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<b>Document title</b>	Outcomes of AGRI 7-2019 and AGRI 7a-2019
<b>Code</b>	3-1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
<b>Submission date</b>	30.04.2019
<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

### AGRI 7-2019

The Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7-2019) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 19-20 March 2019. The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for European Union, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers' Forum for Environment (BFFE) and Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), the Chair of Pressure Working Group and invited guest from the Finnish Environment Institute. The Meeting was moderated by the HELCOM Secretariat.

This document contains the Outcome of AGRI 7-2019 (without Annexes). Relevant issues not covered by other documents submitted for the Meeting are highlighted in **bold font**. The whole Outcome including all Annexes can be found [here](#). Matters requiring specific action by HOD 56-2019 are also outlined below. The outcome of discussion on the BSAP update will be addressed in a separate document.

#### *Revision of HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 "Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture"*

The Meeting decided to postpone the discussion on measures to abate ammonia emissions and the revision of the recommendation to the next meeting of the group.

#### *Revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention*

The Meeting discussed the drafts submitted by lead countries. The Meeting agreed on some of the drafts and decided to continue the discussion in a dedicated online meeting.

### AGRI 7a-2019

The Dedicated Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7a-2018) to continue the discussion on the revision of the Annex III part II was held online, on 4 April 2019. The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers Forum for Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Meeting was moderated by the HELCOM Secretariat. The whole Outcome including all Annexes can be found [here](#).

The Meeting agreed to submit to HOD 56-2019 a progress report containing both agreed items and working documents (document to be submitted separately).

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the Outcomes of AGRI 7-2019 and AGRI 7a-2019;
- approve the organization of AGRI 8-2019 in the week 4-8 November 2019.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider hosting AGRI 8-2019.



Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the  
Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices  
(AGRI 7-2019)

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## Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7-2019)

### Introduction

- 0.1 The Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7-2019) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 19-20 March 2019, upon invitation by the State Company “Mineral”.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for European Union, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers’ Forum for Environment (BFFE) and Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) (**Annex 1**), the Chair of Pressure Working Group and invited guest from the Finnish Environment Institute.
- 0.3 The Meeting was moderated by the Secretariat.
- 0.4 Director Alexey Trifanov, the State Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production - Branch of Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution “Federal Scientific Agroengineering Center VIM”, welcomed the participants to St. Petersburg.
- 0.5 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary and Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Project Manager at the HELCOM Secretariat, acted as secretaries of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

- 1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1 with the proposed change to remove Agenda Item 2 Election of Chair and postpone this item to the next meeting of the Agri group. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will moderate the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group**

Documents: 3-1, 3-2

- 2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for the Agri group (document 3-1).
- 2.2 The Meeting took note of the PLC-6 background information report final draft (document 3-2).
- 2.3 The Meeting welcomed the report which provides relevant information and suggested to improve scaling of graphs for better data visibility and comparability.
- 2.4 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that the Danish data in figure 19 should be corrected.
- 2.5 The Meeting suggested also to include information on forest works to the background report for the PLC-7 project.
- 2.6 The Meeting suggested to specify which other types of livestock are included in the background report for the PLC-7 project.
- 2.7 The Meeting invited national representatives to inform the PLC group and the Secretariat ([Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) **by 2 April 2019** of the needed corrections or contact national representatives to inform PRESSURE 10-2019.

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**Agenda Item 3      Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan**

