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### Background

Following the Terms of Reference (ToR) adopted by HELCOM HOD 46-2014 ([Outcome of HELCOM HOD 46-2014](#), para 3.6) and taking into account the commitments of the Ministerial Declaration and the results of implementation of the work plan 2014-2016, a draft Work Plan for the Pressure group for two years 2017-2019 and beyond has been outlined, as contained in this document. The evaluation of implementation of the Work plan 2014-2016 is also included in the document.

The Action column includes concrete activities which could be identified and stemming from the ToR. Actions have been grouped into larger themes (Pollution Load Compilations, Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, etc.). Interlinked activities column refers to activities both within HELCOM and external processes.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft and develop the Work Plan further, including to:

- prioritize tasks time-wise and focus on concrete deliverables within upcoming two years;
- identify where cooperation and synergies should be sought with the relevant work carried out in global and European levels;
- identify lead countries and timetables where these are missing.

The aim is to have the Work Plan presented to HOD 51-2016 for endorsement.

## Evaluation of Implementation of the Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area 2014-2016

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	IMPLEMENTATION
<b>Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators*</b>			
1	Annual compilation of Atmospheric inputs of nitrogen, cadmium, lead, mercury and dioxins and furans to the Baltic Sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce annual report and BSEFS<sup>†</sup></li> <li>- Guide development of possible core pressure indicators/ supporting parameters on hazardous substances (nutrients covered in No. 6) and subsequent operationalization of indicators within PRESSURE</li> <li>- Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances</li> </ul>	Data reporting by CPs PLC-Air Consultant EMEP RedCore DG	BSEP on airborne input of hazardous substances are published annually. Discussed and decided on annual rotation of some substances in the assessment. Pollutants of high concern were identified through questionnaire.
2	Annual compilation of waterborne inputs of nutrients and selected hazardous substances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish procedure to fill in gaps and approve datasets</li> <li>- Produce annual dataset</li> <li>- Guide development of possible core pressure indicators /supporting parameters on hazardous substances (nutrients covered in No. 6) and subsequent operationalization of indicators within PRESSURE</li> </ul>	Data reporting by CPs BNI Sweden PLC-Water Consultant SYKE RedCore DG	The annual and periodic procedures to release PLC products was elaborated and adopted by HOD 50-2016. Datasets on annual nutrient inputs by 2014 compiled. HELCOM Core indicator on nutrient inputs (MAI) was developed and agreed. HELCOM Core indicators on hazardous substances were agreed by HOD 49-2015.
3	Compilation of PLC 6 data (monitoring in 2012/2014), incl. quantification of waterborne point, diffuse and natural sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- updated and extended PLC-Water Guidelines</li> <li>- production of an assessment report</li> </ul>	PLC-6 project	Updated PLC-Water Guideline adopted and published on the HELCOM web page. the Recommendation on waterborne pollution input assessment as HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1 was adopted.

\* Coordinate and organize the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to waterborne and airborne discharges, emissions and inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances: Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) (Water, and Air in cooperation with EMEP) and continuous work on improving data reporting and quality, as well as prepare assessment reports meeting policy needs, and in relation to PLC be responsible for that:

- HELCOM core indicators for pressures on marine environment are developed and operationalized (in cooperation with EMEP) to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States;
- PLC associated technical guidelines for quality assurance are developed and updated to ensure confident monitoring and assessment results for inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, taking into account the existing international guidance documents;
- PLC database is developed and maintained;

Further develop and maintain additional pressure indicators, e.g. concerning inputs to the marine environment of noise, litter and hazardous substances and other emerging issues

<sup>†</sup> Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet

			the Recommendation on monitoring of airborne pollution input as HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/2 was adopted. Annual data on input of nutrients are compiled by the year 2014. The assessment report is in progress will be ready in 2017.
4	Establish new modernized PLC-Water database, incl. web application and establish links to HELCOM GIS map services	PLUS project BNI (Database Host) in cooperation with Secretariat	PLUS project successfully completed and the final products including PLC database and Reporting WEB application accepted by PRESSURE 4-2016. The PLC reporting WEB application is operational and includes map service. All the data on waterborne input of nutrients are reported through the WEB application since 2016.
5	Improve PLC data on nutrient inputs from upstream sources incl. transboundary watercourses, retention co-efficient, as well as municipal and industrial point sources in the whole catchment e.g. via cooperation with relevant river basin commissions and non-CPs	RedCore DG	The workshop on transboundary issues was held in Uppsala Sweden in May 2015. The data on transboundary inputs of nutrients are collected including inputs from Ukraine, Czech Republic and Belarus. Data on point sources are collected by the countries via periodic PLC reporting.
<b>Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme<sup>‡</sup></b>			
6	Develop and update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	RedCore DG [a possible project to support activities]	The report based on data up to 2012 published on the HELCOM web page.
7	Develop and update the system for following up on progress towards country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CART)	RedCore DG [a possible project to support activities]	First CART assessment based on data up to 2012 adopted and published on the HELCOM web page. The work on policy message and accounting of extra reduction in the assessment will be continued.

