



## Outcome of the Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 12a-2020)

### Introduction

0.1 The Intersessional Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 12a-2020) was held on 14 May 2020, online.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except for European Union, Latvia and Russia, as well as Observers from BFFE, EurEau and Race for the Baltic attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

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

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

Documents: 1-1

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

### **Agenda Item 2 Rephrasing of HELCOM actions**

Documents: 2-1, 2-1-Rev.1

2.1 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM Working Groups were tasked to consider tentative needs for rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions from the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 that are not likely implemented by 2021 and that these actions will be transferred to the updated BSAP as they are, or they will be rephrased as found needed by the Working Groups. The Meeting further recalled that PRESSURE 12-2020 agreed on tentative formulations for some of the actions to be included in the updated BSAP and agreed to consider actions related to the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme in the context of the update of that document. Thus, the above-mentioned actions are not included in the document 2-1 and 2-1- Rev.1.

2.2 The Meeting considered the suggestions for rephrasing of actions (document 2-1 and 2-1-Rev.1)

2.3 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the term “best available technique” as included in the Helsinki Convention is not equal to and has broader meaning than the concept of Best Available Technique under the EU Industrial Emissions Directive.

2.4 The Meeting took note that the action “Address the need for additional measures within transportation, combustion and agriculture (as the three major sources of atmospheric emissions of nitrogen) with the aim to ensure a Baltic wide application of uniform standards” will be further discussed by AGRI 9a-2020. The Meeting commented on the action and requested the Secretariat to forward the comments to the Agri group.

2.5 The Meeting suggested that the action related to dredged material can be expanded addressing also other hazardous substances than mercury. The Meeting invited Denmark to raise the issue at the BSAP UP workshop on new measures on hazardous substances or make a proposal by submitting a synopsis.

2.6 The Meeting agreed on the tentative formulations for actions to be included in the updated BSAP (**Annex 2**).

**Agenda Item 3 Any other business**

**Agenda Item 4** Documents: None

4.1 The Meeting did not discuss any other business.

**Agenda Item 5 Outcome of the Meeting**

5.1 A draft outcome was prepared by the Secretariat and adopted via correspondence.

## Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Representing	Organization	Email
<b>Lars Sonesten</b>	Chair	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Lars.Sonesten@slu.se
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## Annex 2. Rephrasing of HELCOM actions

## Rephrasing of existing actions

## Theme: Eutrophication

Existing action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP	Explanation
<p>Origin: MD 2010) Implementation; <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (8/9 countries)</p> <p>(Considering also overlapping actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage voluntary use of P-free dishwasher detergents (MD 2010)</li> <li>- RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting States to the Helsinki Convention that further investigations on alternative builders, especially on their use and environmental effects, be carried out. (HELCOM Recommendation 28E-7))</li> </ul>	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p>Denmark and Sweden need time or further consideration of the proposal by 8 May.</p> <p><b>Comments after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p><b>DK:</b> Unfortunately, we haven't been able to do the necessary national coordination for this proposal by the given time. We will do our best to get back with an official response at the meeting next week. However, we would like to know what is meant by further reducing P-discharges from sewage treatment plants, and will such new action be submitted in a synopsis?</p> <p><b>PL:</b> Please see Polish comments in Annex 1.</p> <p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020:</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">FI: Supports DE proposal</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Agreed by the group.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">PL: Underline prevention of P from I&amp;I detergents form reaching the BS.</a></u></p>	<p><b>Lead country: Germany</b></p> <p><i>Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2015</i></p> <p><i><u>As the first step to build knowledge base to target the reduction of phosphorus in detergents for industrial &amp; institutional use. By 2025, develop and publish a HELCOM progress report about best available techniques, alternative builder, especially on their use, environmental effects and effectiveness.</u></i></p> <p><i>Undertake efforts to <del>target reduce and where possible eliminate the elimination of</del> phosphorus in detergents <b>for industrial &amp; institutional use</b>, in particular for <b>institutional use of laundry and dishwasher detergents</b> <del>[no later than by 2030]</del><u>in compliance with based on the knowledge on best available techniques compiled at the first step</u> <del>[no later than by 2030]</del></i></p> <p><i><u>By 2025, develop and publish a HELCOM progress report about alternative builder, especially on their use, environmental effects and effectiveness.</u></i></p>	<p>Rephrasing not needed for the existing action "Target the elimination...". Will be kept in the updated BSAP if Russia has not implemented this action by 2020.</p> <p>Note that for EU Member States the use of P-free <b>dishwater detergents for consumer use</b> is regulated since 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. Therefore, <b>laundry and dishwasher detergents for consumer use</b> are regulated.</p> <p>Germany proposes that HELCOM undertakes action <b>concerning phosphorus in detergents for industrial &amp; institutional use, in particular for institutional use of laundry and dishwasher detergents for</b></p> <p>Germany proposes to apply the best available technology concerning phosphorus in laundry and dishwasher detergents for industrial and institutional use. However, the question arises how BAT is determined, since no BREFs (EU Best Available technique reference documents) exist. Germany has already addressed this subject in a study but the outcome was not satisfying. Germany will undertake further efforts concerning this subject in the coming years.</p>

