



## Outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 10-2019)

### Table of Contents

Introduction .....	2
Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda.....	2
Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work .....	2
Agenda Item 3 Marine litter .....	2
Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise .....	7
Agenda Item 5 Physical damage to the sea floor .....	7
Agenda Item DS <i>Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements</i> .....	8
Agenda Item 6 Following up the progress towards HELCOM targets to reduce nutrient loads .....	11
Agenda Item 7 Measures to reduce nutrient loads.....	14
Agenda Item 8 Hazardous substances.....	17
Agenda Item 9 Remaining HELCOM hot spots and follow up of their deletion .....	18
Agenda Item 10 Any other business.....	19
Agenda Item 11 Future work and meetings.....	19
Agenda Item 12 Outcome and closing of the Meeting.....	19
Annex 1 List of Participants.....	20
Annex 2 Paragraphs from Recommendations older than 2007 to be reported by 6 September 2019 .....	22
Annex 3 Draft Vision and Objectives.....	24

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### Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decisions by PRESSURE 9-2018 (Outcome, Paragraph 11.1) and HOD 55-2018 (Outcome, Paragraph 4.2), the Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 10-2019) was held by invitation from the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia in Tallinn on 9-12 April 2019.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except European Union, attended the Meeting. Observers from Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), John Nurminen Foundation and WWF, as well as invited guest from Baltic Nest Institute (BNI) and representatives of EUSBSR PA Hazards and PA Nutri attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 At its opening, on behalf of the Estonian Ministry of Environment, the Meeting was welcomed by Mr. Rene Reisner, the Head of the Estonian Delegation to HELCOM. The participants were invited to recall the current HELCOM priorities and particularly the ongoing process of the BSAP update and contribute to this work.

0.4 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

0.5 The Meeting took note that some Contracting Parties have issues with preparation for consideration of some late documents which will be announce when the documents are considered.

### **Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1-Rev.1.

### **Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work**

2.1 The Meeting took note of the extracts from the outcomes of meetings of relevance to the work of Pressure Working Group as contained in document 2-2.

2.2 The Meeting took note of a survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs as contained in document 2-1. Contracting Parties are invited to submit proposals to the survey **by the end of June 2019** ([ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi](mailto:ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi)). The Meeting took note that the proposals received will be discussed at PRESSURE 11-2019.

### **Agenda Item 3 Marine litter**

3.1 The Meeting considered and agreed that HELCOM Recommendation 29/2 can be superseded by HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 (document 3-1) and suggested HELCOM 41-2020 to decide to supersede HELCOM Recommendation 29/2.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the beach litter monitoring guidelines have been adopted and thus the Recommendation 29/2 can be superseded.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the information of the kick-off meeting from the "FanPLEStic-sea project – Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea" as contained in Annex 1 to document 3-2.

3.4 The Meeting considered a questionnaire to compile information to draft the report on existing research and policies commissioned to HELCOM as partner of this project (document 3-2) and agreed that the questionnaire is to be circulated to HELCOM EN-Marine Litter for their contribution on voluntary basis.

3.5 The Meeting recommended: to specify a part of the questionnaire on sources of microplastic, including roads and tyres; to avoid duplication of similar process in OSPAR; to consider on-going work on regional policies within other fora. The Meeting also pointed out that the questionnaire is to be designed and considered in a way assuring effective use of the time of EN-Marine Litter experts.

3.6 The Meeting took note of the revised outcome of the regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities regarding abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (document 3-3).

3.7 The Meeting considered the list of preliminary proposed actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea (document 3-5) and recommended that:

- the final decision on the regional actions will take into account the European processes related to the revision of the Directive 2000/59/EC on Port Reception Facilities and the proposal for the European Directive on the reduction of impact of certain plastic products on the environment, as well as the recommendations by the MARELITT Baltic Project (“Baltic Sea Blueprint”);
- a preliminary analysis of costs and benefits of retrieving fishing gear is performed;
- the ongoing EU process on labelling fishing gear is taken into account.

3.8 The Meeting took note of the comment by Poland that actions regarding recreational fishing gear might not be suitable for the countries where fishing nets are forbidden for recreational fishing.

3.9 The Meeting invited Countries to provide additional comments to the preliminary proposed actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea (document 3-5) to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) **by 7 May 2019**.

3.10 The Meeting agreed to discuss the proposed actions, including social and economic aspects, at a workshop dedicated to the follow up of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to be organized back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019. The Meeting agreed that the Workshop is to be focused on a limited number of issues, not the whole Action Plan except a general follow up, e.g.:

- ALDFG (including socioeconomic effect of lost fishing gear) and where FISH contacts are invited to participate to discuss further steps on the topic;
- update of Recommendation on storm water management;
- possible measures to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment.

3.11 The Meeting considered the proposal to update HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 as contained in document 3-4.

3.12 The Meeting expressed its appreciation to CCB for their valuable contribution to the work of the Pressure Working Group.

3.13 The Meeting took note of the comments provided by Finland (document 3-12) and that Finland in general supports the revision of the Recommendation.

- 3.14 The Meeting discussed whether the revision could be combined with other HELCOM Recommendations related to wastewater management and agreed that this Recommendation is to be considered separately from others.
- 3.15 The Meeting took note of the information by Estonia on the ongoing national activities to improve storm-water management, particularly closing the outlets discharging directly to the sea as well as other measures to handle storm water smartly. Estonia supports further work with the revision of the Recommendation.
- 3.16 The Meeting took note that Denmark places a study reservation on the decision to start the revision for more thorough national consideration of the proposal.
- 3.17 The Meeting took note that also Germany needs more time to consider the proposal and that the document might be incomplete and missing some parts, which is to be clarified.
- 3.18 The Meeting took note of the comment by Sweden pointing out that aspects related to macro and micro litter are not clearly distinguished and recommended also to look into BAT and BET related to micro litter accounting them in the revision process.
- 3.19 The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat that climate change aspects in storm-water management is one of the WPs of the BSR WATER project platform and the project can also contribute to the revision process.
- 3.20 The Meeting agreed in general to initiate the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 23/5, pending the study reservations by Denmark and Germany to be clarified **by 10 May 2019** and informing the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)). The Meeting pointed out that the revision should be more thorough than proposed by CCB including also update of the policy relevance and considering also other aspects of storm-water management than micro litter. The Meeting agreed to include this topic in the agenda of the next Workshop on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.
- 3.21 The Meeting invited countries to consider taking the lead on the revision of the Recommendation and to inform the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) **by 10 May 2019**.
- 3.22 The Meeting took note of the report on the “Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats” as presented by Finland (document 3-6 and **Presentation 1**) and agreed to disseminate its findings with relevant national stakeholders.
- 3.23 The Meeting took note of the information on the national activities in Sweden and Finland regarding recycling of pleasure boats and on national funding of the utilization of the old boats in 2018. The Meeting discussed a possible way forward on how to further address the problem within HELCOM and agreed to keep it active and as a part of the agenda of Pressure group meetings. The Meeting also requested the Secretariat to raise the issue at the informal meeting between RSC on the implementation of the respective action plans on marine litter.
- 3.24 The Meeting invited countries to inform the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) on national activities and economic incentives aimed at appropriate disposal of ELB **by 6 September 2019**.
- 3.25 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that discussion on actions related to the utilization of pleasure boats is to be communicated also with the Maritime group.
- 3.26 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to make a compilation of the information supplied by countries and the results of the discussions with RSC and submit it to PRESSURE 11-2019 as background for discussion on further actions on the disposal of old pleasure boats.