<sup>‡</sup> Monitor and assess the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, as well as support the review of the scheme based on the best available scientific knowledge in cooperation with other relevant subsidiary bodies and institutes and modeling centres, as may be necessary: Develop and maintain a system to evaluate progress by the HELCOM countries in meeting their country-allocated nutrient reduction targets of the HELCOM nutrient reductions scheme, follow-up on the progress and prepare reports and recommendations for improved implementation; Cooperate to address nutrient emissions and inputs from non-Contracting Parties to meet the expected reductions according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, e.g. in relation to the Gothenburg Protocol under the UN ECE CLRTAP as well as EU NECD, the work of river basin management commissions/bodies; Identify and prioritize needs for further reduction of nutrients, with the aim to bridge the gap in translating the nutrient reduction scheme into area or site-specific implementation, with a view to, among others, pointing to investment needs

8	Identify how to cooperate more closely with relevant river basin commissions in order to engage them in the work on CART and PLC and address nutrients inputs and emissions in transboundary context	[lead countries(s) to be identified]	The workshop devoted to the affairs related to cooperation with river basin commission was arranged in May 2015 but was not attended by any representatives of the commissions.
9	Assess the effects of implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol and upcoming NEC II directive on atmospheric deposition on the Baltic Sea	a study to be initiated in cooperation with EMEP RedCore DG	Not implemented
10	Identify and prioritize needs for further reduction of nutrients (based on gaps in implementation and reduction potential), incl. prepare recommendations for improved implementation of country-allocated nutrient reduction targets		New HELCOM measures were prepared by GEAR group and agreed by HOD 49-2015. The work regarding sea based measures to mitigate internal load of nutrients has started.
<b>Action 3 Pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge<sup>§</sup></b>			
11	Finalize HELCOM recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge	Lead: Germany, Sweden	The draft Recommendation on sewage sludge handling is in progress.
12	Follow-up on full implementation of HELCOM Rec. 28E/5 and 28E/6 on sewage treatment		Not implemented
13	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA NUTRI of EUSBSR	Finland leading in their capacity as Coordinator for PA NUTRI	Cooperation is established through regular attendance of the PA NUTRI steering committee as well as presentation of the outcomes of the projects at the PRESSURE meetings.
<b>Action 4 Solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances**</b>			
14	Follow up knowledge gathering and development of relevant legislation of hazardous substances. Based on this, identify substances and scope areas for which joint actions might be needed, such as atmospheric inputs and pharmaceuticals	[Poland, Germany to lead]	The Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea is adopted and published. The work on pharmaceuticals will be continued by the expert group. The revision of the HELCOM priorities for hazardous substances at the stage of gathering of relevant information.

<sup>§</sup> Cooperate on pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge

\*\* Share best practices and solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances from existing sources and exchange information of EU BAT, BEP, REACH and other legislation and of activities concerning new and emerging substances (e.g. pharmaceuticals)

15	Early ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury and subsequently identification of possible joint actions for harmonized implementation		Not implemented
16	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Hazards of EUSBSR	Sweden leading in their capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards	Cooperation is established through regular attendance of the PA Hazards steering committee as well as presentation of the outcomes of the projects at the PRESSURE meetings.
17	Follow up on progress with implementing the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea	Lead: Lithuania, Sweden	The HELCOM Recommendation on handling dredged material including the Guideline and reporting format was adopted by HELCOM 36-2015. The annual reporting was organized. A draft methodology for the assessment of environmental impact by dredging/depositing operation was elaborated. The work will be continued by the expert group.
<b>Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan <sup>††</sup></b>			
18	Develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, and development of core indicator(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead: Germany with assistance of Secretariat</li> </ul>	The RAP ML was elaborated and adopted by HELCOM 36-2015. HELCOM indicators on micro-litter, beach litter and litter on the sea floor are under development.
19	Coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Lead by Germany, in cooperation with STATE&CONSERVATION, MARITIME RedCore DG	A workshop on the implementation of the RAP ML was organized in Warsaw 2016. The HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter was established. Among its ToR is to facilitate the implementation of the RAP on ML The follow-up of its implementation to be continued.
<b>Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise<sup>*††</sup></b>			
20	Identify initial issues for consideration in a Regional Action Plan (RAP) for underwater noise and provide practical arrangements and timelines for developing the RAP	In coordination with STATE and MARITIME [a project]	The Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 was adopted in 2016 (HELCOM 37-2016) aiming at preparing a knowledge base towards a RAP on underwater noise in 2017/2018.

