



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	7.9.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016, para 9.1; Outcome of HOD 50-2016, para 4.71

Background

In accordance with paragraph 9.1 of the Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2015 and paragraph 4.71 of the Outcome of HOD 50-2015, the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 5-2016) will be held in the premises of the National Water Management Authority of Poland in Warsaw, Poland, on 25-27 October 2016.

The Meeting will be opened **at 10.00 on Tuesday, 25 October**, and it is expected to terminate **by 16:00 on Thursday, 27 October 2016**.

The Meeting will mainly focus on issues related to hazardous substances that fall under the Terms of Reference of the Pressure Working Group. The Meeting will also address marine litter and underwater noise and continue work on the draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling, assessment of impact by dredging/depositing operations at the sea and other issues. The Meeting will also be invited to consider the report of the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group (RedCore DG) regarding progress in the assessment of input of nutrients.

The Delegations are requested to note that according to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission **basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision** by the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi) by **03 October 2016**. Bulky documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the Meeting. **Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents** should be provided to the Secretariat by **18 October 2016**.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the restricted document library on [PRESSURE 5-2016 Meeting Site](#) in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). Please find here [instructions](#) for signing up as a *first time user* of the Meeting Portal.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than by **18 October 2016**.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcomes of HOD 50-2016, PLC6 12-2016, HOLAS II regarding progress in development of indicators, pressure and Impact Index and other relevant recent meetings (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 3 Marine litter

Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

HOD 50-2016 approved organizing a workshop on implementation of the RAP ML back-to-back with PRESSURE 5-2016 ([Outcome of HOD 50-2016](#), para. 4.66). The Workshop to be held 24 October 2016 in Warsaw (Poland) aims to set up a regional dialog especially for the lead and co-lead countries of the different actions to follow up the implementation of the RAP ML and address the issues to the relevant audience, e.g. HELCOM Working Groups and stakeholders outside the immediate HELCOM structure ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.4). The Meeting will be invited to consider the report of the Workshop including progress on implementation of the RAP ML.

Cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions

PRESSURE 4-2016 stressed the importance of cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) to exchange experience and to discuss progress in the implementation of regional action plans and identify areas for joined action ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.5). The Meeting will be informed of the informal meeting on cooperation on Marine Litter across RSC, held 30 June 2016 in Madeira, with the view to discuss the way forward proposed in the collaboration plan (document 3-1).

Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise

The HELCOM EN-Noise has been in operation since PRESSURE 2-2015. So far the Roadmap on Underwater Noise serves as Terms of Reference (ToR) for the network. The Meeting will be invited to consider and agree on a proposal for the ToR for the network (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

Progress in reporting data to the impulsive noise register

The Meeting will be informed on the progress in reporting national data to the regional impulsive noise register (document to be submitted later by the Secretariat).

The Contracting Parties may wish to provide additional information regarding data reporting to the registry.

Draft report on underwater noise mitigation measures

PRESSURE 4-2016 took note of the compilation of the internationally available reviews on underwater noise mitigation measures and of the questionnaire prepared by BalticBOOST, to be filled in by HELCOM countries in order to identify which of the listed measures are nationally implemented, planned to be, or have the potential to be implemented in the future (PRESSURE 4-2016 document 3-5). PRESSURE 4-2015 agreed to provide comments on the questionnaire, the Secretariat to collate them and post the questionnaire at the HELCOM website by 20 May 2016 to be available for Contracting Parties to fill in by 10 June 2016.

The draft report was submitted to MARITIME 16-2016 for consideration. An update of the draft report on underwater noise mitigation measures will be presented to the Meeting (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

The Meeting is invited to consider the underwater noise mitigation report taking into account that the aim of the Roadmap on underwater noise is to work towards a regional action plan in 2017/18 and decide as appropriate.