- 3.27 The Meeting took note of the information on the on-going work between Estonia and Latvia aiming at developing a joint packaging deposit system between these two countries (document 3-7).
- 3.28 The Meeting took note that countries are invited to join the activities within the project to share national experience to set respective systems with a view to catch an outstanding potential where Baltic Sea countries are united into a common deposit system.
- 3.29 The Meeting was informed that Poland is analysing opportunities to integrate deposit-refund systems into national legislation and that the system acting in Lithuania for almost four year has already given visible positive results for the environment.
- 3.30 The Meeting pointed out that intensive ferry traffic transporting numerous amounts of canned drinks is one of the peculiarities of the Baltic Sea region, and thus the deposit system requires regional coordination.
- 3.31 The Meeting took note of the call by Estonia to join the work on establishing of the region-wide deposit system, thus, this goal is challenging.
- 3.32 The Meeting agreed to keep the issue in the agenda and welcomed the offer by Estonia to inform on the progress of the bilateral project with Latvia.
- 3.33 The Meeting took note of the feedback provided by countries on the Estonian questionnaire on landfills which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment, prepared in 2016 (Attachment 1 to document 3-8).
- 3.34 The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark that there is no information on coordinates of the national landfills reported.
- 3.35 The Meeting invited countries to supply additional information on the landfills by responding to the questionnaire **by 30 May 2019**.
- 3.36 The Meeting invited Estonia to provide technical requirements for the specific section of the HELCOM Map and Data Service, based on the analysis of the questionnaire, to visualize the region-wide map of landfills and dumpsites.
- 3.37 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to investigate technical possibilities to integrate such section to the HELCOM Map and Data Service.
- 3.38 The Meeting agreed to conclude on the accomplishment of action RL14 at PRESSURE 11-2019, based on the results of this work.
- 3.39 The Meeting took note of the report assessing the importance of the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment (RL8, document 3-9) as provided by Poland.
- 3.40 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that Odra Commission is planning to include measures related to litter in the river management plan.
- 3.41 The Meeting also took note of the project which will be soon launched in the transboundary basin of Nemunas supported by UNESCO and that the project can be used for consideration of the recommended measures and that the HELCOM Workshop with river basin authorities can also be utilised for communication. CCB also suggested to include various clean-up actions in the recommendations.
- 3.42 The Meeting thanked Poland for the report and invited Poland to prepare a summary page for communication with the river basin management authorities working under WFD with the assistance of the Secretariat and contribution by CCB.

- 3.43 The Meeting took note of the “Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea” as provided by Denmark (document 3-10).
- 3.44 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Sweden for a more thorough consideration of the report. The Meeting invited Sweden to lift the study reservation **by 6 May 2019** and to inform the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)).
- 3.45 The Meeting agreed that the report provides an overview of the most significant sources of EPS (and XPS) ending up in the marine environment, as requested by action RL9 in the RAP on ML and thus this part of the action is to be considered accomplished once the study reservation by Sweden is lifted
- 3.46 The Meeting pointed out that the report should be communicated also with OSPAR seeking for coordination of the proposed actions.
- 3.47 The Meeting agreed that the report can be published on HELCOM website pending the study reservation by Sweden
- 3.48 Based on the catalogue of possible measures to reduce releases to the environment (Chapter 7 of the report), the Meeting discussed the way forward so that to accomplish action RL9 (“Make recommendations to the Contracting Parties on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019”).
- 3.49 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that further dialog is needed to identify specific actions for regional implementation.
- 3.50 The Meeting invited countries to provide comments on the catalogue of actions to prevent EPS entering the marine environment, proposed in the report, by **6 September 2019** to Denmark ([lomu@mfvm.dk](mailto:lomu@mfvm.dk)) with a copy to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)). Results of the commenting round will be further discussed at the Workshop which is planned back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019 to prioritize regional implementation of proposed actions.
- 3.51 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany that, due to late feedback by countries, they are not in the position to provide a report on questionnaire RL1-RL3 (on waste management in the Baltic Sea), and that they will do it at PRESSURE 11-2019.
- 3.52 The Meeting took note of the summary of information on ongoing European and global processes regarding marine litter since PRESSURE 9-2018, which may contribute to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as contained in document 3-11.
- 3.53 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB on a Webinar on the public consultation on restriction of microplastics in products, organised by OSPAR ECHA on 3 April 2019.
- 3.54 The Meeting considered the update of the follow up of the implementation of the Action Plan and agreed on a correspondence procedure after PRESSURE 10-2019. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide written information on relevant national activities to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) **by 7 June 2019**. Based on this input and the Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019, the Secretariat will update the follow-up table reflecting the current status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and make it available through the HELCOM website.
- 3.55 The Meeting agreed to organize the 4th Workshop on implementation of RAP ML back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019 and invited the Contracting Parties to propose additional themes to those included in paragraph 3.10 for its agenda **by 6 September 2019**.

**Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise**

4.1 The Meeting took note of the report “Inclusion of noise-mitigation measures in reporting to the impulsive noise registry” as drafted by Germany (document 4-2), and which was already shared with the EN-Noise.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the following additional comments to the document:

- it may be convenient to include a text field identifying the method used to estimate the effect of the mitigation measures;
- on the relevance to ensure that comments provided by the Meeting are communicated with the EU TG Noise by national representatives;
- to clarify which type of bubble curtain the document refers to;
- to expand the scope of the corresponding work to address other sources than pile driving;
- it would be relevant to know whether countries are applying mitigation measures to other impulsive noise sources so that they could be integrated in the reporting format to the registry.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the progress in implementing the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 (document 4-1).

4.4 The Meeting took note of the draft structure of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Underwater Noise (document 4-3) and agreed on the proposed structure of the RAP on Underwater Noise with the understanding of the preliminary character of proposed actions and the need for further development.

4.5 The Meeting agreed that EN-Noise will further elaborate the preliminary actions of the RAP and invited countries to provide written proposals on the matter to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) **by 7 June 2019**.

4.6 The Meeting was of the opinion that the draft action plan should be considered also by HELCOM working groups for their contribution on actions linked to their mandate.

4.7 The Meeting agreed that a further elaborated version of the draft RAP on Underwater Noise will be submitted to MARITIME 19-2019 for consideration.

**Agenda Item 5 Physical damage to the sea floor**

5.1 The Meeting took note of the results of reporting of 2017 data under HELCOM Recommendation 36/2.

5.2 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to verify the data on capital and maintenance dredging provided by Russia.

5.3 The Meeting considered and approved the consolidated report for submission to the LC/LP after this final verification.

5.4 The Meeting discussed the final draft analysis data on handling of dredged material at sea in 2016 and in general endorsed its publication as Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet (BSEFS) after editorial revision of the text. The Meeting also agreed that countries can provide written proposals for correction of national data **by 19 April 2019 to the Secretariat** ([Juuso.Haapaniemi@helcom.fi](mailto:Juuso.Haapaniemi@helcom.fi)).

5.5 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the term “relocation” should not be used in the report, and to replace it either by “placement” or “dumping”.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the strong support of the report by CCB and WWF, especially analysis of spatial distribution of contaminants relocated with dredged material, and also suggested to use the data to analyse impact of dredging/depositing operations on biota.

