



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	8.11.2017
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	Outcomes of HOD 52-2017 and HOD 52A-2017

The 53rd 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 Tuesday, 12 December at 10.00 o'clock and will terminate on Wednesday, 13 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 39-2018 and HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018

The next regular meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 39-2018) will be held on 5 March 2018, followed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 6 March 2018. The meetings will be held in Brussels, Belgium.

As decided by HOD 52-2017, the draft outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 has been prepared in four drafting groups (Theme 1: Reflecting on current state, pressures and impacts on the Baltic Sea, led by Finland; Theme 2: Renewing the Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021 and towards 2030, led by EU; Theme 3: Enhancing economic and social analysis and innovation to implement ecosystem approach, led by HELCOM Secretariat; Theme 4: Implementing SDGs and regional ocean governance, led by Sweden) and in two online HOD meetings, HOD 52A-2017 held 26 September 2017 and HOD 52B-2017 to be held 13 November 2017.

The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the draft HELCOM Ministerial Meeting outcome and consider the background documents, and more specifically to:

- endorse the document on a development of a regional nutrient recycling strategy, by Finland;
- endorse the proposal for an update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, by the Secretariat and EU;
- approve the final draft of the report on implementation of HELCOM agreements in comparison with the results of the HOLAS II report, by the Secretariat;

EU will present a draft programme for the Ministerial Meeting.

The Executive Secretary and Chair will present the Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 39-2018.

Item 3 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

Outcomes of working groups' meetings

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the meetings of the groups (document to be submitted later):

- MARITIME 17-2017, 10-12 October 2017, St. Petersburg, Russia;
- STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017, 23-27 October 2017, Sopot, Poland;
- PRESSURE 7-2017, 24-26 October 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania and back-to-back Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, 23 October 2017 and HELCOM Workshop on Sewage sludge handling, 27 October 2017;
- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017, 10-11 May 2017, Stockholm, Sweden, and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017, to be held on 7-8 November 2017, Warsaw, Poland;
- AGRI 5-2017, to be held on 9-10 November 2017, Helsinki, Finland;
- FISH 7-2017, to be held on 13-14 November 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark;
- GEAR 17-2017, to be held on 23-24 November 2017, Gothenburg, Sweden;
- HELCOM-EUSBSR Workshop on internal nutrient reserves, 28-29 November 2017, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea (FISH-M 5-2017), to be held on 29 November - 1 December 2017, in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the following revised HELCOM recommendations with view of their adoption by HELCOM 39-2018:

- 34E/2 “Further testing and developing the concept of pro-active route planning as well as other e-navigation solutions to enhance safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Region”;
- 19/10 “Application by the Baltic Sea States of guidelines for holding tanks/oily water separating or filtering equipment for ships of less than 400 tons gross tonnage”;
- 10/11 “International co-operation on liability for damage resulting from vessel-based pollution”;
- 15/1 “Protection of the coastal strip”;
- 24/10 “Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea Area”;
- 19/3 “The Manual for the Marine Monitoring in the Combine Programme”.

The Meeting is invited to agree to withdraw the following HELCOM Recommendations on completed Helsinki Convention amendments from the list of valid Recommendations: 2/2, 21/2, 22E/5 and 24/8.

The Meeting is invited to consider other essential issues stemming from these meetings (documents to be submitted at a later stage):

- approve HELCOM Maritime Assessment and endorse its publication in Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings;
- approve the plan for the update of the first version of the “State of the Baltic Sea” report;
- approve the proposal for continuation of the FISH-PRO project;
- consider the proposed approach to reviewing the HELCOM Red List of Species, taking into account considerations by State and Conservation 7-2017;
- decide on the use of “extra reduction” in assessing the progress towards implementation of the national targets for input of nutrients;
- approve the document with policy messages on the progress towards the national targets for input of nutrients, produced in the PLC-6 project, to be submitted to the meeting pending intersessional finalization. The document will be complemented by a supplementary paper with data and discussion on the outcomes of the assessment;
- approve the final draft chapter on sources and pathways of nutrient inputs (source apportionment) of the PLC-6 report, to be submitted to the meeting pending intersessional finalization;
- approve the final draft chapter on the evaluation of the nutrient input to the Baltic Sea by the seven big rivers in the Baltic Sea catchment area of the PLC-6 report, to be submitted to the meeting pending intersessional finalization.

HOD 52-2017 agreed on the “HELCOM Input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise” pending the clarification of the study reservation by Germany and Russia. HOD 52A-2017 took note of the revised HELCOM input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise, welcomed the information that Germany has lifted the study reservation on the document, and invited Russia to clarify their study reservation.

The document “HELCOM Input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise” will be submitted to the meeting. Russia is invited to clarify their study reservation on the document.

Sweden and Finland are invited to report on the HELCOM-EUSBSR workshop on internal nutrient reserves in Gothenburg, Sweden, to be held on 28-29 November 2017.

Item 4 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 2016 to 30 June 2017 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (to be submitted later), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 39-2018 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 2018 to 30 June 2019 and a draft budget estimate for 2019–2020 (document to be submitted later), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 39-2018 for official adoption.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the recruitment procedure for the post of HELCOM Professional Secretary for the working groups Maritime, Response and Fish.

The Meeting will be informed of the status of recruitment for the post of HELCOM Communications Secretary.

Item 5 Any other business

A list of HELCOM projects and a list of upcoming meetings will be submitted to the Meeting. The document will also contain a description of the new external projects with HELCOM participation.

Russia might wish to inform about the XIX International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” planned to take place in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2018.

EU might wish to inform on the outcome of the “Our Ocean” Conference, held on 5-6 October 2017, in Malta.

The Meeting will be informed about progress on HELCOM communication activities and an outlook for future activities focusing on the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and publishing of the updated “State of the Baltic Sea” report.

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

Item 6 Next meeting(s)

Based on the decision by HOD 52A-2017, the date for HOD 54-2018 has been tentatively set for 14-15 June 2018. The Meeting is invited to confirm the date and venue for HOD 54-2018 and set a tentative date for HOD 55-2018.

Item 7 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.