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Agenda Item	6 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
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Background

The Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 10-2020) was held online on 4-5 November 2020. The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for the EU, as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers' Forum for Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and Race for the Baltic. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Sari Luostarinen, Chair of HELCOM Agri group.

This document contains the Outcome of AGRI 10-2020. The complete Outcome including all Annexes can be found [here](#).

Please note that the revision of the Annex III part II to the Helsinki Commission and the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy will be considered in separate documents.

Please also note that all issues related to the updating of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) will be discussed under Agenda Item 5 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcomes of AGRI 10-2020 in general and consider it as appropriate. Specifically, the Meeting is invited to:

- approve that the next meeting of the group (AGRI 11-2021) will be organized on 27-28 April 2021.



Outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 10-2020)

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Outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 10-2020)

Introduction

0.1 The Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 10-2020) was held online on 4-5 November 2020.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for EU, as well as by Observers from the Baltic Farmers' Forum for Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and Race for the Baltic (**Annex 1**).

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Sari Luostarinen, Chair of HELCOM Agri group.

0.4 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary and Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Associate Professional Secretary 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.

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

Documents: 2-1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for the Agri group (document 2-1).

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10

3.1 The Meeting took note of the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP and preliminary timetable and division of tasks for drafting of BSAP approved by HOD 58-2020 (document 3-1, **Presentation 1**).

3.2 The Meeting took note that HOD 58-2020 agreed on the year 2030 as the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the Meeting further agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the updated Work Plan for the update of the BSAP, endorsed by HOD 58-2020 (document 3-5).

3.4 The Meeting considered the preliminary results of the analysis of sufficiency of measures for eutrophication (document 3-8, **Presentation 2**).

3.5 The Meeting took note of the preliminary results of the analysis of sufficiency of measures for all topics.

3.6 The Meeting took note of the validation of input data to the SOM analysis.

3.7 The Meeting took note that Germany was unable to respond to the request to validate data because the time given was too short.

- 3.8 The Meeting pointed out that the SOM analysis results for the reduction of agricultural runoff include many assumptions and should be interpreted cautiously due to the uncertainty. The Meeting noted that the data on agriculture is in many cases based on national modelling and that the uncertainties will be discussed in the topic report on eutrophication.
- 3.9 The Meeting took note of the methodology and progress of the cost-effectiveness analysis (document 3-9).
- 3.10 The Meeting took note of the first draft of the segment specific introduction for eutrophication (document 3-3) and the comments by PRESSURE 13-2020 and DG BSAP EUTRO 1-2020.
- 3.11 The Meeting took note of the clarification of the method and data used for the calculation of the input ceilings and that the description of the method has been published ([link](#)).
- 3.12 The Meeting pointed out that it is unclear in which period the mentioned reduction has been achieved, that visualization of targets and objectives might include maps and that riverine inputs from non-HELCOM countries could be better explained.
- 3.13 The Meeting was of the view that it would be interesting to include information on the reduction achieved due to the measures implemented during the existing BSAP.
- 3.14 The Meeting agreed to provide possible comments on the preamble to the Secretariat **by 13 November 2020** (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi; susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) to make them available for consideration of the second meeting of the segment team on eutrophication.
- 3.15 The Meeting took note that HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place at a later stage (document 3-2).
- 3.16 The Meeting took note of the Notes from the BSAP UP workshop on eutrophication for the consideration of proposed new actions, held on 26-27 August 2020, and the Notes from the BSAP UP workshop on hazardous substances and litter for the consideration of proposed new actions, held on 24-25 August 2020 (document 3-7).
- 3.17 The Meeting considered the proposed new actions for the updated BSAP of relevance for the Agri group.
- 3.18 The Meeting took note of the background information on a proposed new action on regenerative agriculture (document 3-10).
- 3.19 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the priority measures on nutrient recycling that are to be included in the updated BSAP are not the same measures as the ones on the voluntary pick-up list in the strategy since the priority measures are derived aggregating and generalizing the more technical measures. The Meeting highlighted that the relation of the measures in the BSAP and in the strategy needs to be well explained.
- 3.20 The Meeting endorsed the proposed new actions for the updated BSAP to be submitted to HOD 59-2020 as contained in **Annex 2**. The Meeting followed the procedure that an action is not endorsed, if at least one Contracting Party does not agree on it. The Meeting also noted that a number of proposed actions could be endorsed after rephrasing.
- 3.21 The Meeting took note that Germany and CCB regretted that important measures such as reducing livestock densities were not endorsed. The Meeting also noted CCB's disappointment regarding not supporting the action on levies for mineral fertilizers.
- 3.22 The Meeting took note that further work on the proposed new actions will take place in DG BSAP and HOD meetings, in line with the BSAP updated work plan.
- 3.23 The Meeting considered the draft annex to the eutrophication segment of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan including supplementary information on actions of relevance for the Agri group (document 3-4).

- 3.24 The Meeting took note of the comment by Sweden that some actions aimed at promotion and enhancement, which is a continuous process, are difficult to follow-up and to set target years for.
- 3.25 The Meeting recalled that HOD 58-2020 agreed that 2030 will be the target year for implementing the BSAP and thus noted that if there are not specific target years for the actions, they should be implemented by 2030.
- 3.26 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to make the first proposal for the supplementary information to be included in the annex and agreed to consider during the preparations for AGRI 11-2021 if an intersessional online meeting to accomplish the task in spring 2021 is needed or whether the work can be accomplished in AGRI 11-2021.
- 3.27 The Meeting reviewed the implementation status of existing joint actions under the mandate of the Agri group (document 3-6) and agreed on the status of accomplishment as contained in document 3-6-Att.1-Rev.1.