- 5.7 The Meeting agreed that the suggested format will be further utilized for the BSEFS on handling of dredged material at sea.
- 5.8 The Meeting took note of the brief report on the current activities of DREDS expert group, particularly the preparatory work on visualization of the data on handling the dredged material at sea in the HELCOM Map and Data Service and data verification procedures.
- 5.9 The Meeting took note that Russia invited Poland to provide information on the activities related to construction of the channel across the Vistula Spit and confirmation by Poland that the information will be presented at HOD 56-2019.

**Agenda Item DS Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements**

- DS1. The Meeting took note of the work plan for the BSAP update for the Pressure Group (DS-11) as presented by the Secretariat (Presentation DS\_1).
- DS2. The Meeting took note of the organization of work for carrying out the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) to support the BSAP update as presented by the Secretariat (Presentation DS\_2). The Meeting took note that the HELCOM SOM Platform, established by HOD 55-2018, and the HELCOM ACTION project, co-financed by the EU, will address complementary topics and that the implementation of the analyses will be based on the same methodological framework (Document DS-3, Document 7-2).
- DS3. The Meeting took note of the planned development of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions and that such synopses can be submitted by Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and observers as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019. The format for the synopses is included in Annex 3 of the outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019, pending guidance on how to provide potential information on cost-effectiveness of the proposed measure. When the guidance is complete the Secretariat will send a notification to the HELCOM contacts with further instructions on how to submit the synopses.
- DS4. The Meeting took note of the approach for analyses of sufficiency of measures as presented by SYKE Finland, lead partner on SOM analyses in the HELCOM ACTION project (Document DS-3, Presentation DS\_3).
- DS5. The Meeting took note that expert-based surveys and validation of data for the SOM analyses will be directed to HELCOM working groups and expert groups. The Meeting noted the request from Denmark to have a clarification on the procedure for the engagement of experts and that Denmark wished to have a possibility to review the input from Danish national experts to the SOM Platform and the ACTION project before it is included in the SOM analyses.
- DS6. The Meeting took note that Germany is not in favour of the SOM approach which is found highly ambitious and time consuming and that is heavily relying on data that might be difficult to get even for long-standing topic such as eutrophication. Germany highlighted the importance of the development of synopses on new HELCOM actions and encouraged the Contracting Parties and Observers proactively present proposals to PRESSURE 11-2019 in order to allow sufficient time for discussion.
- DS7. The Meeting took note of that also Estonia is of the view that eutrophication is well covered with information for actions and that the analyses should focus on new challenges and problems.
- DS8. The Meeting took note of the plans for work package 4 of the HELCOM ACTION project, focusing on supporting SOM on eutrophication, as presented by the lead country Sweden (Document DS-4, Presentation DS\_4). The Meeting noted that work package 4 will contribute to the SOM analyses by developing and evaluating approaches to determine the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea. For this purpose, a number of catchments will be used as test cases to better understand where measures have had a positive effect or where no effect is found. Another key activity is to evaluate the compatibility of nutrient reduction targets between WFD and BSAP. PLC data will be utilized for these activities. A workshop with River Basin Management Authorities and HELCOM will be held on 18-20 September 2019 to address potential discrepancies in the targets between the two policies. A second workshop will be held to share experiences between countries with regard to the development of national

programme of measures to reduce nutrient input. The progress of work will be presented to and reviewed at upcoming Pressure meetings.

DS9. The Meeting took note that Germany appreciated the approach and that there is a national catalogue of measures and their effectiveness related to eutrophication which can be shared. With regard to test cases Germany is of the view that their national catchment areas are likely not best suited due to their relatively small size. Germany furthermore proposed to explore sharing of information with the nutrient Working Group under ECOSTAT (WFD CIS) since they have a similar new task in their work programme 2019-2021 on investigating WFD nutrient reduction targets and they could contribute with information from previous work on comparing nutrient boundaries.

DS10. The Meeting took note of the initial plans for the SOM analyses on hazardous substances and underwater noise (Document DS-6 and DS-12), noting that HELCOM EN hazardous substances and EN Noise will be engaged in the work.

DS11. The Meeting took note of the initial plans for SOM analyses for marine litter as introduced by the lead country Estonia (Document DS-7) and noted that outstanding issues addressed in the document will be addressed at an upcoming online meeting in April.

DS12. The Meeting took note of the plans to quantitatively link human activities to pressures as part of the SOM analyses (Document DS-8). Such linking will make use of a grouping of sub-basins since use of all 17 sub-basins from HELCOM assessment level 2 is not feasible for practical reasons.

DS13. The Meeting noted that the proposed grouping in document DS-8 has been somewhat modified compared to the version previously circulated for comments through the SOM Platform. This change was made to better account for the variation of pressures generated by bottom contacting fishing activity in Eastern Gotland Basin which resulted in the sub-basins associated to Germany being split into different groups.

DS14. The Meeting took note of the clarification that the establishment of the activity-pressure linkages will not require national data; experts from the HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups are anticipated to be able to make an evaluation using the proposed grouping of basins.

DS15. The Meeting took note of the task for the Pressure Working Group to review and revise existing HELCOM ecological objectives for eutrophication and hazardous substances, to propose new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and loss and disturbance to the seabed, and to propose management objectives for all these topics (Document DS-2, Presentation DS\_5).

DS16. The Meeting noted this is an iterative task and that the outcome of the discussion on HELCOM objectives will be used as basis for continued elaboration by State and Conservation (ecological objectives) and Fish Group (ecological and management objectives for loss and disturbance of the seabed), and that the task also be further discussed at the next meeting of the Pressure Group with the aim of coming to an agreement at HOD in December 2019.

DS17. The Meeting agreed to split into four groups to discuss the review and development of HELCOM objectives during the meeting. The resulting outcome of the group discussions is included in Working Paper DS-WP.1.

DS18. The Meeting briefly reflected on the outcome of group discussion in plenum and noted the following:

- Ecological objectives for eutrophication and hazardous are proposed to remain as they are, possibly with minor modifications, with the reasoning that they are still relevant and in several cases not achieved yet, and that there is an important value to stay close to the current objectives since they are commonly recognized.
- One view was that hazardous substances segment in the updated BSAP should not be combined with marine litter.

- Several groups proposed that management objectives could be linked to sources/sector rather than pressures. This approach can potentially result in long lists of management objectives but could be further explored, e.g. to have one overarching management objective and a list of more detailed associated objectives than can support the follow-up of HELCOM objectives and development of actions.
- Loss and disturbance to the seabed was recognized as closely linked to ecological objectives on biodiversity and that further consideration is needed to differentiate between an ecological objective for “loss and disturbance” and status of benthic habitats in general. It was proposed that the State and Conservation Working Group discuss this matter further.
- It was noted that in some cases the management objectives drafted in the groups are formulated as actions rather than objectives and that there is a need to differentiate between these two subjects.
- For underwater noise some differing views were expressed. Since noise will always exist in the environment one view was that such objectives could focus on designating places with no noise. The use of the word “quiet/quieter” was also supported since it speaks to the wider community.
- When the discussion on objectives advances it was found important to harmonize the objectives between topics, i.e. so that managements objectives are formulated in a similar way for segments of the BSAP.

