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<b>Document title</b>	Matters arising from other HELCOM groups
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
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### Background

The document contains information on the matters relevant to the group work arising from the HOD 54-2018. The information on the work of other HELCOM groups related to maritime spatial planning is given in separate documents.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Outcome of the 54th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

### Outgoing and incoming chairmanship in HELCOM

2.1 The Meeting recalled that the EU chairmanship of HELCOM is coming to an end on 30 June 2018 and took note of the account by EU on accomplishing the chairmanship priorities.

2.2 The Meeting acknowledged the accomplishments of the EU chairmanship, especially the excellent organization and good outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 6 March 2018. The Meeting took note that progress has been made regarding the priorities by completing the second holistic assessment (HOLAS II) and Pollution Load Compilation products, promoting sustainable agriculture and advancing port reception facilities as well as improving regional cooperation with fisheries bodies. Further development of core indicators related to seafloor integrity and marine litter continue to be important priorities for HELCOM. Work still remains on improving the coherence of the MPA network. The Meeting thanked EU for the successful chairmanship.

2.3 The Meeting took note of and welcomed the following priorities of the Finnish chairmanship (document 2-1): updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan, reduction of nutrient inputs and nutrient recycling, Baltic Sea and climate change and synergy between Agenda 2030 and HELCOM work.

2.4 The Meeting welcomed the Finnish chairmanship team, Ms. Saara Bäck, Chair of HELCOM, and Ms. Tarja Haaranen, Vice-Chair, from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

### Outcome of the 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting – follow-up

3.4 The Meeting considered the renewed Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach, including perspectives beyond 2021, based on the outcome of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting (document 3-5), took note of the proposal by Russia for amendments and agreed to amend the Roadmap as included in document 3-5-Rev.1.

3.5 The Meeting recognized that the Roadmap is a living document to be kept updated.

3.6 The Meeting agreed on endorsement of the amended Roadmap via correspondence with the following procedure: any additional suggestions or comments to be submitted to the Secretariat (monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi) by 19 June 2018, the Secretariat to circulate the draft Roadmap to HODs on 21 June 2018 for a tacit approval of the Roadmap by 28 June 2018.

### Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

3.9 The Meeting welcomed that the update of the BSAP will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation.

3.10 The Meeting took note that a work plan for the BSAP update will be prepared by the Secretariat for HOD 55-2018, in which the involvement of the HELCOM groups will be specified and any associated timelines will be detailed

3.12 The Meeting recognized that the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan should be a priority for the HELCOM working groups and requested the HELCOM groups to plan their work accordingly, including any putting in place of needed additional arrangements, e.g. correspondence work and possible additional workshops.

3.15 The Meeting in general supported the idea of carrying out the analysis via an interdisciplinary platform. It would be to focus on analysis of sufficiency of measures which so far has not been carried out in HELCOM and is an additional major task.

3.18 The Meeting approved the amended strategic plan for the BSAP update (document 3-4-Rev.2, as contained in Annex 2), and more specifically:

- the Meeting agreed to set up the BSAP update project, while taking note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the project is to be understood in a broad sense and as resource to support the BSAP update according to the strategic plan (BSAP 2030 project; cf. Annex 2);
- the Meeting agreed on having a dedicated project manager at the Secretariat to support the tasks of the Secretariat in the BSAP update process, to be (part-) funded from the HELCOM budget (cf. Annex 2).

#### **HELCOM contribution to global processes**

3.36 The Meeting pointed out that the Regional Seas Conventions have an important role to contribute to the implementation of SDGs as agreed in HELCOM.

3.37 The Meeting highlighted that HELCOM work on indicators is unique in the global scale and invited the Secretariat to draft a document on lessons learnt from HELCOM indicators,

3.41 The Meeting recalled the OSPAR contribution to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting considered and agreed on the response by HELCOM to be submitted to OSPAR for the annual meeting in June 2018 (document 3-6).

3.42 The Meeting took note of a study on the 'European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region after 2020'.

3.43 The Meeting expressed appreciation for the cooperation between the EUSBSR and HELCOM and the positive approach by the EUSBSR in considering HELCOM in their work.

3.47 The Meeting considered the concept of the XX Anniversary International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day» on 21-22 March 2019 and invited the HELCOM working groups to provide practical suggestions for the agenda of the XX Anniversary Baltic Sea Day Forum.

4.10 The Meeting approved organizing the following workshops:

- a workshop on the implementation of the Baltic Sea MSP Roadmap in 2019 supported by the Pan Baltic Scope project, providing an opportunity to contribute to the BSAP update process; and
- HELCOM joining the organization of the workshop on essential fish habitats initiated by the Pan Baltic Scope project, to be held back-to-back with a Pan Baltic Scope workshop on green infrastructure, tentatively planned for 12-13 December 2018.