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<b>Document title</b>	Reporting of the riverine input of heavy metals
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### Background

Rivers are one of the main pathways of contaminants from diffuse sources as well as inland point sources to the Baltic Sea. Heavy metals in the Baltic Sea enter largely via riverine inputs. According to previous assessments (Hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea – An integrated thematic assessment of hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea. Balt. Sea Environ. Proc. No. 120; HELCOM, 2011 and The Fifth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-5) Balt. Sea Environ. Proc. No. 128) about 85% of cadmium, 75% of mercury and 50% of lead inputs entered the Baltic Sea via rivers or as direct waterborne discharges. Nevertheless, the latest published assessment on riverine input of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea is based on data reported before the year 2008. Also, PLC-5 indicates that the data set for heavy metals is very incomplete, with data completely missing from some countries, and the results are considered uncertain.

### Discharges of heavy metals into water

European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) was established by the Regulation (EC) No. 166/2006. The E-PRTR Regulation includes specific information on releases of pollutants to air, water and land, as well as off-site transfers of waste and of pollutants in waste water. The data has to be reported by operators of facilities carrying out specific activities. In addition, the E-PRTR includes data on releases from diffuse sources, e.g. road traffic and domestic heating, where such data is available. The register contains annual data reported by some 28,000 industrial facilities covering 65 economic activities for the period from 2007 to 2013.

### Monitoring of heavy metals

Mercury, cadmium, lead and nickel are included in the list of priority substances in the field of water policy (EQS directive 2008/105/EC). Monitoring of heavy metals is also included into the mandatory programme of surface water monitoring in the Russian Federation.

Regular reporting of riverine input of heavy metals is stipulated by the PLC-6 Guidelines approved by HELCOM HOD 46-2014. The Guidelines sets up reporting requirements for heavy metals in monitored rivers and unmonitored areas, as well as for releases from waste water treatment plants and industries. In order to compile proper data on riverine input of metals to the Baltic Sea, the RedCore group prepared a questionnaire to gather as much metadata on the methods of metals monitoring and analysis as possible to get a better understanding on results. The questionnaire is a part in the preparations for the assessment of the PLC-6 reporting.

Up until today (23 September 23 2015) five Contracting Parties have responded to the questionnaire (DK, EE, FI, LV and SE). Based on the rather limited answers, there seems to be a good agreement regarding analytical procedures and methods. The biggest difference that does have an impact on the results and consequently

on how the data may be assessed is on which metal fraction the Contracting Party is focusing on. Of the five Contracting Parties having reported, two (DK and LV) are exclusively analysing dissolved metals (filtered samples), FI is analysing only the total amount of metals, whereas EE monitors both dissolved and total amounts. The fifth Contracting Party (SE) is mainly analysing acid soluble metals, which is result-wise somewhere between the two other fractions. Four Contracting Parties are analysing all the HELCOM mandatory metals, whereas LV is not monitoring mercury.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to

- take note the information;
- discuss the next steps required to organize the reporting of proper data on riverine input of heavy metals to the Baltic Sea in due time.

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting about obstacles in reporting data on riverine and direct input of heavy metals to the Baltic Sea and elaborate possible solutions.

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