



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	24.10.2018
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	Outcome of HOD 54-2018

The 55th 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, 4 December 2018 at 9.00 o'clock and will terminate on Wednesday, 5 December by 15.00 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 Preparation for HELCOM 40-2019

The Executive Secretary and Chair will present the Provisional Agenda for the 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 40-2019) to be held on 7-8 March 2019 at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki, Finland.

Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

HOD 54-2018 approved the strategic plan for the BSAP update. Based on the strategic plan, the Secretariat has developed a work plan for the BSAP update in order to specify the involvement of the HELCOM groups and associated timelines. The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the draft work plan for the BSAP update (document to be submitted later). A flow chart visualising the roles of the working groups and the BSAP UP project in the BSAP update process will be presented together with the draft work plan.

HOD 54-2018 considered the proposed Terms of Reference for the BSAP update task force and took note of the view by the Contracting Parties that the role, the composition, chair and the operation of the proposed task force need to be clarified. Furthermore, HOD 54-2018 in general supported the idea of carrying out the analysis of sufficiency of measures via an interdisciplinary platform.

Based on the intersessional work and feedback from the Heads of Delegation, the Secretariat has prepared a proposal for Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* expert group on sufficiency of measures. The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the final draft of the Terms of Reference (document to be submitted later).

In line with the strategic plan, the Meeting is invited to consider an initial proposal for an updated overall structure of the BSAP and agree as appropriate.

The Baltic Sea Action Plan and the HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Declaration include a segment/section on financing. The Meeting might wish to consider how to approach the financing segment in the process to update the BSAP.

HELCOM working groups have proposed a priority list of HELCOM Recommendations to be reported to support the BSAP update in accordance with the strategic plan (activity 3). The Meeting is invited to agree on the list of Recommendations and mandate the Secretariat to arrange for their reporting in early 2019. The Meeting is invited to consider the proposals and information shared by the working groups with regard to the joint and national HELCOM actions that have not been accomplished yet.

Information on processes relevant to the BSAP update

A document summarizing recent global developments of relevance to HELCOM work and the BSAP update will be provided to the Meeting for information and consideration.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the joint HELCOM-BONUS Conference “Research and Innovation for Sustainability”, to be held on 6 November 2018, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Item 4 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

The Meeting is invited to take note and consider the outcomes of the following meetings that have been held or will be held by the time of HOD 55-2018:

- 18th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 18-2018), 25-27 September 2018, Hamburg, Germany;
- Third HELCOM Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 3-2018), 9 October 2018, Riga, Latvia;
- Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 9-2018), 10-12 October 2018, Riga, Latvia;
- Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State & Conservation 9-2018), 22-26 October 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark;
- HELCOM Workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy, 7 November 2018, Warsaw, Poland;
- Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices dedicated to the revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention, 8 November 2018, Warsaw, Poland;
- 19th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 19-2018), 7-8 November 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark;
- 17th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018), 14-15 November 2018, Riga, Latvia;
- 25th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 25-2018), 14-16 November 2018, Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany.

For the meetings already held, the Meeting is invited to, *inter alia*:

- approve the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 “Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships” and the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 33/1 “Unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS data” and agree to submit the revised Recommendations for adoption by HELCOM 40-2019;
- approve the draft HELCOM/EnviSuM project overview “Alternative Fuels for Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region” for publication on the HELCOM website;
- approve the draft work plan for the Maritime Working Group for 2018-2020;
- approve the draft ToR for Expert Network on Marine Litter for 2019-2021;
- approve the draft ToR for Expert Network on Underwater Noise for 2018-2021;
- decide on closing the PLC-6 project and agree on the timetable for PLC-8;
- approve the draft PLC-6 Executive Summary and its publication;
- approve the draft updated HELCOM core indicator on input of nutrients (1995-2016) and its publication;

- approve the revised “Guidelines for the annual and periodical compilation and reporting of waterborne inputs to the Baltic Sea (PLC-Water)”;
- approve the draft work plan of the Pressure Working Group for 2019-2020;
- approve the draft ToR for the group to draft regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (IN MINUTS) and invite the Contracting Parties to offer co-lead for the work together with the co-lead Germany.

HOD 54-2018 considered the proposal for HELCOM work on climate change and agreed that the dedicated work on climate change will begin in 2018. Based on the outcome of State & Conservation 9-2018, the Meeting is invited to consider a proposal for working arrangement on climate change and decide as appropriate.

HOD 54-2018 noted the open issue of hosting indicator data for continuous noise, emphasized the importance of storing and making the data available, recognized the importance of a potential host to provide continuity and of linking to the similar work done, e.g. under OSPAR in the North Sea. The Meeting requested the Expert Network on Underwater Noise to further clarify what is required for hosting arrangements, and the Secretariat to further explore the possibility and cost of ICES taking up the hosting of the database and soundscape. The outcome of this process will be presented to HOD 55-2018 for further deliberation on funding options from the Contracting Parties.

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 54-2018 requested the Contracting Parties to contribute to the work on BAT/BEP related to aquaculture, and that based on the outcome of the next meeting of the HELCOM Intersessional Correspondence Group on Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE) the Heads of Delegation could make a final decision on the continuation of the work. The Meeting is consequently invited to consider the outcome of CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018 (7-8 November 2018) and take action as appropriate.

HOD 54-2018 supported the plan by the Secretariat to prepare a draft of the updated HELCOM Data and Information Strategy for consideration in State & Conservation 9-2018 meeting. The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the draft updated HELCOM Data and Information Strategy and agree to submit it for adoption by HELCOM 40-2019.

HOD 54-2018 discussed the potential need for applying HELCOM assessment data outputs according to INSPIRE data specifications. The Meeting is invited to take note of the current status of the progress in HELCOM database management activities applied according to the HELCOM Data and Information Strategy and how the process can be used to support the fulfillment of INSPIRE and what further actions would be required.

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 2017 to 30 June 2018 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document to be submitted later), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 40-2019 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 2019 to 30 June 2020 and a draft budget estimate for 2020–2021 (document to be submitted later), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 40-2019 for official adoption.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the application by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) for observer status to HELCOM.

Item 6 Any other business

With the reference to the outcome of PRESSURE 9-2018, Russia might wish to inform on the progress with regard to the Krasny Bor hot spot.

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 XX Anniversary International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” planned to take place in St. Petersburg on 21-22 March 2019.

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

Item 7 Next meeting(s)

HOD 54-2018 decided on the dates for HOD 56-2019 tentatively for 18-19 June 2019. The Meeting is invited to confirm the date for HOD 56-2019 and set a tentative date for HOD 57-2019.

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.