



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CNMT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	18.3.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

The 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting committed strengthening the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) by 2021 and its update beyond 2021. HOD 54-2018 meeting agreed that the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation. The Heads of Delegation also pointed out that the update of the BSAP should be a priority for HELCOM working groups and requested them to plan their work accordingly.

In line with the above-mentioned commitments, the agenda of PRESSURE 10-2019 will include a dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements aimed at a) compilation of sufficient and consistent information on the matter; b) evaluation of implementation of HELCOM agreements and progress which potentially can be achieved by 2021; c) presentation of the planned work to analyze sufficiency of measures. In general, the Meeting will focus on various aspects related to nutrient loads on the Baltic Sea, but it will also discuss some issues related to marine litter, underwater noise and physical damage to the sea floor. The Meeting will also consider deletion of several hot spots and be informed on the ongoing processes related to pollution of the marine environment by hazardous substances.

[Agenda Item 1](#) [Adoption of the Agenda](#)

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting (document 1-1-Rev.1).

[Agenda Item 2](#) [Matters arising from other HELCOM work](#)

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcomes of HOD 55-2018, HELCOM 40-2019, meetings of HELCOM working groups, workshops and other events relevant to the work of the Group.

[Agenda Item 3](#) [Marine litter](#)

The Meeting will be informed on the follow up on EU and global processes on marine litter.

As a follow up of HOD 55-2018 ([Outcome of HOD 55-2018](#), paras 4.41-4.42), the Meeting will be invited to discuss HELCOM Recommendation 29/2 on Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region, with the aim of superseding it by HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 on the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) (a brief information will be submitted by the Secretariat).

Countries are invited to provide documents on the current status of implementation of the actions under their leadership including suggestions for further activities to be undertaken:

- a. *Denmark* on the report based on the questionnaire on polystyrene foam (expanded polystyrene and extruded polystyrene) in the Baltic Sea (action RL9);
- b. *Estonia* on the final report on landfills which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment (action RL14) as well as on the cooperation on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (action RL 11).

- c. *Finland* on the report based on the questionnaire on recycling of End-of-Life boats (action RS1).
- d. *Germany* on the report based on the questionnaire on waste management in the Baltic Sea (actions RL1-3);
- e. *Poland* on the final report on the assessment of the importance of sewage-related waste coming from the upstream waste flow (action RL8)

The Meeting will be invited to consider these documents and decide on suggested activities.

The Meeting will be informed on the kick-off meeting from “FanPLESStic-sea project – Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea” and its follow-up (in relation to actions RL4, 6 and 7). In addition, the Meeting will be invited to consider a questionnaire to compile information to draft the report on existing research and policies commissioned to HELCOM as partner of this project.

FISH 9-2019 considered the outcome of the regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities with regard to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the revised outcome of the regional questionnaire (document to be submitted) to include additional information provided by Finland and address the Danish study reservation by deletion of the sentence referring to the consideration of implementation at regional level of the prohibition to import fishing nets into the national territory from synthetic materials and electric pulse fishing systems ([Outcome of FISH 9-2018](#) paras 8.10-8.13).

The Meeting will be invited to consider and discuss further actions on ALDFG based on the feedback provided by FISH 9-2019 ([Outcome of FISH 9-2018](#) paras 8.15-8.17), the outcome of the roundtable on marine litter to be held as part of the Baltic Sea Day 2019 (21-22 March) and the latest developments within the MARELITT project (document to be submitted later).

Based on the provided updates, the Meeting will be invited to consider the evaluation of the implementation of the RAP ML and endorse the table to follow-up the implementation of the RAP ML.

Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the progress in implementing the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting will be invited to discuss and provide guidance to a proposal of a concept on the scope, structure, and contents for a regional action plan on underwater noise (document to be submitted).

PRESSURE 9-2018 was informed about a comprehensive field study on the progress and efficacy of noise-mitigation measures, using pile-driving sound measurements from German offshore construction projects up to the end of 2018. Germany will share the document within HELCOM once available ([Outcome of PRESSURE 9-2018](#), para 5.5). The Meeting will be invited to consider the report as provided by Germany.

The meeting is invited to take note that [HELCOM 40-2019](#) considered the information on coordinated reporting and hosting of HELCOM continuous noise monitoring data (document 3-9) and decided on the proposed hosting solution (in ICES) for a HELCOM database on continuous underwater sound.

Germany is invited to inform on the outcome of the International Conference “Noise mitigation for the construction of increasingly large offshore wind turbines - Technical options for complying with noise limits” held on 22-23 November 2018 in Berlin, Germany ([document 5-3](#) to PRESSURE 9-2018).