Existing action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP	Explanation
			<p>Germany furthermore proposes that this action should be accompanied by a HELCOM action on further reducing P-discharges from sewage treatment plants.</p> <p>Concerning the reduction of the use of slowly degradable substances in laundry and dishwasher detergents Germany considers submitting a proposal for a new action on this subject for the updated BSAP but a synopsis has not been prepared yet and national discussion is ongoing.</p> <p>The EU has already commissioned the following 2 reports:  <a href="#">WRc (2002): Phosphates and Alternative Detergent Builders</a>  <a href="#">RPA (2006): Non-surfactant Organic Ingredients and Zeolite-based Detergents.</a></p> <p>These reports need updating, including an overview of alternative builders, where they are used and their effectiveness compared to phosphates. Germany would be interested in drafting this report, in cooperation with other HELCOM CPs.</p>

## Theme: Hazardous substances and litter

Existing action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP	Explanation
Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:	Lead country: Finland	The Danish studies have not been able to confirm general low emission factors for dioxin for modern eco-labelled wood stoves but the

Existing action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP	Explanation
<p>relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8.</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries)</p>	<p>Finland has received related information from Denmark and is considering it. Finland will endeavor to propose formulation coordinated with Denmark by 8 May.</p> <p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020:</b></p> <p><b>Agreed by the group</b> DE: pointed out that information campaigns are to reach the target audience.</p>	<p><b>Formulation according to the Danish proposal after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p>[in order to decrease dioxin emissions] we agree to perform information campaigns and other instruments that focus on the quality and species of the firewood, and what is burned in the small-scale combustion appliances</p>	<p>studies indicate that the firewood used is of more importance regarding the emissions of dioxin.</p> <p>This is also in accordance with the Finnish National Air Pollution Control Programme 2030.</p>
<p>National programmes to eliminate hazardous substances</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (6/9 countries)</p>	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b> Requires further approval.</p> <p><b>Comments after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b> DK: We would need a further explanation on what is meant with this formulation. Regarding national programmes. Do you mean monitoring programmes? And substances that are not regulated by other policies. Is it e.g. illegal use, treated articles which are not regulated etc.? Do you refer to non-target screening methods? A detailed list of planned and implemented measures should be submitted - is this a requirement that goes further than the national programmes of measures in the remit of the WFD and MSFD?</p> <p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020:</b> <b>Agreed by the group</b></p>	<p><b>Lead country: Germany, co-lead by Sweden</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Address substances of emerging concern by commencing recurrent screening campaigns [starting from 2021] including broad analytical techniques such as suspect screening and non-target screening methods.</a></u></p> <p><b>develop</b> national programmes -with a particular focus on <u>-hazardous</u> substances which are <b>not adequately regulated</b> by other policies</p> <p>submit to HELCOM by [2023] a detailed account list of planned and implemented measures, <u>including examples of best practices in-for</u> different sectors, pathways and geographical areas in order to share practical information.</p>	
<p>Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes to eliminate hazardous substance</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b></p>	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b> See previous</p> <p><b>Comments after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b> DK: We support to merge the two actions.</p>	<p><b>Lead country: Germany, provisionally co-lead by Sweden</b></p> <p><b>Merged with the previous action</b></p>	