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4

- 3.1            The Meeting recalled that HOD 54-2018 approved a strategic plan for the BSAP update which outlines the overall timetable and phases of the update process.
- 3.2            The Meeting took note of the work plan for the BSAP update that sets the detailed steps and timing of activities (document 4-1)
- 3.3            The Meeting took note of the agreed HELCOM actions from BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 related to the Agri group and their implementation status.
- 3.4            The Meeting took note that the document 4-1-Att1 does not contain information reported in 2018 due to the different interpretation of some of the actions by Contracting Parties and that there is a need to find common understanding for the criteria of accomplishment of actions before reporting in 2020.
- 3.5            The Meeting reflected on the HELCOM actions related to the Agri group as outlined in **Annex 2**.
- 3.6            The Meeting recalled that there is a formal procedure for removing HELCOM hot spots from the JPC list. The Meeting pointed out that, for the sake of clarity, when considering actions for the update of BSAP the term hot spots should only refer to the official HELCOM list of hot spots.
- 3.7            The Meeting considered the actions that were previously deemed too general for follow-up (document 4-1-att1) and suggested on their follow-up as included in **Annex 2**.
- 3.8            The Meeting took note that HOD 55-2018 agreed that the Agri Group will not report on HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 which is currently under revision in the group and also covered by the provisions of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention.
- 3.9            The Meeting took note that there are already plans to implement the commitments of the 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to the Agri group as indicated in the document 4-1.
- 3.10          The Meeting took note that the HELCOM coordinated ACTION project which is co-financed by the EU, and the ad hoc HELCOM platform for analysing sufficiency of measures to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea (SOM Platform) will support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 4-2).
- 3.11          The Meeting took note of the inception report of the HELCOM ACTION project (document 4-3).
- 3.12          The Meeting took note of the questionnaire on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs that is being jointly drafted by PLC-7 project and HELCOM ACTION project (document 4-4).
- 3.13          The Meeting discussed the questionnaire and pointed out that some countries operate by concentrations to evaluate effect of measures on diffuse sources but not loads.
- 3.14          The Meeting suggested to include three columns in the questionnaire: measures taken, measures to have their effect in the future and measures to be taken in the future.
- 3.15          The Meeting pointed out that all EU countries are obliged to make evaluations on the effect of programmes of measures which could be used for the questionnaire, but the effect of future measures is difficult to report.
- 3.16          The Meeting suggested to review the list of suggested agri-environmental measures in the questionnaire e.g. by utilizing the HELCOM palette of measures.
- 3.17          The Meeting clarified that measures that have been politically agreed for the future years can be reported for measures to be taken in the future.
- 3.18          The Meeting took note that for some countries there is currently no common approach to identify the effect of measures and that international cooperation is needed to assist countries to provide consistent data.

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**Agenda Item 4    Revision of part 2 of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention**

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8, 5-9

4.1            The Meeting recalled that the Agri group agreed in AGRI 6-2018 Meeting to form a drafting group to carry out the revision of the annex and share the work between four lead countries as follows:

- Glossary of terms, Denmark;
- Regulation 2 item 3 “Manure storage”, Poland;
- Regulation 2 item 6 “Application of organic manures”, Germany;
- Regulation 2 Item 7 “Application rates for nutrients” only starting from the sentence “The amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year...”, Poland;
- New paragraph on nutrient recycling based on the outcome of MM 2018, Finland.

4.2            The Meeting further recalled that first drafts of Regulation 2 items 3, 6 and 7 and the new paragraph on nutrient recycling were discussed in drafting group meetings and in AGRI 6a-2018 Meeting on 8 November 2018.

4.3            The Meeting took note of the suggestion to draft a “list of relevant definitions” instead of a “glossary of terms”.

4.4            The Meeting took note of the draft new paragraph on nutrient recycling by Finland (document 5-3).

4.5            The Meeting took note of the comments to the draft paragraph by EU (document 5-6) and Latvia (document 5-9).

4.6            The Meeting took note of the concerns expressed by Poland that the draft doesn’t provide clear message which would encourage farmers to use livestock manure first and mineral fertilisers only as a second step, as the point referring to livestock manure transportation - in the opinion by Poland - doesn’t cover the problem fully.

4.7            The Meeting discussed the proposed draft and agreed in general on the new paragraph as included in **Annex 3** pending the study reservation by Poland on the two alternative proposals of the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point. The Meeting invited Poland to clarify their study reservation to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 31 March 2019** or provide an alternative text for the bullet point to be discussed at the dedicated online meeting.

4.8            The Meeting took note of the draft Regulation 2 item 6 of the Annex III part II by Germany (document 5-4).

4.9            The Meeting took note of the comment to the suggested draft by EU (document 5-7).

4.10          The Meeting discussed the proposed draft and agreed on the text as included in **Annex 4**.

4.11          The Meeting pointed out that the term organic fertilizer needs to be defined in the glossary of terms.

4.12          The Meeting took note of the draft new Regulation 2 item 3 of Annex III part II by lead country Poland (document 5-2).

4.13          The Meeting took note of the comments to the suggested draft by EU (document 5-5).

4.14          The Meeting discussed the issue to keep the provision of at least 6 months storage capacity in the text.

4.15          The Meeting took note of the view by Finland that the revision should be progressive considering future needs and goals and not only adapting to present conditions in the countries. This could be reflected in the revision by broadening the Annex provisions to include also other organic fertilizers than manure.