Agenda Item 5

Physical damage to the sea floor

Reporting 2017 data and consolidated report to LC/LP

PRESSURE 6-2017 requested the Secretariat to investigate opportunities to organize consolidated reporting on depositing of dredged material at sea to the London Convention and London Protocol. As agreed by EN DREDS 5-2018 and endorsed by PRESSURE 9-2018, HELCOM Secretariat has prepared a test consolidated report to London Convention/London Protocol for Baltic Sea countries on depositing of dredged material in the Baltic Sea in 2017. DREDS 7-2019 (21 February 2019) agreed on the draft consolidated report in general but requested one extra week for final check of the data.

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the draft consolidated report to London Convention/London Protocol for Baltic Sea countries on depositing of dredged material in the Baltic Sea in 2017 (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

Assessments of the environmental effect of the dredging/depositing operations at sea 2016

A draft assessment of the dredging/depositing operations at sea in the period from 2006 to 2015 was presented to PRESSURE 8-2018. The data verification procedure revealed that many countries were not in the position to verify the data reported before 2013. That is why the suggestion was to restrict the assessment to the period 2013-2016.

A new draft analysis of reported data on handling of dredged material at sea in 2016 is based on the methodological document agreed by PRESSURE 5-2017 (Outcome, para 5.9) and further developed by taking into account comments of EN DREDS 5-2018 and EN DREDS 6-2018.

The Meeting will be invited to evaluate the new draft and endorse it for publication as a Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

Short information on the other outcomes of DREDS group meeting

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the brief information on the work of the DREDS expert group (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements starts approximately at 13.00.

Programme is submitted as attachment to the Provisional Agenda (document 1-1-Rev.1).

Agenda Item 6

Following up the progress towards HELCOM targets to reduce nutrient loads

Further improvement of the follow up of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme - the latest scientific advancements and upcoming policy needs (outcomes of the NutriRed Workshop)

Workshop on land-based nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea (NutriRed) was held in Stockholm, Sweden, at the Stockholm University campus on 12-13 November 2018. The aim of the NutriRed Workshop was to set a frame for the update of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme as an integral part of the BSAP in accordance with the guidance provided by the Ministerial Declaration 2018 and decisions of HELCOM 39-2018. The Meeting will be informed on the outcomes of the workshop and proposals to update the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its follow-up system elaborated by RedCore DG using the outcome and lessons learned from PLC-6 project (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

The Meeting will be invited to agree on the proposed updates and decide on practical actions to implement them.

First results of annual reporting of the data on nutrients input in 2017

In accordance with the Procedures for releasing the reported PLC water data (agreed by HOD 50-2016) the status of annual PLC water data is to be reported to Pressure Group before finalizing the assessment dataset. The Meeting will be informed of the status of 2017 annual data and on the progress in preparation of the assessment dataset (document to be submitted by RedCore and Secretariat).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the status of annual PLC data reporting and reflect on the achieved progress.

Progress in PLC-7 project: reporting and compilation of periodic data on input of nutrients, analysis of methods to evaluate natural background, phosphorus deposition, PLC-6 scientific report and other issues

Year 2017 is identified as a reference year for the PLC-7 project. The data on source apportionment, non-direct point sources, retention, etc. are to be reported for this year forming the basis of the PLC-7 assessment products. The Meeting will be informed about the status of periodic data reporting.

PLC-7 project is working on the improvement of the quality of assessment of nutrient inputs and sources of nutrients assuring that the assessment utilizes the best available knowledge. The Meeting will be informed on the ongoing work to compare methods used to evaluate natural background losses of nutrients and review the most recent data on P-deposition on the Baltic Sea water area. A PLC-7 progress report will be submitted by the Project Manager.

PLC-7 project took over the finalizing of some minor remaining tasks of PLC-6. The Meeting will be informed on the completion of these tasks (document to be submitted by the Project Manager).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of and reflect on the progress of PLC-7 project and provided guidance on the methodological aspects of the assessment.

Agenda Item 7

Measures to reduce nutrient loads

Nutrient recycling strategy (in cooperation with Agri Group)

Elaboration of the Regional nutrient recycling strategy is one of the HELCOM priorities for the period of Chairmanship of Finland. The elaboration will be led by HELCOM Agri Group, with contribution by Pressure Group with regard to nutrient recycling in waste-water sector. A drafting group to carry out the work has been established under the leadership of Finland. The group consists of representatives of both Agri and Pressure groups.

The HELCOM Workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland and HELCOM in cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Policy Area Nutri on 7 November 2018 in Warsaw, Poland. The workshop discussed a draft vision and suggested possible objectives for the strategy.