Existing action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP	Explanation
Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries)			
<p>Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013</p> <p>Implementation: <b>National</b></p> <p>Status: Not accomplished</p>	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p>Include commitments regarding implementation of other conventions in the preamble.</p> <p>Do not repeat measures from international treaties in the BSAP.</p> <p>Proposed actions to some extent repeat those in Minamata and leave the decision for HODs.</p> <p>The group provisionally agreed on the formulation pending acceptance of the para on dredged material by Denmark by 8 May and agreed to seek for decision by HOD on inclusion of the actions from Minamata Convention to the updated BSAP.</p> <p>Finland does not support inclusion of measure related to contaminated wastes as it duplicates the Convention.</p> <p><b>Comments after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p><b>DK:</b> We can agree to remove the word continuously as it does not change the meaning of the sentence. In the Danish permits.</p> <p>Regarding inclusion of the year 2030 then we are still awaiting national approval.</p> <p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020:</b></p> <p>The action related to dredged material can be expended addressing other hazardous substances. The Meeting invited DK to raise the issue at the workshop or propose via synopses.</p>	<p><b>Lead: Secretariat and Denmark</b></p> <p><b>Formulations discussed at PRESSURE 11a-2020:</b></p> <p>“enhance implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury”</p> <p>“undertake all possible measures to reduce mercury emissions from energy sector”</p> <p>“control concentration of mercury in dredged material and undertake possible measures to prevent its <del>resuspension</del> <del>release</del> during dredging operations and handling of dredged material <del>at sea</del>”</p> <p>“introduce the ban of the use of mercury-based amalgam in dentistry by [2030], except when deemed strictly necessary <del>by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient.</del>”</p> <p>“establish and maintain procedures (rules) to handle mercury containing wastes to prevent entering of the contaminant to the environment, including public information on the procedures (rules)”</p>	<p>The suggested added exception for amalgam in dentistry is in line with the EU text for this subject.</p>

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020</b>	<b>Proposed formulation for updated BSAP</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
	Agreed by the group, pending decision of HOD on reference to global treaties.		

## Rephrasing of actions previously considered too general for follow-up

## Theme: Eutrophication

Action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP
<p>Address the need for additional measures within transportation, combustion and agriculture (as the three major sources of atmospheric emissions of nitrogen these sectors) with the aim to ensure a Baltic-wide application of uniform standards</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010</p>	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p><b>Sweden and Germany</b> to co-lead rephrasing and provide proposal by 8 May.</p> <p>Germany proposed to consider geographical location of emitting installations and also address transportation and combustion in the BSAP.</p> <p><b>Comments from the Agri group for the new proposal after PRESSURE 12-2020:</b>  <b>DK:</b> <i>In the implementation, HELCOM CPs will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored to also contributing to have the maximum effect concerning the reduction of the nitrogen deposition onto the Baltic Sea.</i> (or something similar)</p> <p>The reasoning behind the proposed change is that basically all “air pollution mitigation measures” first of all aim at mitigating harmful effects on human health, so that we cannot agree that all measures in “transportation, combustion and agriculture” are maximized with respect to reducing N deposition to the sea, disregarding the focus on human health benefits. We do believe however that is possible to tailor measures in a way, so that both beneficiary effects (on human health and for the Baltic Sea) are considered and can hence serve multiple purposes.</p> <p><b>EE:</b> <i>HELCOM Contracting Parties will continue to reduce the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen onto the Baltic Sea region through the implementation of the national nitrogen reduction commitments of the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC-Directive 2016/2284 for those HELCOM CPs that are also EU Member States. In the implementation, HELCOM CPs will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored to have the maximum effect concerning the for the reduction of the nitrogen deposition onto the Baltic Sea region.</i></p> <p>Explanations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) “continue to ” means that we parties already have taken actions under Gothenburg Protocol and NEC Directive and are continuing with them</li> <li>2) We would like to add that while referring to atmospheric precipitation then we talk about the whole region, not just the sea?! Nitrogen falls from the air to both the sea and the earth, so we would specify it with the word 'region'.</li> <li>3) In addition, we would delete 'in the implementation' at the beginning of the second sentence because it is not clear what the implementation is referring to, apparently the</li> </ol>	<p><i>HELCOM Contracting Parties will reduce the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen on the Baltic Sea through the implementation of the national nitrogen reduction commitments of the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC-Directive 2016/2284 for those HELCOM CPs that are also EU Member States. In the implementation, HELCOM CPs will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored to have the maximum effect concerning the reduction of the nitrogen deposition onto the Baltic Sea.</i></p> <p><i>The HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on “Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture” is currently undergoing revision to ensure that ammonia emissions from agriculture are reduced.</i></p>

