



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Third Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area
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Background

Estonia has considered the actions and can agree to take the Lead of the RL 11 and RL 14 as proposed in HOD 48 Meeting.

This document contains Estonian first thoughts of the next actions to be taken regarding these topics for consideration of the PRESSURE Meeting.

The Estonian contacts to lead these two actions forward are:

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Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note and consider the information provided.

Estonian information on relevant planned and on-going activities contributing to the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 36/1

Estonia offered to consider how Estonia could contribute to actions RL11 and RL14 under HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. Here are some remarks for consideration:

RL11 – “Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) in the HELCOM Contracting Parties in accordance with national law as appropriate. Investigate and strive for bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships”.

We would like to gather more information in form on questionnaire, in order to elaborate the issue further. The set of questions would include inter alia:

- Do you have deposit-refund scheme operations in Your Country, for the beverage, beer and low alcoholic packages (typically glass and plastic bottles and metal cans)?
- Is the deposit-refund scheme voluntary for the producers or compulsory? Does the scheme cover also strong alcohol packages?
- If there is no deposit-refund scheme operational in Your Country, do you have preparations or plans to establish this? If ‘Yes’, then approximately when and with which scope?
- How is in your National legislation considered the packaging, sold on ferries, which serve the regulars lines on Baltic Sea? Is this considered as ‘put on the market’ in some of the Countries (sides) of the ferry route or is this rather ‘extraterritorial’ (ie ‘not put to the market legally in any State?’)
- Do you have considerations (pro and contra arguments) for the hypothetical solutions, that if the ferry line goes on route between two Countries, where deposit schemes are implemented, should the ferry sell the beverage and beer bottles according to the norms and requirements of one or both of those countries?
- Do you consider appropriate to consider a solutions, where all beverage, beer etc. packages should be covered with the separate deposit systems, which covers only ferries on the Baltic Sea? The take back should be organised also on ferries and/or on Ports.

RL14 – “Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers”

Taking account, that in EU is the issue of landfills regulated by Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC), which among others, required, that all ‘old’ (non-compliant to the requirements of the Directive) landfills had to be closed for landfilling by 16.07.2009 (some Member states had thus longer transposition times) and in majority are those by 2015 covered and re-cultivated. The landfills in operation should by idea guarantee that ‘no harm to the environment is caused’, i.e. no litter gets out from the landfill. In practice depends this issue lot from the requirements to the pre-treatment (whether is municipal mixed waste landfilled directly to the landfills or is there capacity and requirement, that waste should undergo treatment whether by incineration or mechanical-biological treatment (MBT)).

Considering this, we plan to gather information by circulating excel table, where among of others following questions are included for the landfills, which are not yet covered and re-cultivated in the 20 km zone from the Baltic Sea and in the 10 (5?) km zone by bigger rivers:

- Name on the Landfill
- Geographical coordinates
- Area in hectares total / open landfilling area
- Status of the landfill (operational, closed for landfilling, but not covered yet)

- Type of the landfill (mixed municipal waste, other non-hazardous waste, disposal of the treatment residues only as incineration bottom ash, MBT fine fractions etc.).
- Are there complains or observations, monitoring results etc., that given landfill does contribute for the flying litter in vicinity, probably affecting marine litter or litter in other waterbodies.
- Which measures are taken to avoid/minimize littering capacity of the landfill, which are in operation or which are not covered yet?
- Evaluation, does given landfill have actual potential to provide litter to the Baltic Sea.