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<b>Document title</b>	Draft road-map for future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application
<b>Code</b>	4-7
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 - Airborne emissions from ships and related measures
<b>Submission date</b>	23.10.2014
<b>Submitted by</b>	Denmark
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

According to the Annotations to the Provisional Agenda of HELCOM MARITIME 14-2014 the countries are invited to consider the outcome of MEPC 66 concerning the amendments to MARPOL annex VI regarding the effective date of the Tier III NO<sub>x</sub> emission standards and future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application.

In order to facilitate the discussions on this issue at HELCOM Maritime, Denmark has drafted the attached proposal for a roadmap for the future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to consider the attached proposal for a roadmap for the future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application.

## Draft road-map for Baltic Sea NECA

### Background

Submission of an application to IMO/MEPC on the establishment of a NO<sub>x</sub> ECA in the Baltic Sea has extensively been discussed in HELCOM. A final decision is however still outstanding. At MEPC 66 the general rules for enforcement was decided, and the Russian delegation indicated an opening for talks on the specific dates for the Baltic Sea and a keen interest in parallel decision on NECA in the North Sea. The North Sea NECA has been stalled pending clarity on the Baltic Sea NECA.

### Strategy

There is a need for a common roadmap to guide the finalization of the designation of a NECA in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea in parallel.

Formal decision on NECA application for the Baltic Sea should still be done by HELCOM, but we need to have close talk on the application date among shipping colleagues.

To ensure that the process is brought on track, we need a tangible process and timeline for the HELCOM decision on submission of a NECA application, and – between the North Sea countries – a parallel NECA application for the North Sea.

### Proposed process and timeline for Baltic Sea NECA

- 13.-17. October 2014 – MEPC 67: Informal talks on specific date between Baltic Sea delegates. The North Sea delegates will meet as well to discuss North Sea NECA and parallel process to a Baltic Sea NECA.
- 4.-6. November 2014 – HELCOM Maritime: Discussion of possible technical questions related to a specific date of entry into force and the cooperation with the North Sea countries. DK will report from the North Sea NECA consultation group.
- Spring 2015 - Meeting(s) between shipping colleagues (Skt. Petersburg/ Helsinki/ Copenhagen?). Consider possibility of inviting North Sea countries and stakeholders.
- April 2015 – HELCOM HoD: Poss. agreement on submission of an application including date for entry into force of Baltic Sea NECA.
- Marts 2016 – Decision by the HELCOM Commission.
- 20xx – entry into force.

### Parallel NECA for the North Sea

NL and DK are co-chairs of the informal consulting group on NECA in the North Sea. A high-level letter was to the North Sea countries in June for support of an application in parallel between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. Answers are expected by end of October.

As a co-chair of the North Sea NECA consultation group, Denmark can inform the Meeting, that all North Sea countries are in favor of a close coordination of the processes of appointing the Baltic Sea and the North Sea as NECA's.

Denmark, Sweden and Germany will - as far as possible - work for a parallel process between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, so that entry into force can be the same for both NECA's.