Action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP
	<p>NEC directive and protocol but it remains somewhat confusing. The sentence works without it.</p> <p>4) In the second sentence we would delete 'to have the maximum effect', because no one knows or can actually define what this maximum effect is and whether it is also the best solution. The maximum effect on the reduction of precipitated nitrogen is that the amount of precipitated nitrogen is zero, ie that nothing precipitates. That's not what we mean. But since the idea remains the same without it, we don't think it's necessary.</p> <p><b>BFFE:</b> Farmers in all countries in the Baltic Sea region also have the National Air Pollution Control Programmes (under NEC directive), which covers the agricultural NH3 emissions. But when we talk about deposition of atmospheric nitrogen then we refer to whole region not just precipitation to the sea (nitrogen is deposited to both land and sea), it should be taken into account. And in the second sentence there is wording "to have maximum effect concerning the" here we would propose to remove that, as the maximum effect can not be defined (maximum effect should mean that the effect of reduction measures lead to zero nitrogen precipitation), also it wouldn't change the meaning of the sentence.</p> <p><u>Taken it into account, we propose following changes:</u> HELCOM Contracting Parties will <u>continue to</u> reduce the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen <u>onto</u> the Baltic Sea <u>region</u> through the implementation of the national nitrogen reduction commitments of the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC-Directive 2016/2284 for those HELCOM CPs that are also EU Member States. In the implementation, HELCOM CPs will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored <del>to have the maximum effect concerning the</del> <u>for the</u> reduction of the nitrogen deposition onto the Baltic Sea <u>region</u>.</p> <p><i>*In the first sentence "continue to" could be added, which would indicate that parties already have taken and are taking actions under Gothenburg Protocol and NEC Directive.</i></p> <p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020</b>  DE+SE: ...on the Baltic Sea... and support deletion of "maximum effects".  DK: confirms the concern regarding "maximum effect".</p>	

### Theme: Hazardous substances and litter

Action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP
Start work on strict restrictions of use for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), nonylphenol/nonylphenoethoxylates	<p><b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b></p> <p>Agreed pending confirmation Denmark by 8 May.</p>	<p><i>Introduce measures based on the best available scientific knowledge and technologies to restrict the use and prevent releases of perfluorinated alkyl substances, phenolic compounds with endocrine disrupting effects and chlorinated paraffins.</i></p>

Action	Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020, comments received after PRESSURE 12-2020 and comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020	Proposed formulation for updated BSAP
(NP/NPEs), short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)  Origin: BSAP	<b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020</b> Agreed by the group	
If relevant assessments show the need, initiate adequate measures for medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs), octylphenols (OP)/Octylphenol ethoxylates (OPE), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) (2009)  Origin: BSAP	<b>Comments by PRESSURE 12-2020:</b>  Proposal is to add one more sentence referring to the “priority list”. Germany will provide a proposal by 8 May.  <b>Comments by PRESSURE 12a-2020</b>  New formulation <b>agreed by the group</b>	<i>Establish a mechanism for HELCOM to manage the list of priority substances [starting from 20XX] and to respond to screening and assessment results pointing out regional challenges for or positive developments related to contamination of the Baltic Sea environment by priority substances and contaminants of emerging concern</i>