

# Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices HELCOM AGRI

53rd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

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# Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices, HELCOM AGRI

- Agriculture has an important potential for reducing nutrient losses to the Baltic Sea.
- Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices, **HELCOM AGRI** will respond to the need to find **solutions how the agriculture could further contribute to reaching Good Environmental Status of the Baltic Sea by 2021.**
- Terms of reference was accepted 2014.
- The Group had the 5th Meeting in November 2017.

# Main Actions at the moment

- Nutrient recycling
- Developing recommendation/guidelines on the use of national manure standards
  - MANURE STANDARDS project including all Baltic Sea countries and HELCOM as partners launched in October 2017 to support the work
- Revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention

# Accomplishment of national actions regarding agriculture

## Agriculture

- Implement and enforce the provisions of part 2 of Annex III "Prevention of pollution from agriculture" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention 4 / 9
- Measures to bring all installations for the intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs as well as other agricultural activities in compliance with part 2, Annex III of the Helsinki Convention 4 / 9
- Apply as a minimum the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses 6 / 9
- Revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture. Optional agro-environmental measures to be implemented through corresponding international and national instruments 3 / 9
- Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure with the view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization 5 / 9
- Agreement on national level on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization 5 / 9  
Target 2018
- Promote and advance towards applying annual nutrient accounting at farm level, taking into account soil and climate conditions, in areas critical to nutrient losses as a first step and with an aim to apply it region-wise 4 / 9  
Target 2018

# The Scope of the Revision of Annex III part 2

- **Drafting group** consisting of Denmark, Poland, Latvia and the EU and lead by Finland agreed that the **most part of the text in Annex is still valid** and thus there is **no need to open the whole Annex** but to refine some parts.
- AGRI 5 agreed on the general principles of the revision:
  - the requirements should not be weakened as the result of the revision but the aim is to modernize the text to include recent development of the scientific knowledge on good agricultural practices.
  - the revision should not imply any double reporting or otherwise increase the administrative burden

# The Scope of the Revision of Annex III part 2

- AGRI 5-2017 Meeting agreed on the scope of the revision proposed by the drafting group as follows and suggested to submit it to the HOD 53-2017 for adoption:
  - Add a **glossary of terms**, that should be in line but not be singularly based on the legal terms of the EU legislation but serve for the purposes of the Convention.
  - Review **Regulation 2 item 3** “Manure storage”
  - Review **Regulation 2 item 6** “Application of organic manures”
  - Review **Regulation 2 item 7** “Application rates for nutrients” only starting from the sentence “The amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year...”
  - Add a **new paragraph on nutrient recycling**