<sup>††</sup> Lead regional implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and coordinate its implementation with relevant subsidiary bodies to enable their substantial contribution

<sup>\*††</sup> Lead the work on underwater noise, including evaluating inputs of noise to the marine environment with the view to developing regional action on underwater noise as far as necessary, in coordination with relevant subsidiary bodies.

21	Contribute to development of core pressure indicator on underwater noise	In coordination with STATE [a project]	The HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (HELCOM EN-Noise) was established. HELCOM indicators on continuous and impulsive sound are under development.
<b>Action 7 Assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution<sup>§§</sup></b>			
22	Consider, and where applicable agree on, the elimination of remaining hot spots on the JCP list		6 HELCOM hot spots related to municipal WWTP were deleted from the list.
23	Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures		The group follows up the situation around the HELCOM hot spot Krasnyi Bor.
<b>Action 8 Reporting on implementation of BSAP and HELCOM recommendations in the remit of PRESSURE</b>			
24	Contribute to indicator-based follow up system for BSAP		Suggestions for the new indicator-based BSAP follow-up system were made.
25	Establish longer-term planning for the reporting of Recommendations, organized theme-wise in response to policy needs		The work to be continued.

<sup>§§</sup> Respond to the requests to assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution as may be needed; Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures, including in relation to remaining hot spots from the list of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme

## Draft Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area 2017-2019

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<b>Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators<sup>9</sup></b>				
1.1	Annual compilation of air- and waterborne inputs of nitrogen, phosphorus and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea: - Produce annual report and BSEFS <sup>10</sup> - Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances in accordance with the HELCOM priorities and data availability	Data reporting by CPs EMEP RedCore DG		- Annually - continuously
1.2	Compilation of PLC 7 data (monitoring in 2017): - updated PLC-Water Guidelines; - quantification of the sources of inputs of nutrients; - assessment of input of selected hazardous substances, their sources and pathways	PLC-7 project RedCore DG	MSFD for EU countries	- 2019 data available - 2020 report
1.3	Regular update of the HELCOM information resources to collect, store and provide access to the data on input of nutrients and selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea including reporting web applications and relevant HELCOM GIS map services.	BNI (Database Host) PLC data manager the Secretariat RedCore DG		continuous
1.4	Improve PLC data on nutrient inputs from upstream sources incl. transboundary watercourses, retention co-efficient, as well as municipal and industrial point sources in the whole catchment e.g. via cooperation with relevant river basin commissions and non-CPs.	Projects RedCore DG PA Nutri		2019

<sup>9</sup> Coordinate and organize the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to waterborne and airborne discharges, emissions and inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances: Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) (Water, and Air in cooperation with EMEP) and continuous work on improving data reporting and quality, as well as prepare assessment reports meeting policy needs, and in relation to PLC be responsible for that:

- HELCOM core indicators for pressures on marine environment are developed and operationalized (in cooperation with EMEP) to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States;
- PLC associated technical guidelines for quality assurance are developed and updated to ensure confident monitoring and assessment results for inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, taking into account the existing international guidance documents;
- PLC database is developed and maintained;

Further develop and maintain additional pressure indicators, e.g. concerning inputs to the marine environment of noise, litter and hazardous substances and other emerging issues

<sup>10</sup> Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet

<b>Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme<sup>11</sup></b>				
2.1	Update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	RedCore DG	MSFD for EU countries	annually 2020
2.2	Regularly assess progress towards country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CART) Development of the methodological background for the assessment of the progress towards	BNI Sweden RedCore DG PLC-7 possible support by project	MSFD for EU countries	workshop in 2017 based on the country's needs, 2020
2.3	Identify how to cooperate more closely with relevant river basin commissions in order to engage them to consider the environmental targets for the Baltic Sea in river management plans	[lead countries(s)] RedCore DG PA Nutri PA Bioeconomy	WFD and Nitrate directive for EU countries SCIOVO Russia HELCOM Agri group	continuous work
2.4	Assess potential effects of implementation of sea based measures to mitigate internal load of phosphorus in the Baltic sea and possible adverse effect of these measures on the marine environment.	BNI Sweden Projects PA Nutri [lead country]		to be investigated
2.5	Assess effectiveness of measures to reduce input of nutrients and identify sources which have a reduction potential.	PLC-7 PA Nutri	In cooperation with GEAR and Agri MSFD for EU countries	2020