- 4.16 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that taking into account also organic fertilizers would strengthen the annex since it would introduce regulation for storing these fertilisers in a proper way.
- 4.17 The Meeting took note of the position by Poland that broadening the scope of the Annex Regulation 2 item 3 to include other organic fertilisers than manure is problematic.
- 4.18 The Meeting took note of the comment by Poland that 6 months' storage capacity should address livestock producers, not agricultural entities that acquire livestock manure from external sources, for those entities, storage capacity should be calculated according to the amount of manure acquired.
- 4.19 The Meeting took note of the position by Poland that it should be clarified that manure storage covering is seen as a good practice and not as a compulsory requirement for farmers.
- 4.20 The Meeting took note of the position by BFFE that also organic fertilizer products should be considered in Regulation 2 Item 3.
- 4.21 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by CCB to reformulate the first paragraph of the Item 3 as "Manure should be stored in accordance with best available techniques".
- 4.22 The Meeting discussed the draft and agreed on the first three paragraphs as included in **Annex 5**. The Meeting also agreed to continue discussion on the remaining text at the dedicated session.
- 4.23 The Meeting took note of the draft new Regulation 2 Item 7 of Annex III part II by lead country Poland (document 5-2) and the comments provided by EU, Latvia and CCB (documents 5-1, 5-5, 5-8 and 5-9) and agreed to consider them at the dedicated online meeting.
- 4.24 The Meeting agreed to organize a dedicated online meeting of the Agri group to further discuss Regulation 2 Items 3 and 7 and invited the Secretariat to make a Doodle poll to find a suitable time on the first week of April.

#### **Agenda Item 5 Development of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure**

Documents: 6-1, 2-2

- 5.1 The Meeting took note of the activities in the regional project "Advanced manure standards for sustainable nutrient management and reduced emissions" (document 6-2).
- 5.2 The Meeting took note of the new version of the draft HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards that had been developed as part of the Manure Standards project (document 6-1).
- 5.3 The Meeting pointed out that regarding bullet point b. it should be taken into account that as part of the review of the EU common agricultural policy a new app on nutrient accounting is being developed.
- 5.4 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to look into the other HELCOM recommendations which might be superseded by the HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards.
- 5.5 The Meeting provided comments (document 6-1-Rev.1), supported in general the draft recommendation and invited the Manure Standard project to develop it further with the goal to submit it to AGRI 8-2018 for endorsement.

#### **Agenda Item 6 Nutrient recycling**

Documents: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3

- 6.1 The Meeting recalled that the HELCOM Workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland and HELCOM in cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area Nutri on 7 November 2018 in Warsaw, Poland. The workshop participants discussed a draft vision for the Baltic Sea regional nutrient recycling strategy and suggested possible objectives for the strategy.

- 6.2 The Meeting took note of the draft vision and list of draft objectives and sub-objectives that was compiled by lead country Finland and the Secretariat based on the suggestions in the workshop and was discussed in a drafting group meeting on 29 January 2019 (document 7-1).
- 6.3 The Meeting discussed the draft objectives and agreed on them as in document 7-1-Rev.1.
- 6.4 The Meeting agreed to submit the draft vision and objectives to HOD 56-2019 after commenting by Pressure Working Group.
- 6.5 The Meeting agreed to organize a workshop on nutrient recycling measures, preferably in January 2020 in Helsinki. The Meeting took note that project platforms SuMaNu and BSRWater are invited to contribute to the workshop.
- 6.6 The Meeting recalled that the Agri group initiated in AGRI 4-2017 meeting the compilation of information on the nutrient flows and potential of their reuse in the Baltic Sea region and that AGRI 5-2017 and AGRI 6-2018 took note of the information on nutrient flows in Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Sweden.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note that since AGRI 6-2018 updated information has been submitted by Poland (document 7-3).
- 6.8 The Meeting took note that Pressure Working Group agreed to start reporting on the use of sewage sludge in the region stipulated by HELCOM Recommendation 38/1 on sewage sludge handling. PRESSURE 7-2017 Meeting approved extended reporting format for the first round of reporting which is to be done in 2019 utilizing data from 2018. The reporting includes information the volumes of produced sewage sludge, content of nutrients, processing and utilization. The reporting does not foresee subdivision of the information per national administrative unite but only national summary reporting except countries which are partly located within the BS catchment area.
- 6.9 The Meeting agreed that the data on mapping nutrients flows should be used as a background for the nutrient recycling strategy and planning measures. The Meeting also agreed that a disclaimer need to be added for the countries that only have a part of their area in the Baltic Sea catchment area.
- 6.10 The Meeting took note that with the disclaimer for Denmark national data e.g. from EUROSTAT can be used.
- 6.11 The Meeting invited the countries to report the missing data and suggested to use the EUROSTAT data for the countries that have not reported. The Meeting agreed to aim at compiling an analysis for the workshop on nutrient recycling measures.
- 6.12 The Meeting took note that a project proposal “Sustainable manure and nutrient management for reduction of nutrient loss in the Baltic Sea Region” (SUMANU) has received financing from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project platform call and will support the elaborating of the nutrient recycling strategy.
- 6.13 The Meeting recalled that AGRI 6-2018 suggested to update the report “[Status of nutrient bookkeeping in the Baltic Sea countries](#)” published by German Environment Agency and HELCOM in 2015 and that Contracting Parties were invited to review national sections in the report and submit updated information to AGRI 7-2019.
- 6.14 The Meeting suggested to keep the report as it is and not update it at this time taking into account that the new period of the common agricultural policy might bring needs for update.

## **Agenda Item 7      Transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples**

### **8.1                      Innovative water management**

Documents: 8.1-1, 8.1-2

- 7.1 The Meeting recalled that the AGRI 5-2017 Meeting considered the role of HELCOM AGRI group as a platform for regional dialogue on innovative water management solutions in rural areas in relation with the WATERDRIVE project initiative and decided that Agri group would like to serve as a communication platform for the innovative water management solutions.

7.2 The Meeting took note that WATERDRIVE project has received financing from Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme and also took note of the information on the project and its kick-off event (document 8.1-1).

7.3 The Meeting took note that the project “Development of sustainable peatland management by re-wetting and paludiculture for nutrient retention in the Neman river catchment” (DESIRE), which was presented in AGRI 6-2018 Meeting, has also received financing from Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the concept of a workshop with River Basin Management Authorities (document 8.1-2).

7.5 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide written comments to the concept to the Secretariat ([susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi](mailto:susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi)) **by 3 April 2019**.

7.6 The Meeting pointed out that the suggested dates conflict with the tentative meeting in the nitrates committee on 20 September 2019.

## 8.2 Best available technology in animal farming

Documents: none

7.7 The Meeting recalled that the group acknowledged in AGRI 5-2017 that countries have different views AGRI 6-2018 agreed to organize a workshop on BAT and BEP for cattle in 2019.

7.8 The Meeting postponed the consideration on the workshop to AGRI 8-2019.

## 8.3 National measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture

Documents: none

7.9 **The Meeting recalled that AGRI 5-2017 agreed that the terminology and definitions used in the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 “Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture”, adopted in 2003, are unclear and do not correspond to the current state of knowledge and legal requirements. AGRI 5-2017 also agreed that the Recommendation 24/3 is outdated and requires revision.**

7.10 **The Meeting also recalled that the Agri group decided in AGRI 6-2018 Meeting that an overview of the ongoing activities to mitigate ammonia emissions in the countries will be made as a first step of the revision.**

7.11 **The Meeting took note of the Overview of measures to mitigate ammonia emissions (document 8.3-1) and suggested to postpone the discussion on the document and the revision of the recommendation to the next meeting of the group.**

## Agenda Item 8 Future work

Documents: 9-1

8.1 The Meeting recalled that Heads of Delegation (HOD 54-2018) decided to prolong the mandate of the Agri group until 2022, to cover the period of updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan and approved the group’s Work Plan for the period 2018-2019 (document 9-1).

8.2 **The Meeting agreed that the next meeting of the group will be organized in the week 4-8 November 2019. The Contracting Parties are invited to consider hosting AGRI 8-2019 and inform the Secretariat by the planned dedicated online meeting.**

## Agenda Item 9 Any other business

Documents: 10-1-Rev.1, 10-2

9.1 The Meeting took note of the information on gypsum amendment of fields as a water protection measure in agriculture (document 10-2, **presentation 1**). The Meeting welcomed the information that the

project has travel funds available to present the results abroad upon invitation by Contracting Parties to catalyze relevant research in these countries.

9.2 The Meeting took note that Finland has launched a new water protection programme with the goal to enforce agri-environmental measures and test new water protection measures. The programme duration is three years with a budget of 45 million euros. The programme will be led by the former Chair of Agri group Ms. Tarja Haaranen. 25 million euros will be used on implementing agri-environmental measures including gypsum application in the catchment area of the Archipelago Sea. The programme will also include a large-scale research programme to test structure liming and structure fibres.

9.3 The Meeting took note that in Sweden structure liming is a method that is used to mitigate phosphorus losses from clay soils.

9.4 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that the Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Baltic Sea is planned for November 2019.

9.5 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award 2019 has been launched and is coordinated by the WWF BEP with a support of CCB for participation of Belarus and Ukrainian farmers.

9.6 The Meeting checked and updated the list of contact addresses and observers of the Agri group (document 10-1-Rev.1).

#### **Agenda Item 10 Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 11-1

10.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of AGRI 7-2019 as contained in document 11-1.

10.2 The Outcome of the Meeting was finalized by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentation given during the Meeting.