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

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

- 4.1 The Meeting recalled the agreed scope and principles of the revision and that according to the timeframe agreed by HOD 54-2018, the revision is to be accomplished by the end of 2020 (document 4-1).
- 4.2 The Meeting recalled that the Agri group had agreed on the revised texts for Regulation 2 item 3 and Item 6 were in AGRI 7a-2019 and AGRI 7-2019 respectively and took note that the texts will be submitted to HOD 59-2020 for endorsement.
- 4.3 The Meeting endorsed in general for submission to HOD 59-2020 the draft new paragraph on nutrient recycling and glossary of terms (document 4-1), considering the views given in the next two paragraphs.
- 4.4 The Meeting took note of the view of German experts that the paragraph on nutrient recycling could be strengthened.
- 4.5 The Meeting also took note that there might be a need to update the glossary after the final agreement on all other regulations.
- 4.6 The Meeting thanked Denmark and Finland, leading the elaboration of the new paragraph on nutrient recycling and glossary, for the excellent work done.
- 4.7 The Meeting discussed regulation 2 Item 7 and took note of the proposal by Poland (document 4-3) and comments by CCB (documents 4-2 and 4-4). The Meeting took note that Finland and Poland supported the proposal by CCB in the document 4-2 to keep in the regulation 2 item 7 the phrase “with a view to avoiding nutrient surplus”.
- 4.8 The Meeting discussed the proposals to revise the regulation 2 item 7 prepared by Poland and by Sweden as given in **Annex 3**.
- 4.9 The Meeting took note that Germany and Finland support endorsement of the alternative version proposed by Sweden.
- 4.10 The Meeting took note that Poland does not support the alternative proposal by Sweden.
- 4.11 The Meeting took note that Estonia agrees with either the proposal by Poland or the alternative proposal by Sweden.
- 4.12 The Meeting was not able to reach consensus to revise the Regulation 2 Item 7. Meeting assumed that when consensus would not be found, the regulation would remain unchanged, although being of the view that keeping the original text would not be a preferable solution. The Meeting had two proposals, alternative proposal by Sweden and new proposal by Poland. Meeting agreed to report both discussed proposals to HOD 59-2020.

Agenda Item 5 Nutrient recycling

Documents: 5-1, 5-2

5.1 The Meeting discussed the proposed measures to be included in the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy and agreed on the provisional list as contained in **Annex 4**, pointing out that a number of measures in the list still require clarification.

5.2 The Meeting further drafted the text of the Strategy, presented in document 5-1, and agreed that in general the document sufficiently addresses all aspects required for understanding of the Strategy's vision and objectives as well as its link with the updated BSAP but pointed out that the language is to be further improved. The draft updated at the Meeting is given in **Annex 5**.

5.3 The Meeting agreed that the Annex 4 and Annex 5 are to be utilized to produce an initial draft of the Strategy and invited Finland and Secretariat to submit the draft Strategy to HOD 59-2020.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the progress in the SuMaNu (document 5-2) and BSR water project platforms.

Agenda Item 6 Transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples**6.1 Innovative water management**

Documents: none

6.1 The Meeting agreed to postpone the discussion under Agenda Item 6.1 to the next meeting of the group.

6.2 Best available technology in animal farming

Documents: none

6.2 The Meeting agreed to postpone the discussion under Agenda Item 6.2 to the next meeting of the group.

6.3 The Meeting recalled that CCB had intended to present information on BAT for intensive cattle farming and invited CCB to present such information to AGRI 11-2021.

6.3 National measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture

Documents: none

6.4 The Meeting took note of information on the latest EMEP assessment of emissions of nitrogen in the region and its deposition on the Baltic Sea water area (**Presentation 3**).

6.5 The Meeting recalled that the revision of the Recommendation on agricultural emissions has been already supported by HODs but agreed to postpone the discussion under Agenda Item 6.3 to the next meeting of the group due to current focus on the BSAP update.

6.6 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Finland to, based on the overview of the ongoing activities to mitigate ammonia emissions in the countries already compiled for AGRI 8-2019, make an initial document on possible measures to reduce ammonia emissions which can be considered for the update of the Recommendation and requested the Secretariat to submit such a document to AGRI 11-2020.

6.4 Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

Documents: none

6.7 The Meeting agreed to share information on national activities including research related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in agricultural sector at the next meeting of the group.

Agenda Item 7 Future work

Documents: none

7.1 The Meeting agreed that the next meeting of the group (AGRI 11-2021) will be organized on 27-28 April 2021. The Meeting noted that the AGRI 11-2021 meeting will most likely be arranged online, but this might be reconsidered in February 2021 depending on the national COVID-19 recommendations.

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

Documents: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties and Observers to check the list of contact of the Agri group (document 8-1) and inform the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) of possible changes.

Agenda Item 9 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 9-1

9.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of AGRI 10-2020 as contained in document 9-1.

9.2 The Outcome of the Meeting was finalized by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.