



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Heads of Delegation  
Online meeting, 8-9 December 2021

HOD 61-2021

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<b>Document title</b>	Revision of HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2
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<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2 set the basic requirements for monitoring of airborne and waterborne inputs of nutrients and selected hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea. The data compiled in the course of the implementation of these Recommendations form the basis for the HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation. The HELCOM PLC-water guidelines further specify monitoring and assessment of waterborne inputs, while specification of monitoring of airborne inputs is given in the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook.

The Recommendations were adopted in 2016, superseding the previous Recommendations 24/1 and 26/2. **Annex 1 (Recommendation 37-38/1) and Annex 2 (Recommendation 37-38/2)** to this document contain the draft revised versions of the Recommendations endorsed by PRESSURE 15-2021. PRESSURE 15-2021 also adopted the revised PLC-Water Guidelines which will be submitted to the Meeting for information.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to endorse the draft revised HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2 for adoption by HELCOM 43-2022.

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## Annex 1. Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1

### HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1

This Recommendation supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 26/2

Adopted 16 June 2016 and  
amended XX XXX XXX  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### WATERBORNE POLLUTION INPUT ASSESSMENT (PLC-WATER)

#### THE COMMISSION,

**RECALLING** Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake measures to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area, as well as Article 5 to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea caused by harmful substances from all sources,

**RECALLING ALSO** Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake, *i.a.*, to co-operate in the development and adoption of specific programmes concerning emissions and inputs to water of harmful substances,

**RECALLING FURTHER** Paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake to provide, emission data or on environmental quality, as far as available which also includes pollution input data,

**RECALLING FURTHERMORE** Paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake to ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions and inputs to water are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment and ascertain the implementation of the Convention,

**NOTING** the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive concerning monitoring and reporting of discharges from point sources and losses from diffuse sources of nutrients and hazardous substances,

**NOTING ALSO** the need arising from the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive to provide information for an assessment of the environmental status and for an estimate of the distance from, and progress towards, good environmental status, which requires to minimize human-induced eutrophication and to lower concentrations of contaminants to levels not giving rise to pollution effects,

**NOTING FURTHER** the requirements of the Water Code of the Russian Federation, Federal Law of Russian Federation on Environment Protection and subordinated legal acts regarding monitoring of water quality,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** in implementation of the regional nutrient input targets established in the Baltic Sea Action Plan, adopted at the 2021 HELCOM Lübeck Ministerial Meeting,

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**RECALLING** the commitment of the Baltic Sea Action Plan identify priority contaminants, quantify their inputs and regional sources, and develop effective national or regional measures to achieve a Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances,

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the requirements of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy implying a six-year monitoring and assessment cycle,

**NOTING** the continuing concern on harmful effects of pollutants in the environment and that a significant amount of various contaminants is entering the Baltic Sea via rivers and direct discharges, from industrial and municipal sources as well as from non-point sources in the whole Baltic Sea catchment area,

**DESIRING** to obtain a reliable assessment of the waterborne input of pollutants entering the Baltic Sea from the land-based sources for the concerted action to limit the pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

**RECOMMENDS** to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that:

- a) the pollution input assessment should be carried out and reported in accordance with the PLC-Water Guidelines<sup>1</sup> Input Assessment;
- b) the Guidelines should be regularly evaluated and updated by experts to meet the topical requirements and adopted by the responsible subsidiary body of HELCOM;
- c) the quantified waterborne total inputs (from rivers, unmonitored areas as well as point sources discharging directly to the Baltic Sea) of nutrients and hazardous substances are reported to HELCOM annually. This includes quantification of the transboundary waterborne inputs according to the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- d) the quantified total waterborne input specified in c) and other relevant information as specified in the PLC-Water Guidelines should be submitted by all Contracting Parties in accordance with the format and deadline given in the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- e) the following data and information are reported to HELCOM every sixth year unless decided otherwise in HELCOM: quantified waterborne discharges from point sources and losses from diffuse pollution sources as well as the quantified natural background losses into inland surface waters within the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. The reporting includes quantification of the transboundary waterborne inputs together with other relevant information related to these inputs as specified in the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- f) the information specified in e) should be reported by all Contracting Parties in accordance with the format and deadline given in the PLC-Water Guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> HELCOM Guidelines for the annual and periodical compilation and reporting of waterborne pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea (PLC-water).

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## Annex 2. Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/2

### HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/2

This Recommendation supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 24/1

Adopted 16 June 2016 and  
amended XX XXX XXXX,  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### MONITORING OF AIRBORNE POLLUTION INPUT

#### THE COMMISSION,

**RECALLING** Paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake that measurements and calculations of emissions from point sources to water and air and of inputs from diffuse sources to water and air are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea and ascertain the implementation of this Convention,

**RECALLING ALSO** Paragraph 3 of Article 24 of the Helsinki Convention 1992, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake directly, or when appropriate through competent regional or other international organizations, and, on the basis of information and data acquired pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, to co-operate in developing inter-comparable observation methods, in performing baseline studies and in establishing complementary or joint programmes for monitoring,