The draft vision and list of draft objectives and sub-objectives that was compiled by lead country Finland and the Secretariat, based on the suggestions in the workshop, was discussed in a drafting group meeting on 29 January 2019. The results of the drafting will be submitted to AGRI 7-2019 to be held on 19-20 March 2019. In accordance with the work plan for elaborating Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy, draft vision and objectives of the strategy are to be presented to HOD 56-2019 in June 2019. Also, the working plan envisages a workshop on nutrient recycling measures in autumn 2019. A document containing draft vision and objectives of the strategy will be submitted by the Secretariat. The Pressure group will also be informed on the results of the discussion at AGRI 7-2019 including proposals for the workshop on nutrient recycling measures.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss draft vision and objectives of the strategy and agree on the version to be submitted to HOD 56-2019. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on the workshop timing, main themes, contributors, and participants.

In relation with the ongoing work on the nutrient recycling strategy, the Meeting will be invited to take note of the progress in BSR WATER project aimed at compilation of information on solutions to enhance recycling of nutrients in wastewater sector (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

Planning extended reporting on sewage sludge handling (Outcome of PRESSURE 7-2017)

The Meeting will be invited to recall the agreement on extending reporting on the sewage sludge handling and agree on the reporting procedure. The Meeting will also be invited to take note of the use of the reported data (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

Phosphogypsum stacks in the Baltic Sea region

PRESSURE 8-2018 agreed to organize a specific reporting procedure for the information on phosphogypsum stacks as significant sources of phosphorus input to the Baltic Sea ([Outcome of PRESSURE 8-2018](#), para 7.21). The Meeting will be invited to take note of the compiled information and reflect on its further use for the assessment on input of nutrients and BSAP update (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

Evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads: lessons learned from PLC-6 project and launching a new survey to compile information relevant for the task

Evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea is one of the new products which is to be delivered by the PLC-6 project. In order to collate the required data, a special questionnaire was elaborated by PLC-6 project team guided by Pressure group. Nonetheless, the compiled data have not been enough and consistent for quantification of effects of measures across the region. PRESSURE 7-2017 considered the first draft assessment and concluded that the evaluation of effectiveness of measures should be of descriptive character rather than a quantitative assessment. A new version of the assessment will be presented to the Meeting by Finland and the Project Manager.

Evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs is one of the main tasks of PLC-7 project. The evaluation is to be made by taking into account lessons learned from the first trial by PLC-6. HELCOM ACTION project will provide methodological support for the PLC work, particularly, to develop a new version of a questionnaire for the new round of data compilation and to evaluate the effects of implemented and planned measures and their sufficiency to achieve BSAP goals (new version of questionnaire will be presented jointly by PLC-7 and ACTION projects).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the inception report on the HELCOM ACTION project and specifically discuss WP4 and WP6 of the project in relation to the further work on evaluation of effectiveness of measures (document will be submitted by the Project Coordinator).

The Meeting will be invited to reflect on the new version of the evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs based on the data compiled by PLC-6 project and agree on its publication as PLC-6 supplementary material.

The Meeting will be further invited to consider an updated version of the questionnaire on effectiveness of measures, discuss the availability of new data compared to the data already compiled by PLC-6 and agreed on the procedure for the new questionnaire.

The role of integrated river basin management in reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea (suggestions for the International workshop)

As a follow up of the MD2018 commitments, HOD 54-2018 agreed on organizing a workshop involving representatives of river basin commissions with an intention to discuss opportunities to set nutrient reduction targets for particular river basins. The Meeting will be invited to consider a concept of the workshop, jointly prepared by PLC-7 Project Implementation Group, RedCore DG and ACTION project, and agreed by Pressure Group intersessionally via correspondence. The Meeting will be invited to discuss main themes, contributors, and participants of the workshop (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

Management of internal nutrient reserves in the Baltic Sea

The Meeting will be invited to consider brief information on the first steps of the newly established *ad hoc* group MINUTS and reflect as appropriate (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

Continuation of the HELCOM ENIREC project to evaluate potential reduction of N-deposition due to implementation of Gothenburg Protocol and EU NEC Directive 2016/2284.

HOD 55-2018 acknowledged the importance of the project results for PLC-7 and the ongoing work on the BSAP update. The meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to consider contributing up to 20.000 euro to finance the project. HOD 55-2018 invited the remaining Contracting Parties to consider the possibility to co-finance the project and inform the Secretariat accordingly. The Meeting will be invited to recall the proposal on continuation to the ENIREC project, discuss its value for the ongoing BSAP update and inform of the contribution to the project funding (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

Airborne input of nitrogen: draft policy messages for EMEP report

PRESSURE 9-2018 was of the opinion that the key message of the EMEP product on airborne input of nitrogen should be updated and agreed to discuss suggestions for that at PRESSURE 10-2018. The Meeting will be invited to consider an updated version of the policy message and agree on it (document will be submitted by the RedCore Chair).