DS19. The Meeting took note of the progress on implementation of joint HELCOM actions (Document DS-9).

DS20. The Meeting discussed the proposed categorization of joint and national actions regarding needs for rephrasing in case they are not implemented by 2021 and will be transferred to the updated BSAP.

DS21. The Meeting supported to rephrase existing actions as needed so that they are measurable and time-bound and possible to follow-up in terms of progress.

DS22. The Meeting took note of the view by CCB that the countries should rather look into new measures than rely on existing measures from other policies.

DS23. The Meeting took note of the comment by WWF that when rephrasing the actions, it is important not to weaken them but only make them clearer.

DS24. The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to take a lead on reformulating some of the actions that need concretization.

DS25. The Meeting took note of the consideration by Germany that they may offer the lead for two actions related to national programmes to achieve nutrient reductions and their effectiveness and the action related to pharmaceuticals.

DS26. The Meeting expressed the view that it would be useful to know the structure of the updated BSAP as soon as possible to have an overview on where the actions would fit in the new structure e.g. to support the lead countries in making proposals for reformulation of the actions. The Meeting noted that the adjustment of the BSAP structure is ongoing and will be further discussed by Heads of Delegation in June 2019.

DS27. The Meeting took note of the proposals to concretize agreements from the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration (Annex 1, Document DS-10).

DS28. The Meeting took note of the clarification from the Secretariat that the updated BSAP is envisioned to include new actions as well as the existing concrete actions that are possible to assess in terms of accomplishment and which have not been implemented by 2021. Aspirational and general paragraphs from the existing plan and follow-up Ministerial declarations will remain valid but will not need to be transferred to the updated plan. This refers to e.g. paragraphs from MD 2018 that have been labelled as “general” in document DS-10.

DS29. The Meeting took note of the comment by Estonia that the Ministerial Meeting commitment on ecosystem services is also relevant to follow up by the Pressure Working Group.

DS30. The Meeting took note of the list of agreements that have previously been assigned as too general to be assessed as part of the follow-up system of the HELCOM actions (Annex 2, Document DS-10).

DS31. The Meeting agreed on a written procedure to provide comments to documents DS-9 and DS-10 to the Secretariat by 6 May 2019 and furthermore agreed to have an online meeting to further elaborate on the proposals in the document on 21 May 2019. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat will provide additional instructions for the commenting round. The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the final proposal by PRESSURE 11-2019 is to be approved by HOD 57-2019.

DS32. The Meeting took note of the outcome of reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under Pressure WG adopted after 2007 (DS-5 Rev2 and DS-5 Rev2Att1), noting that the current implementation has been reported by all countries. The Meeting agreed on the evaluation of implementation of the HELCOM Recommendations, noting that coherence check of the collected information has not been completed by the Secretariat yet due to the time constraints and that the Secretariat may contact Contracting Parties with requests for clarification.

DS33. The Meeting took note of the correction by Denmark for their reporting on Recommendation 31E-4 and that the answer to action “Existing landfills not fulfilling the criteria of proper landfilling practices required for obtaining a permit should be closed, or restored in accordance with the national legislation” should be changed from “not applicable” to “yes”.

DS34. The Meeting took note of the review of HELCOM Recommendations adopted before 2007 that has been carried out with the aim to identify Recommendations that should be reported to support the SOM analysis (DS-1-Rev.1). The Meeting proposed to report on the Recommendations as indicated in **Annex 2, by 6 September**. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to send out templates for reporting on the selected actions in the Recommendations.

DS35. The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Russia for the reporting of HELCOM Recommendations adopted before 2007. The Meeting took note that the process to compare the Russian BAT requirements with the requirement of HELCOM Recommendations is ongoing and will be completed by the end of May. The Meeting took note of the information Russia will thus clarify their study reservation by end of May 2019.

DS36. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of following up on the Recommendations to track the progress and supported that recommendations older than 2007 under the Pressure Group should be considered for thorough review and tentative revision.

## **Agenda Item 6      Following up the progress towards HELCOM targets to reduce nutrient loads**

6.1 The Meeting took note of the Overview of applied methodologies for the PLC-6 assessment, reported by the Contracting Parties (document 6-5), welcomed the Overview and agreed on its publication as supplementary material for the PLC-6 project.

6.2 The Meeting also discussed further work on harmonization of the methods to identify diffuse load and took note of the ongoing work by Germany in PLC-7 on comparing methodologies to identify natural background losses. Germany also invited countries to apply for regional financial instruments to support regional projects to harmonize the methodologies.

6.3 The Meeting welcomed the offer by FEAP to assist with any issues related to data on loads from aquaculture.

6.4 The PLC-7 Project Manager introduced the report “Sources of nutrient input to inland waters” (document 6-2).

6.5 The Meeting discussed the use of the approach for PLC-7 assessment and suggested that in the PLC-7 deliverables the report on source apportionment should combine both source- and load-oriented approaches.

- 6.6 The Meeting took note of the request by Germany that the paragraph on the German data needs revision and that Germany will provide a written proposal by 10 May 2019 to the PLC Project Manager ([ims@dce.au.dk](mailto:ims@dce.au.dk)), with copy to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)).
- 6.7 The Meeting agreed on the publication of the report as supplementary material for the PLC-6 project after the correction proposed by Germany.
- 6.8 The Meeting took note of the report on PLC-6 Background Information (document 6-6).
- 6.9 The Meeting took note that Germany and Lithuania would like to make corrections to the national data included into the Background report and invited other Contracting Parties to provide final comments on the report **by 10 May 2019** to the PLC Project Manager ([ims@dce.au.dk](mailto:ims@dce.au.dk)), with copy to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)).
- 6.10 The Meeting welcomed the report and agreed on its publication as supplementary material for the PLC-6 project after all requested corrections have been received.
- 6.11 The Meeting also took note that Germany has identified the following errata in the national PLC reporting:
- Germany only reported one indirectly discharging sewage treatment plant while in fact there are 87;
  - for the annual reporting there seems to be substantial overestimation of nutrient loads coming from unmonitored areas to WEB and BAP;
  - on the first issue, Germany requested a correction in the PLC database. The second issue still needs further national investigation and Germany will report the outcome to PLC-7 Implementation Group.
- 6.12 The Meeting also suggested to include an introductory page with an overview of all other products and links to them into all PLC-7 reports.
- 6.13 The Meeting took note of the Notes of the Workshop on land-based nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea (NutriRed) (doc. 6-4).
- 6.14 The suggestions to advance the HELCOM Nutrient Reduction Scheme and its follow-up system (document 6-1) were thoroughly considered.
- 6.15 The Meeting took note of the comment by Russia that PLC-water database should contain only originally reported data and not overwriting reported values by assessed ones.
- 6.16 The Meeting did not support item 1.3 of document 6-1 and invited national data reporters to re-report estimated (corrected) data to PLC-water database on voluntary basis. The Meeting also requested RedCore DG and PLC-7 Implementation Group to consider options to store assessment data separately from the PLC-water database.
- 6.17 The Meeting noted that Estonia encouraged the Contracting Parties to work together to harmonize approaches, but the Meeting also warned countries that application of a too general model might result in losing important details.
- 6.18 The Meeting also discussed the problem of border rivers where the load shared between countries is based on modelled percentages and agreed that in many cases that is the only possible solution.
- 6.19 The Meeting supported the incorporation of nutrient input ceilings into the updated BSAP and tasked RedCore DG to prepare suggestions for the BSAP update.
- 6.20 The Meeting agreed that separate trend analysis will be made for air- and waterborne inputs but without evaluation against reduction targets, which could be done nationally.
- 6.21 The Meeting pointed out that calculation of targets for individual rivers might be useful to communicate with river basin management authorities, but it should not be a priority for PLC work due to time constraints.
- 6.22 The Meeting in general agreed to make the results of trend analysis (simple linear trends) for individual rivers available for the Contracting Parties.

