



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	27.10.2015
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	Outcome of HOD 48-2015, Paragraph 6.1

The 49th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation will be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6 B) in Helsinki, Finland.

The Meeting will start on Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 10.00 o'clock and will terminate on Friday, 11 December by 16.00 o'clock.

The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission.

Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 37-2016

The Executive Secretary and Chair will present the Provisional Agenda for the 37th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 37-2016) to be held on 10-11 March 2016 at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki, Finland.

HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on marine litter will be held on 9 March 2016 back-to-back with HELCOM 37-2016. The aim of the Conference is to build ownership for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter among stakeholders. A provisional programme of the Conference will be presented to the Meeting.

Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

HOD 48-2015 underlined the importance of Ministerial Meetings for HELCOM work and also as a means to attract political attention to marine environment protection and increase the visibility of HELCOM. The meeting agreed that the next Ministerial Meeting should focus on a few issues and be well prepared so that the Ministers can make a substantial contribution to future HELCOM work. The meeting considered the forthcoming Second Holistic Assessment to be a useful background for ministerial discussions.

HOD 48-2015 agreed that the years 2017-2018 are possible for the next Ministerial Meeting and that the timing of other international meetings and the annual HELCOM meeting must be taken into consideration when setting the exact date. The meeting decided to come back to the timing and theme of the next Ministerial Meeting during HOD 49-2015 in December 2015.

The Meeting is invited to further discuss the next HELCOM Ministerial meeting with the aim to identify tentative issues or theme(s) for the meeting and agree on its timing.

Item 4 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG)

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015, held on 30 September – 1 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia, to be submitted at a later stage.

Maritime and Response Working Groups

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of MARITIME 15-2015, to be held on 23-25 November 2015 in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Please note that this will be a late document.

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to comprehensively assess the status, environmental risks and opportunities of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea region within HELCOM by 2016, contributing to the HELCOM Holistic Assessment planned for 2017/18. The Meeting will be informed on the progress in drafting the HELCOM Maritime Assessment.

HELCOM 36-2015 agreed to return to the issue of financing the maintenance of HELCOM STW at HOD 48-2015 and invited Sweden to amend the scheme for financing taking into account the discussion at the meeting. As the issue was not considered at HOD 48-2015, the Meeting will be invited to return to the issue of financing the maintenance of HELCOM STW based on an amended scheme for financing to be proposed by Sweden.

Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish)

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of FISH 3-2015, to be held on 26-27 November 2015 in Warsaw, Poland. Please note this will be a late document.

HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture

HELCOM 36-2015 decided that the new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture would be finalized at HOD 48-2015, and the final version of the Recommendation was prepared accordingly (paragraphs 3.16-3.17 of the HOD 48-2015 Outcome). HOD 48-2015 noted that the final version of the Recommendation represents a compromise and balanced proposal and invited the Contracting Parties to confirm their readiness to adopt it at HELCOM 37-2016. The study reservations by all Contracting Parties were to be clarified by 14 August 2015.

The clarifications of the study reservations received by the Secretariat have not been conclusive.

Some editorial improvements will be incorporated to the final version of the Recommendation (as drafted at HOD 48-2015) and submitted to the Meeting. The Heads of Delegation will be invited to discuss how to proceed with the Recommendation.

Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure)

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of PRESSURE 3-2015, held on 7-9 October 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark, to be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting will be invited to consider and approve a draft roadmap to building a knowledge base on underwater noise, to be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting will be presented with information on progress in setting up a regional registry for impulsive noise as agreed in the Ministerial Meeting (ref. Ministerial decision 25(B)).

PRESSURE 3-2015 agreed to recommend to HOD 49-2015 to remove the JCP Hot Spots in Poland Nos. 87.1, Krakow – Plaszow WWTP, No. 99.2, Poznan – Left bank WWTP, WWTPs in Warsaw – Czajka, Poludnie and Pancierz (No. 84) and No. 85, Lublin – Hajdow WWTP, pending confirmation from Sweden.

Sweden is invited to inform of their position and the Meeting is invited to decide as appropriate.

Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (Gear)

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of GEAR 12-2015, to be held on 29-30 October 2015 in Warsaw, Poland.

Following the outcome of the Workshop (to be held on 28 October 2015) of the HELCOM Intersessional Group for Programmes of Measures, GEAR 12-2015 will consider further steps to finalize the HELCOM joint document on regional coordination of measures and which are the issues that should be addressed at this HOD meeting.

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation)

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015, to be held on 9-13 November 2015 in Helsinki, Finland.

HELCOM 36-2015 adopted the draft Recommendation on Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List pending a study reservation by Denmark. An amended version of the Recommendation is planned to be presented to STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 with the view of endorsing it at HOD 49-2015 and adoption at HELCOM 37-2016.

The Meeting will be informed on the ongoing work to develop HELCOM indicators.

The Meeting will be presented with information on progress in preparing the second holistic assessment of the ecosystem health.

The Meeting will be informed on the ongoing work to assess the ecological coherence of the HELCOM MPA network to be finalized by HELCOM 37-2016.

Follow up system for HELCOM agreements

HOD 48-2015 considered the follow-up system for HELCOM agreements and requested the next meeting of the Gear Group to consider the updated proposal based on the comments from the Contracting Parties.

A document on the status of accomplishment of the new follow-up system, including a proposal for presentation of results will be submitted to the Meeting for consideration.

The Meeting will be invited to agree on a timetable for reporting by the Contracting Parties on implementation of HELCOM commitments.

Item 5 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

The Meeting is invited to take note of the report of the Auditors and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (to be submitted later) and advise the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 37-2016 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and a draft budget frame for future years, including a draft budget estimate for 2017–2018 (document to be submitted later), and advise the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 37-2016 for official adoption.

The Meeting will be informed about the current procedures of online meetings and remote participation in HELCOM meetings.

Item 6 Any other business

A list of HELCOM projects and a list of upcoming meetings will be submitted to the Meeting.

Russia might wish to inform about XVII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” to take place in St. Petersburg on 16-18 March 2016.

Finland might wish to inform about the European Maritime Day to take place in Turku on 18-20 May 2016.

Sweden might wish to inform about the EUSBSR Strategy Forum to take place in Stockholm on 8-9 November 2016.

The Meeting will be informed about progress on HELCOM communication activities.

The Contracting Parties and Observers might wish to discuss any other issues under this Agenda Item.

Item 7 Next meeting(s)

Based on the intersessional consultation a date for HOD 50-2016 has been tentatively set for 15-16 June 2016. The Meeting is invited to confirm the date for HOD 50-2016 and set a tentative date for HOD 51-2016.

Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

With reference to Rule 11.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission, the Outcome of the Meeting, reflecting decisions taken will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.