The Meeting will be further invited to discuss the opportunity to harmonize EMEP products between HELCOM and OSPAR to optimize the amount of work done and to increase the compatibility of the products (document will be submitted by Sweden).

Agenda Item 8 Hazardous substances

Airborne input of hazardous substances (draft policy messages for EMEP report)

PRESSURE 9-2018 was of the opinion that key messages of the EMEP products on airborne input of pollutants should be updated and agreed to discuss suggestions at PRESSURE 10-2018. The Meeting will be invited to consider an updated version of the policy message and agree on it (document will be submitted by the RedCore Chair).

Continuation of work on Recommendation on antifouling systems

HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 on antifouling paints containing organotin compounds was adopted in 1999. The Recommendation was specifically aimed at measures to prevent contamination of the marine environment by organotin compounds. Studies of the last years have revealed other potentially harmful effects of anti-fouling paints used in shipping, aquaculture, and other marine-based industries. PRESSURE 9-2018 welcomed the initial suggestions to update the Recommendation prepared by Finland and proposed some specific amendments. The meeting also took note that at the moment Denmark cannot support the revision of the Recommendation. Nonetheless, PRESSURE 9-2018 agreed to continue intersessional work encouraging Denmark to join the consultations on the update of the Recommendation and to consider the update of the Recommendation at PRESSURE 10-2019.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the current status of consultations on the update of the Recommendation (Finland might submit information) and agree on the next steps of this work.

Brief information on other issues related to hazardous substances: Micropollutants in the WWTP and input of POPs by rivers; Pollution by medical substances (results of reporting on pharmaceuticals in veterinary, etc.); HELCOM indicators on hazardous substances (combining information on the state of the sea and inputs).

Agenda Item 9 Remaining HELCOM hot spots and follow up of their deletion

The list of significant pollution sites around the Baltic Sea – HELCOM Hot Spots – was established in 1992, as a part of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP, 1992-2013). The Ministerial Declaration 2013 committed to aim to eliminate the HELCOM hot spots by 2018. Several hot spots have been deleted from the list in the last years.

PRESSURE 9-2018 considered a proposal by Russia concerning hot spots Nos. 15, 49, 50 and 69. The meeting welcomed the provided information and invited Russia to supply data on potential soil and ground water contamination should be presented for closed sites together with data on monitoring of water quality.

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit suggestions on deletion of national hot spots with justification in accordance with HELCOM requirements. Russia might consider submission of remaining information for the decision on deletion of the hot spots. Russia might also consider submitting a document regarding deletion of other hot spots, e.g. Hot Spot No. 67 – waste-water treatment plant of Kaliningrad.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the information and decide in accordance with the Group's mandate. The Countries are also invited to inform on the ongoing national work and perspectives to delete hot spots in the remaining years of the Baltic Sea Action plan.

HELCOM HOD 50-2016 requested the Pressure Group to follow up progress at the Krasny Bor landfill. PRESSURE 8-2018 considered the information on the activities at the Krasny Bor landfill to minimize current environmental risks posed by the landfill and on the state of the development of the project on remediation of the site. Russia is invited to inform the Meeting about the current state of the environment in the vicinity to the landfill, implemented solutions to prevent current environmental risks, and progress achieved in development of the remediation project.

PRESSURE 8-2018 also took note of the information by NEFCO on the current status of the international cooperation aimed at the final goal – remediation of the landfill. NEFCO is also invited to inform the Meeting on the results achieved on the way towards the announced goal.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information and reflect on the achieved progress to mitigate the environmental risks and elaborate remediation solutions for the hot spot.

Agenda Item 10 Any other business

Baltic Sea and climate change

Ensuring that consequences of climate change, such as warming, sea ice decline, anoxia and shifting species ranges is taken in the BSAP update is one of the priorities of Finnish chairmanship in HELCOM. HOD 55-2018 considered and approved the draft structure and process of HELCOM climate change work, the draft Terms of Reference for EN CLIME (outcome HOD 55-2018, Annex 8) and the proposed work plan. The Meeting will be informed on the current status of the work (document will be submitted by Secretariat).

The Meeting will be invited to reflect on the progress of the EN CLIME work, needs of the Pressure group regarding climate change parameters and involvement into the work in accordance with the mandate.

The Meeting is invited to elect Vice-Chair(s) of the Pressure group for the next two-year period.

Agenda Item 11 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to agree on the main issues to be dealt with in the next meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 11-2019) to tentatively take place on 21-25 October 2019 in Brussels. The Meeting is also invited to agree on tentative dates of the twelfth meeting of the group as well as to consider the possibility to host it.

Agenda Item 12 Outcome and closing of the Meeting

The draft Outcome will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the Meeting. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting.