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## Background

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019) was held on 27-28 March 2019 in Hamburg, Germany.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of all HELCOM and VASAB members except the European Union. The Meeting was also attended by the Coastal Union Germany (EUCC) as observer; the Baltic Environment Forum, Hendrikson&Ko Ltd, and European MSP Platform as invited guests. The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

This document contains the Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 (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](#). The outcome of discussion on the BSAP update will be addressed in a separate document.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the outcome of HELCOM VASAB MSP WG 18-2019;
- approve organizing the next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019) on 28-29 October 2019.



## OUTCOME OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019)

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## OUTCOME OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019)

### Introduction

0.1 The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019) was held on 27-28 March in Hamburg, Germany, upon invitation by the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all HELCOM and VASAB members except the European Union. HELCOM observers were represented by The Coastal Union Germany (EUCC). The Meeting was also attended by the European MSP Platform, the Baltic Environmental Forum and Hendrikson&Ko Ltd. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

0.4 The Co-Chairs opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

0.5 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary of HELCOM, assisted by Mr. Florent Nicolas, HELCOM, acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

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

Documents: 1-1, 1-1 Att.

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

### **Agenda Item 2 Building up future common regional MSP framework**

Documents: 1-1 Att., 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the preliminary findings of the assessment of the application of the Baltic Sea Common Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Framework preceding the interactive workshop.

2.2 The Meeting was encouraged by the Co-Chairs to utilize the workshop and its outcomes for further planning the group's work.

2.3 **The Meeting discussed the outcome of the workshop pointing out that the workshop was a good starting point for the discussion on perspectives for further development of MSPs in the Baltic Sea Region. The Meeting acknowledged that the work enters a new phase which requires new regional commitments. Particularly, recalling that the MSP roadmap ends in 2020.**

2.4 **The Meeting agreed also that the matters of ecosystem-based approach and transnational approach considered in the forthcoming recommendations of Pan Baltic Scope can be taken into account in the discussion on the further developments of MSP in the BSR.**

2.5 The Meeting also reflected on the next steps for the assessment taking note of the workshop planned in November 2019 (Pan Baltic Scope Final Conference) and that a second draft of the assessment of the application of the Baltic Sea Common Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Framework will be available in spring 2019 and circulated to the group for reviewing. The draft assessment report will be also presented to the Pan Baltic Scope planning forum in late May. The final draft will be available prior to the next workshop in November 2019.

- 2.6 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the discussion at the HELCOM FISH group regarding aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea.
- 2.7 **The Meeting discussed the way to identify requirements to the fisheries data to be applied in MSP to facilitate development common procedures for sharing aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea.**
- 2.8 **The Meeting requested the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group to initiate a discussion what fisheries data is needed in national MSP with the goal to identify common requirements for aggregated fisheries data.**
- 2.9 The Meeting agreed that the discussion will continue via correspondence and invited national representatives to support the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group with relevant recommendations. The Meeting invited the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group to submit draft specification for the request on aggregated fisheries data to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019.
- 2.10 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the Identification of minimum requirements for coherent Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region (presentation 1).
- 2.11 The Meeting discussed common understanding of the coherence of the plans.
- 2.12 The Meeting welcomed the work done by HELCOM Secretariat suggested to consider sufficient requirements or criteria for incoherence of MSPs. Identification of the reasons to avoid cross-border conflicts might be the next step in evaluation of the coherence.
- 2.13 The Meeting also pointed out that the coherence much depends on the geographical parameters as well as case specific sectoral issues. Latvia suggested that absence of conflicts at the borders of MSP might be a key criterion.
- 2.14 The Meeting also recalled that ecosystem-based approach could be a basis of the identification of coherence together with cross border consultations, but that the group should await the results for the assessment and follow-up of the regional framework and ecosystem-based approach within the Pan Baltic Scope project before deciding on the way forward.
- 2.15 **The Meeting suggested to establish an intersessional task force to develop the suggestion by HELCOM-VASAB MSP 19-2019 and welcomed offers by Germany, Finland, Sweden and Latvia to participate in the task force. The group will be coordinated by HELCOM Secretariat and keep VASAB Secretariat informed.**
- 2.16 The Meeting recommended to utilize the result of the assessment of the application of the Baltic Sea Common Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Framework. The Meeting suggested to continue the discussion within the task force at the Pan Baltic Scope Planning Forum in May 2019.
- 2.17 The Meeting requested the task force to take the recommendations of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP 18-2019 into account in its work.
- 2.18 The Meeting suggested to exclude the action - "Draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020, which are coherent across the borders and apply the ecosystem approach, cooperate in the field of MSP using inter alia the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework" - from the national follow-up of the Baltic Sea Action Plan reporting due to lack of criteria to evaluate the coherence of the plans. The Meeting suggested further to include the action into the follow-up as a regional action.
- 2.19 The Meeting took note that the workplan for the BSAP update was agreed by HOD 55-2018 and that an ad hoc Platform for analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform) has been established to support the update of the BSAP.
- 2.20 The Meeting took note of the information on the Analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) to support the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) update (presentation 2).
- 2.21 The Meeting discussed whether MSP could be considered as a measure. The Meeting emphasized the difference in national MSPs which might be legally binding or are a character of strategic

