online meeting on 14 September 2017 (document 3N-1).

The Meeting considered the draft outline for a new HELCOM MPA project proposal (document 3N-3, presentation 5) which aims to address needs identified by HELCOM [Recommendation 35/1](#) 'System of Coastal and Marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (HELCOM MPAs)', the list of issues regarding the HELCOM MPA database, the State & Conservation Working Group's [Work plan for 2017-2018](#), as well as comments and input from the Task Group on MPAs.

The Meeting acknowledged that that this project is needed to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of the commitments related to MPA work, including e.g. work towards reaching the goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Targets and United Nations Sustainability Goals.

The Meeting took note of the comments by Germany to the project proposal as contained in document 3N-3-Rev.1, and especially:

- the importance of prioritizing the identification of offshore areas as new HELCOM MPA, including organizing of a workshop on offshore MPAs where tools like MARXAN could be discussed further
- Concerning the deliverables: HELCOM has got valid guidelines, there is some need for technical updates and actualizations with special focus on essential items and on guiding principles how to monitor MPAs. In conclusion, this task should not end up in creating totally new guidelines.

The Meeting agreed on the general concept of the project and the further development of the project proposal planned to be submitted for external funding. The Meeting welcomed Germany's offer to assist the Secretariat in the application process, and Finland's interest in partnering in the project. Germany will investigate its possibility to be a project partner. The Meeting invited other Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat by 1 December 2017 of their willingness to participate in the project as a partner and of their perceived role.

The Meeting recognized that all HELCOM Contracting Parties will be involved in the project and have the possibility to follow up on the work via the work of the MPA Task Group and State & Conservation.

The Meeting took note of information by Sweden that they have been using the [Open Standards](#) tools for their national MPA related work.

The Meeting considered the MPA Road Map 2017-2020 (document 3N-2), acknowledging that it is a guidance and amended it as contained in document 3N-2-Rev.1.

The Meeting recalled that STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2017 discussed the need to arrange a workshop aimed at MPA managers to ensure harmonized reporting to the MPA database by the Contracting Parties (e.g. how to report regulatory activities that are not included in management plans). The Meeting noted that a similar workshop is currently planned for inclusion in the MPA project proposal but was of the view that it would be important to have a plan in case there are delays in starting the project.

The Meeting welcomed the preliminary offer of Sweden to host such a workshop during 2018.

The Meeting noted that Denmark supports the proposal but is concerned about the arranging of numerous amounts of meetings, and therefore suggests combining and arranging back-to-back meetings whenever possible.

17th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 17-2017](#)), St. Petersburg, Russia, 10-12 October 2017

The Meeting took note that the 13th Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 13-2016) was held on 24-25 November 2016 in Riga, Latvia and that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 was held on 10-11 May 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Meeting took note of the Recommendations from the Baltic SCOPE (2015-17), a completed regional MSP project led by Sweden (document 2-4).

The Meeting took note that the Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 7-2016) was held on 29 September 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark, as well as that SAFE NAV 8-2017 was held on 28 September 2017 in Stockholm-Arlanda, Sweden (c.f. document 9-4).

The Meeting took note that SAFE NAV 8-2017 agreed that a single data request for ship accident data for both 2016 and 2017 should be circulated by the Secretariat in January 2018.

The Meeting considered the proposal by Sweden for amending HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 concerning test of Sea Traffic Management in the Baltic Sea (document 9-2-Rev.1), noting the information in Annex 2 regarding the test bed of Sea Traffic Management in the Baltic Sea (presentation 8 by Mr. Fredrik Larsson).

The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Sergei Rostopshin (Rosmorport) on the present status and further development of Pilot e-Navigation project (presentation 9). Attention was drawn to the need for uniform procedures for further use of the national e-navigation testing areas.

The Meeting further considered the revised proposal by SAFE NAV 8-2017 for amending HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 (document 9-5), agreed to the proposal as included in Annex 5 with minor adjustments and requested the Secretariat to submit it to HELCOM HOD for adoption if appropriate.

The Meeting took note of the comment from Estonia that advance notification to coastal states of, for instance, the towing of a ship on its way to a recycling facility would help in ensuring public safety and environmental protection along the intended route and that such functionality could be added to the STM route exchange concept.

The Meeting took note of the information on the successfully completed migration of the HELCOM AIS Server from Denmark (DMA) to Norway (NCA) (document 9-1).

The Meeting took note that the 28th Meeting of HELCOM Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 28-2017) was held on 7-8 June 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Meeting took note that the 29th meeting of AIS EWG will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, during the period 12-14 June 2018.

The Meeting took note of the status report of HELCOM-BSHC Baltic Sea Re-survey Scheme submitted by Finland (document 9-3 and presentation 10 by Mr. Seppo H. Mäkinen), endorsed the presented future actions

and encouraged the Contracting Parties to participate in EU INEA CEF Motorways of the Sea, DG REGIO Interreg and Cohesion funding programmes to ensure the resources for hydrographic surveys in order to meet the Re-Survey Scheme timetables agreed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting (Copenhagen, October 2013). The meeting also took note on the update regarding the EU-funded project FAMOS.

The Meeting thanked Sweden and Finland for their activity in Baltic Sea re-surveys, including ensuring funding.

The Meeting took note of the current status of the Draft HELCOM Maritime Assessment (document 10-3) and of the plans to submit it for approval by the online meeting of HELCOM HOD on 13 November 2017.

The Meeting took note and supported the request from Germany that the Maritime Assessment should be adopted at the HOD 53-2017 Meeting in December to enable more time for circulation and ensure a high quality publication.

The Meeting considered and updated the Baltic Sea Clean Shipping Guide (document 10-1) and approved the Guide as included in document 10-1-Rev.2 for the revised 2017 edition, incorporating recent developments relevant to MARPOL Annex IV, Annex VI NECA as well as the September 2017 entry into force of the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention.

The Meeting agreed that in a future edition of the guide it would be useful to include information on relevant EU and Russian Federation regulations to complete the picture, if necessary.

The Meeting thanked Germany for the kind offer to investigate the possibility to host the next HELCOM MARITIME in 2018.

The Meeting agreed that MARITIME 18-2018 will be held during October, taking into account the dates of other important meetings (c.f. document 11-1).

The Meeting welcomed the kind offer by the EU to investigate the possibility to host MARITIME 19-2019 at EMSA, Lisbon.