Ambient and impulsive noise indicators

HOD 50-2016 approved organizing a two-day workshop on underwater noise, with the support of the BalticBOOST project, theme 4 on underwater noise ([Outcome of HOD 50-2016](#), para. 4.66). The workshop, to be held on 5-6 October 2016, aims to explore and recommend principles for defining levels of underwater noise that are consistent with good environmental status (GES) for sound-sensitive species for underwater noise. More specifically, the workshop is to investigate the possibility to use information on species-specific tolerance to define noise levels consistent with GES. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the report of the Workshop and consider proposals made by the workshop.

For indicators to be included in the second holistic assessment (HOLAS II), GES boundaries and new indicator proposals will be considered from a technical point of view and endorsement by relevant Working Groups and for adoption at HOD 51-2016 (14-15 December 2016).

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider proposed definition of GES for the continuous low-frequency anthropogenic sound indicator and the distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid- frequency impulsive sound indicator; Contracting Parties are invited to inform on the readiness to endorse the GES definition;
- consider proposed shift of status of indicators e.g. from pre-core indicator on continuous low-frequency anthropogenic sound and candidate indicator on distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sounds to core indicator; Contracting Parties are invited to inform on the readiness to endorse the shift of the status for the two indicators, and, pending on the above;
- consider and endorse indicator reports for publication at the HELCOM web-site (documents to be submitted later by the Secretariat).

These indicators will also be brought forward for consideration at STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 (7-11 November). The Contracting Parties are invited to provide a consolidated final response at the State and Conservation meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Dredging/depositing operations and mining on the sea floor

PRESSURE 4-2016 took note of the initial ideas on how to improve the assessment of the impact of the activities on dredging and depositing of dredged material into the sea fully utilizing new reported data. The meeting also pointed out that the methodology should be elaborated and agreed by the Contracting Parties by the end of 2016 to be used for HOLAS II assessments. PRESSURE 4-2016 agreed that the assessment methodology and the procedure of its elaboration should be discussed at the expert meeting.

PRESSURE 4-2016 also agreed on the need to update HELCOM Status Report on Marine sediment extraction in the Baltic Sea (1999), based on reliable, comprehensive, geo-referenced national data.

The expert group elaborated a draft methodology on the assessment of environmental impact of the dredging/depositing operations at sea taking into account the recent developments in OSPAR. The expert group also agreed on a suggestion for the structure of the status report on exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor and the reporting procedure (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft methodology on the assessment of environmental impact of the dredging/depositing operations at sea taking into account the recent developments in OSPAR and endorse the document for the final approval by HOD 51-2016.

The Meeting is also invited to approve the structure of the status report on exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor and the procedure to report relevant data (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider a leadership in the preparation of the status report. Finally, the Meeting is invited to exchange views on a need for establishing a regular expert group on dredging/depositing activities and exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor, possible tasks and targets for the group (a suggestion to be submitted by the Secretariat).

Agenda Item 6 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling

HOD 50-2016 considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Sewage Sludge Handling and took note of the study reservations by Germany and Poland as well as by Sweden that further work is needed to ensure regional added value of the Recommendation. The meeting welcomed that Germany would provide a suggestion for improving the text of the document within three weeks after HOD 50-2016. The HOD meeting invited Poland to clarify the position.

The Meeting is invited to consider and further elaborate the draft of the Recommendation taking into account the suggestion by Germany on improving the document (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

Agenda Item 7 Hazardous substances

Collecting information on hazardous substances to identify HELCOM priorities

PRESSURE 4-2016 agreed with the suggestion by Finland, Poland and Sweden to postpone the review of HELCOM Recommendation 31E/1, the definitions and the purpose of its attachments, until the latter part of year 2017 and in the meantime continue the work on collecting information on hazardous substances.

A draft report by EMEP on deposition of selected hazardous substances (Cd, Hg, benz/a/pyrene and polybrominated biphenyl ethers - PBDE) will be submitted to the Meeting for consideration and endorsement for publication in HELCOM environmental fact sheets. The Meeting is also invited to agree on the list of substances to be assessed by EMEP in the upcoming years.