- 6.23 The Meeting reiterated that RedCore DG is to keep communicating with IN-EUTROPHICATION to align relevant HELCOM core indicators.
- 6.24 The Meeting pointed out that the input ceilings for individual rivers will bear a purely tentative character and are used for evaluation of effectiveness of measures.
- 6.25 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the proposal of these tentative ceilings for individual rivers would be a good starting point for communication with river basin commissions, e.g. at the coming Workshop with the authorities. Germany also requested to use a more sophisticated methodology to arrive at ceilings for rivers compared to the methodology suggested in document 6-1.
- 6.26 The Meeting agreed that the tentative results of the estimation of the ceilings for individual rivers will be validated by the Pressure group before the Workshop via correspondence.
- 6.27 The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Chair of RedCore DG to estimate, together with PLC-7 Implementation Group, the changes in input ceilings caused by updating the transboundary data and present the results to PRESSURE 11-2019.
- 6.28 The Meeting pointed out that changing of subdivision of the Baltic Sea to sub-basins might result in inconsistency with previous assessments.
- 6.29 The Meeting noted that neither Germany nor Denmark have intention to revise the Baltic Sea sub-basins, at least, within the ongoing update of the BSAP.
- 6.30 The Meeting did not support changing the Baltic Sea sub-basins within the current PLC assessment. Though, the Meeting in general agreed that the Baltic Sea model could be advanced in the future by taking into account the results of several ongoing national projects of which the Meeting was informed about.
- 6.31 The Meeting agreed that a trial calculation of separate load for the Archipelago Sea will be made by PLC-7 without changing of general follow up of the HELCOM Nutrient Reduction Scheme.
- 6.32 The Meeting agreed that taking climate change into account in the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme is an immense, resource-demanding task and agreed that the theme should be included into the HELCOM science needs.
- 6.33 The Meeting took note of the recent studies showing that implementation of the nutrient input reduction is the way to increase resilience of the Baltic Sea region against climate change.
- 6.34 The Meeting agreed that coastal retention is the task for the update of the Baltic Sea nutrient flux model in future and also suggested to include this task into the HELCOM science needs.
- 6.35 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to better communicate the achieved reductions of third parties with those parties and other relevant international organisations and of shipping with IMO in order to encourage them to contribute to the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.
- 6.36 The Meeting in general welcomed the approach to the advancement of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its follow-up presented in document 6-1 and requested RedCore DG to amend the document to be in line with the recommendations of PRESSURE 10-2019 for submission to HOD 56-2019.
- 6.37 The Meeting welcomed the proposal by Denmark and Germany on the formulation of principle 8 (document 6-8) and decided to submit the proposal to HOD 56-2019 for final approval.
- 6.38 The Meeting recommended to PLC-7 IG to apply the methodology for accounting extra reduction in the assessment after the approval by HOD 56-2019.
- 6.39 FEAP introduced document 6-7 on a suggestion to revise sub-basins used for assessment of nutrient inputs. The Meeting took note of the information and thanked FEAP for the work done.
- 6.40 The Meeting discussed the proposed subdivision and was of the opinion that the proposal can hardly be implemented, as it does not cater for the current management plans, and that the proposed subdivision would require enormous resources to update the regional model and, consequently, the nutrient reduction scheme.

- 6.41 The PLC Project Manager presented the Status of the 2017 periodic PLC data reporting (document 6-3). The Meeting took note of the status of PLC-7 periodic data reporting.
- 6.42 The Meeting recalled that 2017 is the reference year for the PLC-7 assessment and that the information will be further utilized as background data to evaluate the effectiveness and sufficiency of measures to implement the BSAP.
- 6.43 The Meeting took note that Poland will do her best to provide required data and that Germany can provide only 2016 data on source apportionment.
- 6.44 The Meeting took note that Finland has reported 2014 data instead of 2017 for some point sources, due to persisting national technical problems.
- 6.45 The Meeting encouraged all countries to finalize their data reporting.
- 6.46 The Meeting took note of the status of 2017 annual data reporting (document 6-9) and recalled that the data is used for the annual update of the HELCOM core indicator on nutrient loads on the Baltic Sea and the assessment of the progress towards national nutrient input reduction targets.
- 6.47 The Meeting took note of the Progress report on PLC-7 Project (document 6-10) and on the foreseen deadlines.
- 6.48 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the scientific report included in the PLC-7 deliverables will be an updated version of the scientific report that will be made for the PLC-6 project.
- 6.49 The Meeting discussed the timeframe for the PLC-8 assessment considering various benefits and risks of proposed time schemes and requested RedCore DG to propose a timeframe for PLC-8 deliverables, prioritizing the update of the HELCOM indicator on input of nutrients and the assessment of the progress towards national reduction targets, to PRESSURE 11-2019 for eventual approval by HOD 57-2019. The Meeting also recalled that the document identifying timing for delivery of PLC products was agreed by HOD 50-2016 and should be taken into account in the proposal.
- 6.50 The Meeting took note that data on airborne deposition is the main obstacle to speed up the delivery of products. The Meeting recalled the suggestion in document 6-1 to discuss with EMEP about any possibilities for earlier delivery of the required data.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Measures to reduce nutrient loads**

- 7.1 The Meeting discussed the Draft vision and objectives for Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (document 7-4) with focus on potential recycling of phosphorus in the wastewater sector and agreed on submission of the draft to HOD 56-2019 for consideration as contained in **Annex 3**.
- 7.2 The Meeting took note that the AGRI 7-2019 meeting had updated the workplan for elaborating the strategy and suggested to organize a workshop on nutrient recycling measures, tentatively in January 2020, and had welcomed the offer by Finland to host the workshop. The meeting had also taken note that the Interreg project platforms SuMaNu and BSR Water will contribute to the organization of the workshop.
- 7.3 The Meeting took note of the comments by Estonia that the strategy should include measures to promote the use of products based on nutrients recycled from sewage.
- 7.4 The Meeting took note of the concern expressed by Germany that the strategy should be more focused on the environmental aspects rather than business opportunities which could be opened by nutrient recycling.
- 7.5 The Meeting also noted that Sweden is looking forward to joining the work on measures to utilize them for MSFD and WFD programmes of measures.
- 7.6 The Meeting noted the information by BSAG on the examples of effective nutrient recycling at large industrial animal farms, which could be considered in the work on measures to implement the strategy.