plan. Some regulations in legally binding MSPs can be considered as measures and even have quantifiable effect.

2.22 The Meeting recalled a case study within the Pan Baltic Scope project which had shown that quantitative evaluation of the effects of MSP was almost impossible. But some MSPs requirements could be linked to MSFD programmes of measures and, thus, resulted in practical activities affecting the environmental status of the sea.

2.23 The Meeting suggested that the existing plans should be taken into account in the formulation of the Business As Usual (BAU) scenario along with other existing commitments.

2.24 The Meeting encouraged participation of experts on MSP in the SOM Platform, noting that participation is based on nomination by the Contracting Parties.

2.25 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat of the HELCOM ACTION project (presentation 3), co-financed by the EU, which will contribute to the SOM analyses for specific topics.

2.26 The Meeting took note of the planned work under work package 2 to consolidate information in HELCOM on impacts from human activities on the seabed and on the analyses of effectiveness of restoration projects and fishery management measures to improve the state of benthic habitats and biotopes.

2.27 The Meeting considered of this work relevance for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

### **Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work**

Document: 3-1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the recent HELCOM and VASAB meetings as presented by HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the Third Baltic Sea MSP Forum in November 2019 and that the Forum will also serve as a final conference for the Pan Baltic Scope project. IOC-UNESCO also expressed willingness to join the Forum which will have tentative slogan "global meets regional". The EU Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial Planning will tentatively meet on the 18-19 November (lunch-to-lunch) back to back with the third MSP Forum.

### **Agenda Item 4 Building up future common regional MSP framework**

Documents: 4-1, 4-1-Rev.1, 4-2

4.1 The Meeting took note of the national update on new MSP developments:

**Denmark:** The first Danish MSP is currently under development, and the designation categories are therefore not finalized. Throughout 2018/2019 we have collected data on current and future plans for the use of marine areas from all the sectors that are covered by the MSP. Denmark expect the first MSP to be launched by the end of 2019 in order to have an international consultation before the EU-directive must be implemented in 2021. The MSP will be completed by March 2021.

**Estonia:** Estonia is currently concluding the draft MSP and is planning to start public display of the draft nationally in the middle of April. The transboundary consultation period will start approximately in the end of April and will be 9 weeks. The notification and materials will be distributed by the Ministry of the Environment. Estonia is planning to have a transboundary consultation meeting right after the next Pan Baltic Scope Planning Forum. It will be held in the Estonian Ministry of Finance during the afternoon of the 29 of May 2019.**Finland:**

**Finland:** Finland MSP is proceeding as scheduled. Stocktaking phase is finalized and an unofficial consultation will be arranged in April-May to ask opinions of the planning materials. At the moment scenarios for the maritime area are being drafted and setting the planning goals will follow. The busiest phase in drafting the plans takes place in autumn 2019.

**Germany:** Germany is currently still in the evaluation phase and preparing a status report. The report will look at the MSP in force, the current framework and then outline the way forward. Currently we are expecting to publish alternative planning options at an early stage to solicit feedback from stakeholders. Germany has had positive experience with a scientific advisory council established last year; it provides valuable input and opportunity for reflection especially at an early stage.

**Latvia:** The national MSP has been agreed with all involved ministries in the interinstitutional process and the opinion from State Environmental Bureau is still to be received. After receiving the last opinion the MSP will be handed in to the Government for approval. Meanwhile we are working with a local municipality on pilot project, where a thematic plan for 2 km of coastal waters and interlinked land territory is to be elaborated. The experience from elaboration of the thematic plan will serve as input for preparation of guidelines for all coastal municipalities on planning and managing the coastal areas.

**Lithuania:** Lithuania is currently preparing a new Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of Lithuania including its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea. The process of preparing a plan consists of three stages - analysis, conception and specific strategic solutions. Today we have done the analysis and we are developing a concept, that will be completed in June. The Concept of the new Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of Lithuania including its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea - the main trends and visions of country's spatial development in the perspective to 2050, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the planning process of this plan.

Concerning the calendar, Estonia is planning to include a meeting on presentation of the Concept of the new Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of Lithuania including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the planning process of this plan, to be held in June, and a Meeting on Consultations with LT neighbouring countries on the Concept of the new Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of Lithuania and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the planning process of this plan, to be held in July (Vilnius). As we are a bit behind the schedule of our planned works, we are not able to provide the exact date of the meetings.

**Poland:** In the end of December 2019 the second version of draft Maritime Spatial Plan of Polish sea areas was developed and submitted for second round of official consultation with relevant authorities. Currently, the contractor - Maritime Institute in Gdańsk is developing another version of the draft plan, taking into account collected opinions and terms of agreement. Submission of the third version of the draft plan will take place in the end of July. Before, on 4-5 June 2019 the international consultation meeting will be hold in Warsaw. And after that, on 7 June the fourth national consulting meeting will be organized.

**Russia:** There are no changes in the national legislation. There is continuous discussion at various round tables and MSP educational game has been made.

**Sweden:** The Swedish draft plans are on national review from 14th March to the 14th of June 2019. The plans are being translated to English and will be available on the SwAM website. Sweden will respond by letter to received input från neighbouring countrys in the ESPOO-consultation before summer. Sweden is considering arranging a transboundary consultation Skype-meeting in end of October, before delivering plan proposals to government in end of December 2019.

4.2 The Countries were invited to check changes in the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries (**Annex 2**) and to inform the HELCOM ([florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi)) and VASAB ([elina.veidemane@vasab.org](mailto:elina.veidemane@vasab.org)) Secretariats in case of any changes.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the information by VASAB that country fiches and the calendar of the national MSP events and processes have been updated and available on the VASAB website and added as an annex to this Outcome (**Annex 3**). The updated country fiches will also be published at the HELCOM website.

4.4 **The Meeting took note of the recommendations of the Baltic LINes project to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG presented by Germany (presentation 4). The Meeting also took note that the presented recommendations were derived from the project and do not reflect official position of Germany.**

4.5 The Meeting also took note of the presentation on project results on planning criteria for the shipping and energy sectors (presentation 4 and 5).

4.6 **The Meeting welcomed the recommendations and discussed the possible ways to involve energy sector into the works of HELCOM-VASAB group. The Meeting suggested to organize a dedicated session, moderated by an expert in the matter, to involve energy sector to the MSP group work.**

4.7 **The Meeting also took note of the recommendation to increase cooperation in the navigation safety sector.**

4.8 The Meeting noted that the “data recommendation” has been circulated to the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and that the group will discuss it at the upcoming meeting.

4.9 **The Meeting requested the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group to continue the work on the requirements for input data for MSP.**

4.10 The Meeting took note of Germany’s intention to develop the recommendation into formal proposals and encouraged Contracting Parties to provide written feedback on the recommendation to Germany (kai.truempler@bsh.de) by 25 April 2019 with copy to both Secretariats ([florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi), [elina.veidemane@vasab.org](mailto:elina.veidemane@vasab.org)).

4.11 The Meeting noted a suggestion by the Baltic LINes project that regularly updated overview of the planning criteria used by the countries in addition to the country fiches might be a useful tool to raise understanding between countries. The Meeting noted the suggestion to strengthen cooperation between MSP group and HELCOM Working Groups responsible for MSP related issues.

4.12 The Meeting took note that the addendum to the document 4-1 with the planning criteria will be published on the Meeting site.

4.13 The Meeting took note of the information on the Planning Forum of the Pan Baltic Scope project.

4.14 **The Meeting took note of the task for Pan Baltic Scope to create a long-lasting mechanism for the regional MSP dialog which might be the “Planning Forum”.**

4.15 The Meeting provided comments in order to support the further work of the Pan Baltic Scope project.

## **Agenda Item 5 Ecosystem-based approach in MSP**

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-6

5.1 The Meeting took note of the information submitted by Sweden on advancing the ecosystem approach in MSP through the Pan Baltic Scope project and welcomed the achieved progress.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the comment that strategic environmental impact assessment should be taken into account in adaptive response and possibly in driver part in the figure showing the EBA analytical framework.

5.3 The Meeting took note that Finland is looking into the data on key habitats and ecosystem services which will be collated into a map of valuable ecosystem components. Finland will inform the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG when the work will be done.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Pan Baltic Scope workshop on Green Infrastructure in December 2018.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the opinion of Finland that the criteria utilised to identify green infrastructure components are very similar to those used to describe EBAs which were adopted by CBD in the end of 2018. The maps are available on the CBD web site ([link to the website](#)). Finland uses these criteria to identify ecologically valuable areas in the territorial waters. A practical tool to identify and outline the most valuable areas has already been developed ([link to the article](#)). The maps of valuable areas will be finalized, and Finland will be interested to present the outcomes at the closest MSP group meeting.

5.6 The Meeting recalled that described EBAs does not imply any legally binding consequences.

- 5.7 The Meeting discussed the difference in understanding of Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services and also pointed out that the maps of mammals are to be further elaborated.
- 5.8 The Meeting discussed the next step of the work on the Green Infrastructure concept.
- 5.9 **The Meeting agreed that further development of the technical aspects of green infrastructure requires involvement of the State and Conservation Group.**
- 5.10 **The Meeting also discussed implementation of the time table for the green infrastructure. The Meeting agreed on the following steps to advance the Concept. The Concept will first be presented by Sweden to the S&C group meeting in May with simultaneous informing of the MSP WG via correspondence. The concept will further advance based on the feedback from State and Conservation Group, discussed at the MSP Forum and endorsed by the MSP WG and State and Conservation Group in autumn 2019.**
- 5.11 The Meeting took note of the information on the regional expert workshop on essential fish habitats jointly organized by HELCOM and Pan Baltic Scope and welcomed impressive results achieved in mapping the areas of their location
- 5.12 The Meeting noted that the information on fish migration routes is missing thus not included into the set of the maps reflecting essential fish habitats.
- 5.13 **The Meeting pointed out that the concept of the green infrastructure should also encompass maps of the essential fish habitats and encouraged to coordinate the document to State and Conservation regarding essential fish habitats and the green infrastructure concept.**
- 5.14 The Meeting took note of the information on the HELCOM work on climate change.
- 5.15 **The Meeting exchanged national experiences on how to account climate change parameters in MSP.**
- 5.16 Latvia has no proper data on climate change parameters, which hampers identification of the effect of climate change and its accounting in MSP. Latvia welcomed the work launched by HELCOM.
- 5.17 Sweden has started work on climate refuges - areas characterised by conditions which are to be stable in future and protect them using MSP tools. Swedish geological survey will start work on climate refuges in the Baltic Sea scale. Clime Marine research project focused on developing more spatial data on climate change consequences has been launch.
- 5.18 Poland informed on the work to introduce climate change parameters related to coastal protection to MSP. Climate change mitigation measures are also considered in MSPs through development of wind farms and nuclear energy.
- 5.19 Finland has conducted research on flooded areas, changes of sea level and its potential effect on coastal areas. The issues related to carbon storage has also been raised. The Smartsea project is currently ongoing and dealing with climate change and Maritime Spatial Planning.
- 5.20 Estonia is discussing the climate change processes in general and the need to reflect it in MSP.
- 5.21 BSH mainly considers EEZ in MSP which is not so heavily affected by climate change as coastal zones. MSP by the Länder, which covers the territorial sea, a nationwide spatial plan on flood protection currently under preparation take climate change into account.
- 5.22 The Meeting was informed by HELCOM Secretariat on the discussion at the XX Environmental Baltic Sea Days Forum in St. Petersburg mainly focused on severe effect changing climate parameters on the shore line.
- 5.23 **The Meeting invited HELCOM Secretariat to inform regularly on the progress of the work on the identification of the climate change parameters. The Meeting also agreed to exchange national experiences to tackle the climate change related issue in MSP.**

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**Agenda Item 6 MSP-related projects and events**



Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3

- 6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the developments and activities related to the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action Spatial Planning.
- 6.2 The Meeting emphasised the role of HELCOM VASAB MSP WG group in the EUSBSR framework and concluded on importance of coordinated role of the group and the need to keep the Horizontal Action in the Strategy. The Meeting also highlighted important role of both Secretariats in the coordination.
- 6.3 The Meeting requested the Secretariats to make editorial adjustments to the EUSBSR Action Plan Chapter on Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and circulate the document for written procedures to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for responding by the end of May 2019 before submitted to the European Commission.
- 6.4 The Meeting took note of the information on project platform “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decisions makers – Capacity4MSP” submitted to the second call of the Interreg BSR Programme for project platforms.
- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the information on the MSP global initiative jointly coordinated by the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission.
- 6.6 The Meeting took note of the information on the European Maritime Day 2019 that will be hosted on 16 - 17 May 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Baltic Sea Region will be represented in the EMD Conference in one of the workshops by SwAM representing the achievements of the Pan Baltic Scope project. Additionally, VASAB Secretariat will have a representation stand within the EMD Exhibition to showcase the MSP activities and projects in the Baltic Sea.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note of the information on the International Conference on Nature Protection in MSP next year in March in Berlin or Hamburg supported by the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation.
- 6.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia on the presentation of the regional MSP session at the Baltic Sea Days in Saint Petersburg and that the bilateral cooperation programme between Sweden and Russia in MSP is continuing. Russia has informed about the interactive MSP Game arranged in Kaliningrad.
- 6.9 The Meeting took note of the information by MSP Platform on the newsletters released by the Platform and that the updates of the country's fiches are used also for the country pages on the EU MSP Platform.
- 6.10 The Meeting took note of the information by VASAB Secretariat organizing the contest for young planners interested in MSP.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Any other business**

- 7.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress in the work of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-group (ESG) presented by the group's Chair:
- The guidelines for Maritime Spatial Planning output data have been elaborated and adopted. Meanwhile the process of subsequent steps to ensure that MSP output data is available on BASEMAPS is still not described. The Data team in Pan Baltic Scope project will draft a technical guideline for data exchange that could be a technical annex to the adopted guideline. The technical guideline would include a step by step approach on data validation and sharing to keep BASEMAPS for MSP output data up to date.
  - Knowing, that the Mandate of the Baltic Sea Region MSP data ESG will expire by the end of this year, there is a need to discuss the future tasks and possible amendments to the ToR with the group, particularly in the context of Baltic LINes recommendations. Knowing that most of the experts in the group are either planners or data experts in MSP authorities, a separate discussion should be held on the

possibilities to promote the INPUT data sharing, e.g. the group should overlook and further elaborate on the INPUT data glossaries. There is also a room for discussion on INSPIRE directive and the benefits, that its implementation could bring to the data exchange for MSPs in the region.

7.2 The Meeting welcomed impressive results achieved by the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and expressed full support of prolongation of its mandate.

7.3 The Meeting agreed that the ToR of the Baltic Sea Region MSP data ESG is to be updated as part of the tasks has been already accomplished. The Meeting invited the Chair of the MSP data group to submit suggestion to update the ToR of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP 19-2019.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the first issues to be considered by the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group which are technical guidelines, fisheries data and MSP input data.

7.5 **The Meeting recalled that the Mandate given to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG by VASAB expires in the end of 2019 while the Mandate given by HELCOM expires in the end of 2021.**

7.6 **The Meeting univocally expressed full support of prolongation of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG mandate for the next 2 years until the end of 2021 and requested VASAB Secretariat to submit relevant suggestion for consideration of the VASAB CSPD/BSR.**

7.7 **The Meeting welcomed the offer by Russia to consider hosting HELCOM-VASAB MSP 19-2019 in St.Petersburg 28-29 October 2019 back to back with the Strategic Forum and invited Russia to confirm the offer informing the Secretariats 11 April 2019.**

#### **Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting**

8.1 The Meeting adopted the Outcome.