PRESSURE 4-2016 suggested that the future PLC reporting should pay more attention to the hazardous substances. The meeting requested the RedCore Drafting Group to elaborate a proposal for the Contracting Parties to compile more detailed national information on the substances which were prioritized (document to be submitted by Sweden).

The Meeting is invited to discuss the progress in collecting data on hazardous substances based on national monitoring programmes and international projects as well as the progress in collection these data achieved by PLC-6 project. The Contracting Parties are invited to inform on existing or planned national monitoring programmes aimed at collection of data on input of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea and their priorities (round table in connection with suggestion by Sweden).

Micropollutants in WWTP

HELCOM 37-2016 agreed on the future HELCOM actions and that the Pressure group should follow the implementation of the action - "Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants". The result of questionnaire on prioritised micropollutants was briefly discussed by PRESSURE 4-2016. The Meeting is invited to agree on the further possible steps to implement the action (background document will be submitted by the Secretariat and presentation by Sweden on WWT measures).

Pharmaceuticals

HOD 50-2016 approved in principle the draft Status report on pharmaceuticals and its publishing in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings (BSEP). HOD 50-2016 also decided that the publication should be complemented by the annexes containing valuable explanatory information and set up the procedures to approve them. The Status report together with annexes was approved for publication in August 2016 (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

HOD 50-2016 also took note of the comment by CCB that the Status report has to be followed by elaboration of measures addressing the reduction of input of pharmaceuticals into the environment.

PRESSURE 4-2016 decided to establish a group to work out suggestions for further actions on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region.

The Meeting is invited to discuss further steps to elaborate coordinated measures addressing issues related to input of pharmaceuticals into the environment, including filling data and knowledge gaps, identification of the priority substances and elaboration of a suggestion on joint measures to reduce input of pharmaceuticals into the Baltic Sea.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on tasks and time frame for the group (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

State of the HELCOM hot spot Krasny Bor

HOD 50-2016 took note that Russia will provide information on current activities on the landfill, progress achieved and future planning, including a roadmap towards remediation of the landfill and removal of the HELCOM hot spot for the next meeting of PRESSURE. HOD 50-2016 also requested the Pressure Group to follow up progress at the Krasnyi Bor landfill as well as to consider the risks posed by similar sites around the Baltic Sea.

The Meeting is invited to consider the current environmental situation around the landfill and progress in mitigation of the potential risk posed by the site (document will be submitted by Russia).

Agenda Item 8 Pollution Load Compilation

PRESSURE 4-2016 considered the updated roadmap for implementation of the PLC-6 project taking into account the delay in reporting of national data and approved it as presented by the Project Coordinator. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on progress in implementation of the PLC-6 project and a timeline for elaboration of PLC products (document will be submitted by the PLC-6 Project Coordinator).

A draft EMEP report on N-deposition will also be submitted to the Meeting for consideration and endorsement for publication in HELCOM environmental fact sheets (document by EMEP for endorsement).

Methodologies to follow up the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

PRESSURE 4-2016 took note the information on a methodology for accounting an extra reduction in CART follow up, presented by BNI, and discussed how the approach can be used for the MAI/CART assessment. PRESSURE 4-2016 requested the RedCore DG to elaborate more detailed documentation describing the methodology and limits for its application as well as provide examples.

The Meeting is invited to consider the methodological document (document will be submitted by RedCore DG) and endorse the use of the methodology for CART assessment.

PRESSURE 4-2016 considered the initial suggestions for the CART assessment 2016 and provided feedback on the contents of the policy message product. PRESSURE 4-2016 also agreed that the HELCOM policy message should be based on a single agreed methodological approach and identified the major questions to be answered.

The Meeting is invited to consider an updated suggestion by RedCore DG for the content of the CART assessment policy message (document will be submitted by RedCore DG) and provide feedback on the document. The final document will be elaborated at the workshop dedicated to MAI/CART assessment methodologies.