- 7.7 The Meeting also took note that the BSR Water and SuMaNu project platforms will contribute to the work on measures and on the need of better involvement of various stakeholders to the work on the strategy.
- 7.8 The Meeting also took note of the information of the seminar on safe nutrient recycling for cleaner Baltic Sea at the 10th EUSBSR Annual Forum, on 12-13 June in Gdansk, Poland, organized jointly by PA Nutri, PA Hazards and HELCOM, and that both project platforms will contribute to the seminar. The Contracting Parties and Observers were invited to attend the Forum and the seminar.
- 7.9 The Meeting also took note of the information by CCB on the Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Baltic Sea (GRASS) conference in October 2019 which might be an opportunity to communicate the Strategy with stakeholders.
- 7.10 The Secretariat introduced document 7-8 on planning extended reporting on sewage sludge handling. The Meeting took note that the reported data will be further used as background information for the nutrient recycling strategy.
- 7.11 The Meeting also recalled that HELCOM Recommendation 38/1, including also a reporting format, recommends the Contracting Parties to report on sewage sludge handling practices to the Helsinki Commission every three years, starting at the end of 2019 with data from 2018. The reporting format was extended by PRESSURE 7-2017 with a number of additional parameters.
- 7.12 The Meeting agreed to include brief descriptions of technologies used for nutrient recycling to the report.
- 7.13 The Meeting took note that reporting of the sewage sludge data on individual wastewater treatment plants could be challenging and agreed that the data can be aggregated by the size of WWTP as classified by HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5, if possible.
- 7.14 The Meeting agreed that the data will be reported **by 6 September 2019** to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)).
- 7.15 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the data call, including the reporting format, as soon as possible.
- 7.16 The Meeting recalled the HELCOM ACTION project inception report (document 7-2) and discussed the aspects from WP4 and WP6 in relation to the further work on evaluation of effectiveness of measures taking place within the Pressure Group.
- 7.17 Finland introduced the report Draft evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input (document 7-12, **Presentation 2**). The Meeting took note of the report and agreed that the compiled information is a valuable contribution to the work to evaluate the effectiveness of measures and provides a background for decision making.
- 7.18 The Meeting recommended to utilize the document as background information for planning further work to evaluate the sufficiency of measures under ACTION project. The Meeting also recommended to utilize the EMEP data on reduction of nitrogen deposition achievable by implementing the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC Directive to evaluate future reduction potential.
- 7.19 The Meeting welcomed the report pointing out that the evaluation contains a lot of assumptions which cause high uncertainty of the calculated figures and, thus, they have indicative character.
- 7.20 The Meeting agreed that written comments on the draft evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input should be sent **by 3 May 2019** to Finland ([seppo.knuutila@ymparisto.fi](mailto:seppo.knuutila@ymparisto.fi)) with a copy to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)). The Meeting also invited the Contracting Parties to propose a new approach to implement the task to compile information on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input.
- 7.21 The Meeting considered the draft Questionnaire on effectiveness of measures (document 7-5) and the brief evaluation, while taking note of the comments by HELCOM Agri Group. The Meeting noted that it contains the same questionnaire as used for PLC-6.

- 7.22 The Meeting took note that the analysis of the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs is a task in both the PLC-7 project and the HELCOM ACTION project supporting the BSAP update, and that a single questionnaire has been planned to obtain information serving both projects.
- 7.23 The Meeting concluded that using the same questionnaire as in PLC-6 will likely not result in obtaining additional information from the countries.
- 7.24 The Meeting was of the view that a new approach to a task on effectiveness of measures in PLC-7 is needed and suggested that PLC-7 could focus on filling in the possible gaps from the analysis to be carried out by the ACTION project.
- 7.25 The Meeting requested RedCore DG and PLC-7 Implementation Group to enhance collaboration with the HELCOM ACTION project on the issue of effectiveness of measures and invited Sweden as leader of ACTION project WP4 to cooperate with PLC-7 project and RedCore DG. The immediate aim is to discuss and conclude whether the existing information from PLC-6 could be utilized to prepare sufficient input to the SOM analysis under the BSAP update, and what additional information might be needed from the countries
- 7.26 Further, the Meeting invited PLC-7 to develop a proposal, which could also include a targeted questionnaire, on addressing the effectiveness of measures within the project for PRESSURE 11-2019.
- 7.27 The Meeting took note of the preparations for the Workshop with river basin authorities (document 7-1), recalling that it is a joint activity with the ACTION project WP4. The dates for the Workshop are fixed to 18-20 September 2019 in order to ensure synergy with the Project and efficiency of the resource use.
- 7.28 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Latvia to host the Workshop.
- 7.29 The Meeting took note that CCB will help to engage participants from Ukraine and Belarus to attend the Workshop.
- 7.30 The Meeting agreed to provide information on contacts of potential participants to the Workshop and also proposals on the particular themes to be discussed **by 3 May 2019** to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)).
- 7.31 The Meeting suggested to include into the agenda of the Workshop information on the reduction which can be achieved under WFD. The Meeting also suggested to invite representatives of the relevant working group of ECOSTAT to the Workshop.
- 7.32 Estonia informed about the Estonia-Latvia Interreg project GURINIMAS, providing the Estonian and Latvian authorities and research institutions an opportunity to cooperate in order to reduce the nitrogen load into the Gulf of Riga (document 7-10 and **Presentation 3**). The Meeting took note of the information and welcomed the project results.
- 7.33 PRESSURE 8-2018 had 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 Overview of the data on phosphogypsum stacks (document 7-13) contains information reported by those countries where stacks are located. The Meeting took note of the information.
- 7.34 The Meeting agreed that the Overview requires validation of data and invited countries to validate the information **by 7 June 2019**, reviewing corresponding national sections of the Overview, and inform the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)). The Contracting Parties are invited to use the national reports available at [the HELCOM website](#) for the validation. The Meeting took note that the table in its current status does not differentiate the countries which have no stacks and those that have not reported.
- 7.35 Germany introduced the launching of the *ad hoc* Group MINUTS (document 7-11) and the preliminary plans of the Group's future work. The Meeting took note of the information and invited those countries, who have not yet nominated experts to the Group, to inform the Secretariat on the nominations.
- 7.36 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to co-lead the work on drafting the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves.
- 7.37 The Meeting also welcomed the offer by PA Nutri to support the work of the group.

- 7.38 Germany, on behalf of the Interreg project “Baltic Slurry Acidification”, informed the Meeting about the report on reduction of ammonia emissions from livestock manure with acidification (document 7-7). The Meeting took note of the information provided in the document as well as in the project reports published at [www.balticsslurry.eu](http://www.balticsslurry.eu).
- 7.39 The Meeting welcomed the project results and recommended to take them into account in the work on the nutrient recycling strategy.
- 7.40 The Meeting also took note of the information by CCB on the ongoing project to evaluate nutrient losses from handling bulk fertilizers in ports by applying BAT <https://ccb.se/publications/concept-best-available-technologies-techniques-bulk-fertilizer-handling/>.
- 7.41 The Meeting took note of the information on the current status of the decision on project proposal to estimate reductions of atmospheric nitrogen deposition achievable by implementing the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC Directive (document 7-9).
- 7.42 The Meeting confirmed the need in the project results and that the information is vital for the quantitative analysis of the sufficiency of measures. The Meeting agreed that the scenario, including calculation of the reduction achieved in 2030, is the most suitable for the current needs.
- 7.43 The Meeting took note of the offers by Estonia, Finland and Sweden to consider co-financing of the project and to inform the Secretariat (monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi and [dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) **by 3 May 2019**. The Meeting also encouraged other countries to consider co-financing.
- 7.44 The Meeting requested the Secretariat together with RedCore DG to draft a project proposal by **3 May 2019** and circulate it to HELCOM Heads of Delegation for approval.
- 7.45 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to assure data quality used for modelling the reduction.
- 7.46 The Meeting took note of the information on potential to harmonise data requests by HELCOM and OSPAR to EMEP (document 7-6).
- 7.47 The Meeting agreed that the harmonized approach could benefit both Conventions’ members and invited RedCore DG to consider the possible ways of coordination of the EMEP-products delivery in HELCOM and OSPAR which is mainly based on the HELCOM practices of receiving regular EMEP products.
- 7.48 The Meeting considered the revised fact sheets including suggested or revised texts and recommendations on improvement of the data processing, prepared by EMEP (Document7-3 and Attachments 7-3-Att. A-Att. H).
- 7.49 The Meeting thanked RedCore DG and in principle adopted the revised texts of the fact sheets, which will be reflected in the prolongation of the EMEP contract and used for the 2020 report.
- 7.50 The Meeting agreed that countries will provide some editorial comments **by 10 May 2019** to the Secretariat.
- 7.51 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the ultimate task of the proposals in the revised fact sheets is to amend statistical methods used in EMEP fact sheets to align with the methods used for PLC assessments, but it should be clarified with EMEP.

## **Agenda Item 8      Hazardous substances**

- 8.1 The Meeting took note of the preliminary overview on the results of the questionnaire on medical waste handling (document 8-1), based on a reporting format prepared jointly by HELCOM CG PHARMA and CW Pharma flagship project.
- 8.2 The Meeting took note that Lithuania and Sweden will provide the requested data to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) **by 6 May 2019**.

- 8.3 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Germany to use the term “pharmaceutical waste” instead of “medical waste”
- 8.4 The Meeting invited the countries who did not respond to the questionnaire to inform the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) whether the required information could be reported.
- 8.5 The Meeting took note of the preliminary overview on the results of the questionnaire on veterinary medicines (document 8-2) containing the information compiled in cooperation with CW Pharma and CG PHARMA using the Guidelines endorsed by PRESSURE 9-2018 (document 8-2).
- 8.6 The Meeting was informed that the data from Estonia and Lithuania are available and are to be included to the overview.
- 8.7 The Meeting took note of the activities and progress of the HELCOM Expert Group on Hazardous Substances (EN-HZ) (document 8-3).
- 8.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on the intersessional dialog on the regional acceptance of the initial suggestions to revise the HELCOM Recommendation on anti-fouling systems with focus on minimizing contamination of marine environment by copper. The Meeting thanked Finland for the intersessional work and the achieved progress and agreed to return to the consideration of the initial proposal on the revision of the Recommendation at PRESSURE 11-2019.

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

- 9.1 The Meeting considered the proposal to delete Hot Spot No. 67 - Kaliningrad Wastewater Treatment Plant, presented by Russia (document 9-1).
- 9.2 The Meeting took note of the clarification that currently sewage sludge is composted and used for reclamation of the old landfill. The sewage-based products have also been certified for use as fertilizers. The Meeting took note that the fertilizers are not planned to be used for agricultural production but for green areas and road-side plants.
- 9.3 The Meeting welcomed the information submitted by Russia and decided to propose to HOD 56-2019 to delete Hot Spot No. 67 from the HELCOM hot spot list.
- 9.4 The Meeting considered the updated proposal to delete the Hot Spots Nos. 69, 49 and 50 from the HELCOM list, presented by Russia (document 9-2).
- 9.5 After a discussion, the Meeting concluded that Hot Spot No. 49 could not be deleted, as the available data shows still significant environmental impact of this hot-spot.
- 9.6 The Meeting recommended Russia to provide more monitoring data on soils and ground water contamination to assure that Hot Spot No. 50 does not pose environmental risk. The Meeting decided to propose to HOD 56-2019 to delete Hot Spot No. 69 from the HELCOM hot spot list.
- 9.7 The Meeting took note of the information on the current state of the toxic wastes landfill Krasny Bor, Russia (document 9-3 and **Presentation 4**).
- 9.8 The Meeting took note of the comments by CCB and WWF on the lack of information on the monitoring results available online and composition of hazardous substances/contaminants in the stored waste.
- 9.9 The Meeting took note of the statement by representative of Krasny Bor that monitoring data is partly available at the website and the data on the wastes’ composition can be provided by request.
- 9.10 The Meeting thanked for the presentation on the status of the Krasny Bor landfill.
- 9.11 The Meeting also took note that the first phase of the hot spot reclamations - a comprehensive investigation of the landfill area - is starting in summer 2019 and that the active phase of reclamation of the entire area is planned for 2024-25.

**Agenda Item 10      Any other business**

10.1          The Meeting took note of the structure and contents of the proposed HELCOM climate change fact sheet providing a comprehensive overview of climate change parameters (document 10-2) and considered their policy relevance.

10.2          The Meeting reiterated the need to include researches evaluating the effects of climate change on the ecosystem and environmental pressures into the HELCOM science needs. The Meeting encouraged EN CLIME to consider reserving some capacity to respond to new initiatives (beyond the fact sheet), to tackle interactions and synergies between climate change and other processes such as land use and eutrophication.

10.3          The Meeting also took note the position of Germany that in the updated BSAP the Baltic Sea region has to be considered as free from geoengineering.

10.4          The delegations checked and updated the Contact lists of the Group contained in document 10-1. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties and Observers to submit further updates to the Secretariat ([leena.heikkila@helcom.fi](mailto:leena.heikkila@helcom.fi)).

10.5          The Meeting elected Mr. Ari Kangas (Finland) as Vice-Chair of the Group for a 2-year period.

**Agenda Item 11      Future work and meetings**

11.1          The Meeting recalled the offer of the EU to host the Eleventh Meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 11-2019), tentatively during week 21-25 October 2019 and agreed that the PRESSURE 11-2019 will be held on 23-25 October 2019.

11.2          The Meeting agreed that the 4th RAP ML Workshop will be held on 22 October 2019 preceding PRESSURE 11-2019.

11.3          The Meeting requested the Secretariat to adjust the agenda of the Group's meeting in such way to optimize the attendance of various experts and also to avoid overlapping with meetings of other HELCOM Working Groups, especially the State & Conservation.

11.4          The Meeting agreed tentatively that PRESSURE 12-2020 will be held during the week 20-25 April 2020 and welcomed the offer by Finland to host the meeting.

**Agenda Item 12      Outcome and closing of the Meeting**

12.1          The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 12-1).

12.2          The Outcome of the Meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with all documents and presentations given during the Meeting.

12.3          Ms Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM Executive Secretary, stated that at her last meeting of the Pressure Group she wished the Group – and HELCOM - to keep up the ambitious level of work and expressed her wish that HELCOM will continue with the innovative path and find new pilot products.

12.4          The Meeting thanked Estonia for hosting the PRESSURE 10-2019 meeting as well as for the excellent meeting facilities and great hospitality during the Meeting.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

Name	Organization	Email address
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Uliana Haritonova *)	Municipal Utility Enterprise "Vodokanal of Kaliningrad" (MUE "Vodokanal")	haritonova.u@vk39.ru
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<b>Observers</b>		
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\*) via Skype

## Annex 2 Paragraphs from Recommendations older than 2007 to be reported by 6 September 2019

Recommendation	<a href="#">Number</a>	Actions to follow-up/ follow-up of the Recommendation fully
<b>Reduction of Pollution from Discharges into Water, Emissions into the Atmosphere and Phosphogypsum out of the Production of Fertilizers</b>	<a href="#">17-6/1996</a>	load values set by the Recommendation should not be exceeded as annual mean values
		Air emissions resulting from the production of fertilizers should be treated by appropriate techniques (Table 1) and comply with the limit values set by the Recommendation
<b>Reduction of Emissions and Discharges from the Iron Steel Industry</b>	<a href="#">24-4/2003</a>	<b>to follow-up the Recommendation fully</b>
<b>Reduction of discharges and emissions from the metal surface treatment</b>	<a href="#">23-7/2002</a>	<b>to follow-up the Recommendation fully</b>
<b>Reduction of Discharges and emissions from production of textiles</b>	<a href="#">23-12/2002</a>	limit values (set by the Recommendation) should not be exceeded for discharges into surface water
		limit values (set by the Recommendation) should not be exceeded for emissions into the atmosphere out of the production of textiles
<b>Elimination of PCBs and PCTs</b>	<a href="#">25-1/2004</a>	the new use of substitutes for PCBs and PCTs considered as being equally or more hazardous should be banned and those already in use should be substituted as soon as possible with less hazardous or non-hazardous substances;
		undertake all possible measures to avoid fires, accidents and abnormal operation conditions at sites where PCB containing equipment with a weight more than 1 kg is still in use or stored, as well as leakage and spillage from PCB containing equipment still in use or stored
		take appropriate measures to cease emissions from “uncontrolled applications” e.g. controlled collection, handling and disposal which are for instance, products with a low (less than 0,005%) concentration of PCBs (e.g. mineral oil contaminated with PCB), which have been marketed in large quantities, and products with a small volume of pure PCBs (e.g. capacitors in strip light fittings, small capacitors in household appliances) and thus amount to high total quantities,
		if it is suspected or proved during renovation or demolition of any building that its components contain PCBs or PCTs, they should be treated as if they contain PCBs or PCTs and should be disposed off in an environmentally sound manner,
<b>Reduction of Emissions into the Atmosphere from the Pulp and Paper Industry</b>	<a href="#">16-4/1995</a>	take measures to reduce the emissions from the pulp and paper industry, so that the emissions of nitrogen oxides, NO <sub>x</sub> (nitrogen oxide + nitrogen dioxide), as a yearly average for each Contracting Party's emissions from recovery boilers and lime kilns do not exceed the value set by the Recommendation. (limit values set by HELCOM Recommendation stricter than BAT-AEL in BATC PP).
<b>Reduction of Discharges from the Kraft Pulp Industry</b>	<a href="#">17-8/1996</a>	to take measures to reduce discharges from the kraft pulp industry so that the annual average discharge limit values (set by the Recommendation) are not exceeded. (limit values set by HELCOM Recommendation stricter than BAT-AEL in BATC PP)

<b>Reduction of Discharges from the Sulphite Pulp Industry</b>	<a href="#">17-9/1996</a>	to take measures to reduce discharges from the sulphite pulp industry so that the annual average discharge limit values (set by the Recommendation) are not exceeded. (limit values set by HELCOM Recommendation stricter than BAT-AEL in BATC PP)
<b>Basic Principles for Realization of BAT and BEP in Food Industry</b>	<a href="#">17-10/1996</a>	plants of food industry which discharge more than 25 m <sup>3</sup> /d into water bodies, or to municipal waste water treatment plant without biological treatment including phosphorus removal, should meet the following requirements (2-hour or 24-hour values): COD 250 mg/l BOD <sub>5</sub> (BOD <sub>7</sub> ) 25 mg/l (30 mg/l) tot-P 2 mg/l *) NH <sub>4</sub> -N 10 mg/l *) **)
<b>Restriction of atmospheric emissions and waste water discharges from hard coal cokeries</b>	<a href="#">23-9/2002</a>	to take measures for hard coal cokeries to meet requirements for the reduction of waste water discharges, including limit values set by the Recommendation
		to take measures for hard coal cokeries to meet requirements for the reduction of emissions to the air, including limit values set by the Recommendation
<b>Reduction of discharges and emissions from production and formulation of pesticides</b>	<a href="#">23-10/2002</a>	to take measures for production and formulation of pesticides to meet requirements for the reduction of waste water discharges, including limit values set by the Recommendation
		to take measures for production and formulation of pesticides to meet requirements for the reduction of emissions to the air, including limit values set by the Recommendation
<b>Limitation of Emissions to the Atmosphere and Discharges into Water from Glass Industry</b>	<a href="#">14-3/1993</a>	The NO <sub>x</sub> emissions may, by catalytic or equally efficient process, not exceed 2.5 kg per produced tonne glass, calculated as NO <sub>2</sub> , if the capacity of the production unit is more than 20 000 tonne/a,
<b>Measures Aimed at the Reduction of Mercury Resulting from Dentistry</b>	<a href="#">6-4/1985</a>	<b>to follow-up the Recommendation fully</b>
<b>Measures aimed at the reduction of mercury pollution resulting from light sources and electrical equipment</b>	<a href="#">23-4/2002</a>	mercury-containing electrical equipment should be substituted by mercury-free-equipment;
		development of mercury-free alternatives should be supported by ECO-labelling

## Annex 3 Draft Vision and Objectives

### DRAFT VISION

Nutrients are managed sustainably in all HELCOM countries, securing the productivity of agriculture and minimizing nutrient loss to the Baltic Sea environment through efficient use of nutrients and cost-effective nutrient recycling.

### DRAFT OBJECTIVES

Objectives and sub-objectives
<p><i>Baltic Sea region as a model area for nutrient recycling</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing nutrient use efficiency</li> <li>- Increasing the circulation of the available nutrient resources and reducing nutrient inflows to the region</li> <li>- Utilizing nutrient rich organic residues originating from areas with high nutrient surplus for production of fertilizer products</li> </ul>
<p><i>Reducing environmental impacts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing nutrient losses to the Baltic Sea area and closing nutrient cycles</li> <li>- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>- Reducing ammonia emissions</li> <li>- Utilizing appropriate solutions to recycle nutrients for the specific conditions preventing contamination of the environment</li> <li>- Improving soil quality and enhancing carbon sequestration by using organic fertilizers</li> <li>- <b>Promoting/advancing</b> site-specific optimized fertilization plans</li> </ul>
<p><i>Safe nutrient recycling</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimizing the risks for humans and environment posed by contamination</li> </ul>
<p><i>Knowledge exchange and awareness raising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting new research and technological development</li> <li>- Increasing research and knowledge sharing on risks and safe practices</li> <li>- Facilitating knowledge transfer and information exchange on nutrient recycling</li> <li>- Cooperating with other regions and global organizations to exchange information on the most up-to-date knowledge and techniques</li> <li>- Raising awareness of the benefits of nutrient recycling</li> <li>- Promoting holistic view of food production</li> </ul>
<p><i>Creating business opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging new business models with cross-sectoral cooperation</li> <li>- Improving the economic viability of nutrient recycling</li> </ul>
<p><i>Improving policy coherence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing cooperation of governmental agencies to improve policy coherence</li> <li>- Updating legal framework to facilitate nutrient recycling</li> </ul>