**NOTING** the need arising from the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive requirements to provide information for an assessment of the environmental status and for an estimate of the distance from, and progress towards, good environmental status, which requires to minimize human-induced eutrophication and to lower concentrations of contaminants to levels not giving rise to pollution effects,

**NOTING ALSO** the requirements of the Federal Law of Russian Federation on Environment Protection, Federal Law of Russian Federation on Air Protection and subordinated legal acts regarding monitoring of air quality,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to regularly follow up and assess progress in implementation of the regional nutrient input targets established in the Baltic Sea Action Plan, adopted at the 2021 HELCOM Lübeck Ministerial Meeting,

**RECALLING** the commitment of the Baltic Sea Action Plan identify priority contaminants, quantify their inputs and regional sources, and develop effective national or regional measures to achieve a Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances,

**NOTING FURTHERMORE**, in particular, the close co-operation established with UN ECE EMEP programme on monitoring and modelling of atmospheric pollutants, on quality assurance, on data reporting and management and on the establishment of emission inventories,

**DESIRING** to obtain a reliable assessment of the airborne inputs of pollutants entering the Baltic Sea via air and precipitation including quantification of transboundary airborne inputs for the development of concerted actions to limit pollution of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea,

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**RECOMMENDS** to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that:

1. Each Contracting Party should, on a continuous basis, collect data on the pollution of air and precipitation that can:
  - contribute to quantification and assessment of the atmospheric pollution input to the Baltic Sea and its catchment area,
  - be used for validation of models for calculations of such inputs and to assess environmental pressure,
  - support decisions on emission reduction measures,
  - be used in combination with models for verification of compliance with such measures;
2. Each Contracting Party should for this purpose have at least one monitoring station on the coast or on an island with simultaneous sampling and measurements of pollutants in air and precipitation according to the monitoring programme requirements set out below and in **Attachment 1**;
3. Each Contracting Party should annually report the collected data to the air quality data consultant at agreed deadlines in an agreed electronic format<sup>1</sup>;
4. Each Contracting Party should report whether changes in sampling and analytical procedures have occurred and, if so, report the changes and their consequences for the data quality;
5. Each Contracting Party should update emission estimates of selected pollutants according to the Joint EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook and agreed formats and report the data to agreed deadlines<sup>2</sup>,

**RECOMMENDS ALSO** that all institutes involved should, wherever possible, use the procedures for sampling, analysis and quality assurance and control contained in the *EMEP Manual for Sampling and Analysis* and otherwise use procedures that have been recommended in other relevant international fora<sup>3</sup>,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that all Contracting Parties should support development of sampling and analytical methods to improve the data quality and development of chemical transport models that will improve the quality of the assessments of environmental pressures of atmospheric pollution to the Baltic Sea area,

**RECOMMENDS FINALLY** that the pollutants to be monitored and for which emission inventories are to be established and updated should, as a minimum for each Contracting Party, comprise the following mandatory programme (*Attachment 1*) and that additional pollutants are monitored voluntary at some of the stations in the Baltic Sea area either on a national basis or as a joint effort of the Contracting Parties.

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<sup>1</sup>Presently the reporting deadline is 31 July following the year of data collection and reporting format according to <http://www.nilu.no/projects/ccc/submission/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Reporting requirements are given in respective protocols to the CLRTAP and the NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU, for the EU Member States, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2019>

<sup>3</sup> e.g. procedures required for measurements at rural background stations according to EU air quality directives

## HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/2 for Air Monitoring

## Attachment 1

## Programme for monitoring of the pollution of air and precipitation

Pollutants in precipitation<sup>4</sup>

Pollutant type	Mandatory programme	Voluntary national or joint Programmes
Maximum sampling time <sup>5</sup>	1 month	1 month
Precipitation	Amount	
Nutrients	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ; NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	total P
Main ions		Na <sup>+</sup> ; Mg <sup>2+</sup> ; Cl <sup>-</sup> ; K <sup>+</sup> ; Ca <sup>2+</sup> ; SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ; pH; conductivity.
Metals	Cd; Pb.	Cr; Ni; Cu; Zn; As; Hg and Fe
POPs		γ-HCH (lindane).
PCBs		Congeners 28, 52, 101, 118, 138, 153, 180.
PAHs		BaP

## Airborne pollutants

Pollutant type	Mandatory programme	Voluntary national or joint Programmes
Maximum sampling time <sup>6</sup>	24 hours	1 week <sup>7</sup>
Nutrients		
air – gas: NO <sub>2</sub> .		
air – gas: HNO <sub>3</sub> ; NH <sub>3</sub> .		
air-particles: NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ; NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> .		
or alternatively		
phase sums: (HNO <sub>3</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )		
phase sums: (NH <sub>3</sub> + NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> ).		Total P
Metals		
Air:		Hg
particles:		Cr; Ni; Cu; Zn; As; Cd; Pb; Hg and Fe
POPs		γ-HCH (lindane)
PCBs		Congeners 28, 52, 101, 118, 138, 153, 180
PAHs		BaP

<sup>4</sup> Units according to the *EMEP Manual for Sampling and Analysis*

<sup>5</sup> In principle monitoring of precipitation should be performed continuously

<sup>6</sup> In principle monitoring of air and particulate samples should be performed continuously

<sup>7</sup> Daily or weekly samples can be pooled to monthly samples for analysis