Workshop on MAI/CART assessment methodologies

HOD 50-2016 agreed that the workshop dedicated to MAI/CART assessment methodologies will be organized in February 2017 when the recent assessment results are as ready as possible. The RedCore DG will prepare a draft agenda for the workshop. The Meeting is invited to consider the draft and agree on the agenda.

PLC-7 project proposal

HOD 50-2016 agreed on the Concept Note for the Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7) project, including its objectives, tasks, and final products and requested the Pressure WG to develop the PLC-7 project proposal for consideration by HOD 51-2016.

The Meeting is invited to consider the project proposal prepared by RedCore DG taking into account recommendations by PRESSURE and HOD (document will be submitted the Secretariat) and endorse the document for further submission to HOD 51-2016.

Internal load

HELCOM 37-2016 agreed on the future HELCOM actions and HOD 50-2016 requested to include into the agenda of PRESSURE 5-2016 the issues related to the assessment of the role of internal load of nutrients, particularly phosphorus in the Baltic and potential management measures. The document agreed by HELCOM 37-2016 implies a 3-step approach for implementation of this action. The first step - a scientific workshop - has already been implemented. The seminar "Sea-based measures to reduce the effects of eutrophication" was arranged jointly by the Swedish Ministry of Environment, the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SwAM) and the Baltic Sea Centre and Baltic Nest Institute at the Stockholm University on 12 February 2015. Minutes from the seminar are available in [the Meeting Document Library](#).

The Meeting is invited to exchange views regarding the potential role of sea based measures to mitigate eutrophication of the Baltic Sea (background document will be submitted by BNI). The Meeting is also invited to suggest the way forward to implementation of the next steps of the action on management of internal load (a concern by CCB).

Monitoring recommendations

HOD 50-2016 adopted the Recommendation on waterborne pollution input assessment as HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1 and the Recommendation on monitoring of airborne pollution input as HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/2. HOD 50-2016 took note of the information by Germany about ongoing national considerations on data collection and management for various related reporting requirements and possibilities to further optimize the future PLC reporting processes. Germany will come back to this issue in the run up of the preparation of PRESSURE 5-2016.

Agenda Item 9 Follow-up of HELCOM Recommendations: implementation, reporting and revision

A new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements was launched in May 2016 including information on the accomplishment of joint regional actions and national actions agreed in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations from 2010 and 2013.

The Meeting will be informed on the current status of implementation of actions related to the Pressure group and is invited to consider and plan for their implementation (document to be submitted by the Secretariat).

PRESSURE 4-2016 took note of the information by Russia on the need to revise some of the HELCOM Recommendations falling under the Pressure group ToR, and that Russia is ready to prepare a relevant overview. The meeting agreed to include the issue into the agenda for PRESSURE 5-2016. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information prepared by Russia, discuss the HELCOM documents which require revision and prepare a suggestion on how to organize this work in future.

Agenda Item 10 Any other business

The Delegations and Observers are invited to update the list of contact addresses and observers of the Pressure Group (document to be submitted).

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the delegations and observers at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 11 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

HELCOM PRESSURE 1-2016 elected Mr. Lars Sonesten, Sweden, as the Chair the Group for a two-year period (2014-2016). The Group still has not elected Vice-Chair(s).

The Meeting is invited to elect/re-elect the Chair and elect Vice-Chair(s) of the Pressure group for the next two-year period 2017-2018.

Agenda Item 12 Future work and meetings

HOD 47-2014 adopted the working plan for Pressure group for the period 2014-2016. The Group is invited to discuss the implementation of the working plan and agree on the working plan for the next 2-year period (document will be submitted by the Chair).

The Meeting is invited to agree on the main issues to be dealt with in the next meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 6-2017) to take place on 24-28 April 2017 as well as to agree on a tentative date of the seventh meeting.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider the possibility to host the next PRESSURE 6-2017 meeting as well as future meetings of the Group.

Agenda Item 13 Outcome and closing of the Meeting

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