



Document title	Draft working document on the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
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Agenda Item	2 - Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
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Background

The 38th Meeting of the Commission exchanged views on the Ministerial Meeting and took note that the Secretariat will circulate a working document on the issues raised in the discussion to the Heads of Delegation. This draft working document is the same as circulated to the Heads of Delegation after HELCOM 38-2017, complemented with reflection from earlier HELCOM and HOD meetings on the issue.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided and use it as background for further discussion and decisions.

1. DRAFT Working document on the Ministerial Meeting 2018

(circulated after HELCOM 38-2017)

Based on the high level segment the following topics were discussed at HELCOM 38-2017 for possible consideration by the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on [5 March] 2018:

- Diffuse pollution from agriculture, fisheries, marine litter, climate change, and land-based pollution such as joint efforts to reduce environmental risks in Krasnyi Bor.
- The results of the HOLAS II project will in time for the Ministerial Meeting give a good overview of where are in terms of reaching a good environmental status.
- The Ministerial Meeting is also an opportunity to review progress in the implementation of the BSAP and use this as a starting point for taking new steps.
- Especially, the Ministerial Meeting could give a mandate to start the work on a renewal of the BSAP and what should be the format, to be developed during 2-3 years, with targets for 2030.
- Stronger cooperation with other organisations, especially Baltfish but also OSPAR, could also be an issue for the Ministerial. For this to work clear mandates and division of work is essential.
- New measures to address known issues should be explored (for microplastics this includes sources like cosmetics as well as rubber tires).
- Implementation of MAI CART could be followed in more detail, while the targets themselves should not be renegotiated.
- Further developed Economic and Social Analysis and its incorporation into HELCOM work could be discussed e.g. using cost of degradation analyses as an incentive to do more.
- A strong point of HELCOM cooperation has always been a close link to science and using science based decision making, thus stronger BONUS-HELCOM link and cooperation could be highlighted.
- The Meeting recalled that the content of the discussions during the high level session can also guide the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting (c.f. Outcome Agenda Item 3).

2. Reflection from previous meetings:

HOD 49-2015: The Meeting discussed the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and identified HOLAS II and MAI/CART as the most important issues suitable for ministerial attention, with the possibility to include other issues as well. The Meeting agreed that in order to attract high-level political attention the discussion of the next Ministerial Meeting should focus on a few topical priority issues and that the programme should be arranged so that it is interactive and the ministers can actively make an impact, and a new type of outcome could be planned for.

HELCOM 37-2016: The Meeting considered potential topics for the Ministerial Meeting and recognized that both 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment of the ecosystem health (HOLAS II) and nutrient reduction scheme provide possibilities to take stock of HELCOM achievements in improving the status of the marine environment and to consider strategic directions for further HELCOM work, while marine litter and costs of degradation of the marine environment are of potential focus, too.

HOD 50-2016: The Meeting considered potential topics for the next Ministerial Meeting and was of the opinion that the results of HOLAS II will be a major outcome of HELCOM and should provide valuable discussion points for the Ministers, including evaluating the efficiency of measures.

HOD 51-2016: The Meeting supported the idea of inviting representatives of the OSPAR Commission to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.