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| Document title | Information on Seminar on the “Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea” |
| Code | 6-3 |
| Category | INF |
| Agenda Item | 6 - Other ship-generated wastes and port reception facilities (including marine litter) |
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| Submitted by | Germany |
| Reference | |

Background

In 2015, the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (HELCOM RAP ML) was adopted with the aim of achieving a significant reduction of marine litter by 2025 and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment. The Working Group on reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment area is the responsible working group for its implementation. The seminar will be also announced at the next Pressure meeting in October.

Several actions address the illegal discharge of onboard generated waste that is regulated by, amongst others, MARPOL Annex V which prohibits discharging most types of onboard generated waste.

The relevant RAP ML actions are:

- **RS2** Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members. Best practice developed in cooperation with Paris MoU by 2017.
- **RS3** Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing: – gaps in existing regulations, – enforcement and practices concerning shipping, – port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection, – fair waste burden sharing between ports.

As task lead for actions RS 2 and RS 3 HELCOM RAP ML¹, Germany commissioned a study to address these actions in 2016. The study also integrates the corresponding actions under the OSPAR RAP ML.² In order to prepare the study, a questionnaire was distributed to CPs of both HELCOM and OSPAR in 2016 to collect knowledge regarding the regime of control and inspections of MARPOL Annex V infringements in the respective countries. This was accompanied by a review of the existing legal framework as well as relevant literature. A supporting report ‘Analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea’ has been delivered to the last HELCOM RAP ML workshop and also to OSPAR EIHA 2017. MARITIME 17-2017 took note of the draft report ([document 6-3](#)).

By way of a follow-up, it is planned to organise a seminar with the participation of interested CP as well as other relevant stakeholders.

¹ Germany is also task lead for the corresponding actions 32, 33 and 38 under the OSPAR RAP ML.

² <https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/regional-action-plan>

The following document is to inform on the seminar on the “Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea”, which is scheduled to take place on **the 29 and 30 of November 2018 in Berlin, Germany**. The seminar is supported by the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (ENPRO) and the North Sea Network of Prosecutors and Investigators (NSN). The seminar is planned for 50-60 participants. Registration is open until 15.10.2018 (details on registration can be found in the “save-the-date” information).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information on the planned seminar and
- nominate national experts for participation in the seminar, if possible one per CP.

Seminar on the Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Please mark your calendars for the seminar „Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea“ on the **29th and 30th of November 2018 in Berlin, Germany**. The seminar will start at 1pm on Thursday and will close at 3pm on Friday.

The seminar is part of the operationalization of OSPAR's and HELCOM's regional action plans on marine litter, supported by the North Sea Network of Prosecutors and Investigators (NSN) and the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (ENRPO). The seminar aims to facilitate discussions and exchange of information on existing and best practices with regard to the enforcement of international, regional and national law as well as better coordination of the involved bodies and actors.

Further information, including logistics and a short issue paper, will be distributed in due course.

Please register until the 15th of October by sending a short email to dagmar.larws@uba.de.

We look forward to seeing you in Berlin!

Lilian Busse (German Environment Agency) and Ewald Brandt (President of ENPRO and Chair of NSN).