<sup>11</sup> Monitor and assess the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, as well as support the review of the scheme based on the best available scientific knowledge in cooperation with other relevant subsidiary bodies and institutes and modeling centres, as may be necessary: Develop and maintain a system to evaluate progress by the HELCOM countries in meeting their country-allocated nutrient reduction targets of the HELCOM nutrient reductions scheme, follow-up on the progress and prepare reports and recommendations for improved implementation; Cooperate to address nutrient emissions and inputs from non-Contracting Parties to meet the expected reductions according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, e.g. in relation to the Gothenburg Protocol under the UN ECE CLRTAP as well as EU NECD, the work of river basin management commissions/bodies; Identify and prioritize needs for further reduction of nutrients, with the aim to bridge the gap in translating the nutrient reduction scheme into area or site-specific implementation, with a view to, among others, pointing to investment needs

<b>Action 3 Pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge<sup>12</sup></b>				
3.1	Finalize HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge	Lead: Germany, Russia		2017
3.2	Follow-up on full implementation of HELCOM Rec. 28E/5 and 28E/6 on sewage treatment	CPs reporting		continuous
3.3	Follow up implementation of the HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge in terms of compilation of the reported data and discussion on the best available technics and practices to utilize its valuable properties minimising a potential adverse environmental effect.	[lead countries] projects	Contribution to the implementation of the EU circular economy package.	continuous
3.4	Implementation of the new HELCOM action on Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants.	[lead countries] projects	In possible cooperation with OSPAR and other RSC Contribution by Baltic Eye through project	2018
3.5	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Nutri of EUSBSR	Finland and Poland are leading		continuous
<b>Action 4 Solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances<sup>13</sup></b>				
4.1	Revision of the strategy to implement the HELCOM objective for hazardous substances priorities outlined by the HELCOM Recommendation 31E/1 "Implementing HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances".	[lead countries] projects	MSFD and WFD for HELCOM countries being EU Member States, and relevant legislation for Russia PA Hazard	2019
4.2	Follow up knowledge gathering and development of relevant legislation of hazardous substances. Based on this, identify substances and scope areas for which joint actions might be needed, such as atmospheric inputs and pharmaceuticals	[lead country] projects RedCore	PA Hazards MSFD and WFD for EU Member States, and relevant legislation for Russian Federation. Work on core indicators on hazardous-substances Assessment of the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals by STATE WFD Watch list	2019

<sup>12</sup> Cooperate on pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge

<sup>13</sup> Share best practices and solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances from existing sources and exchange information of EU BAT, BEP, REACH and other legislation and of activities concerning new and emerging substances (e.g. pharmaceuticals)

4.3	Early ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury and subsequently identification of possible joint actions for harmonized implementation			
4.4	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Hazards of EUSBSR	Sweden leading in their capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards		continuous
4.5	Compilation of data on dredging/depositing operations at sea reported in accordance with the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea and regular assessing the effect of these operations on the aquatic environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalizing the methodology to assess environmental effect of dredging/depositing operations at sea.</li> </ul>	Expert Group on dredging/depositing operations at Sea	Harmonized with OSPAR	continuous
4.6	Development of the system for reporting, verification and storing the data on dredging/depositing operations as well as tool for visualizing the environmental effects by these operations.	Expert Group on dredging/depositing operations at Sea	In cooperation with OSPAR	2019
4.7	Assessing the state of threat to the Baltic Sea marine environment posed by input of pharmaceuticals, filling in data and knowledge gaps, prioritization of measures with aim to elaborate regional policy in terms of pharmaceuticals in the region.	Expert group on pharmaceuticals PA Hazard[s] [lead country(s)] projects	In cooperation with UNESCO MSFD and WFD for EU Member States, and relevant legislation for Russian Federation. Cooperation with the other RSC.	Workshop(s) 2019
<b>Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan <sup>14</sup></b>				
5.1	Development of HELCOM core indicator(s) related to marine litter in the Baltic Sea environment	Indicator leads: Poland-beach litter; Finland-microliter. Denmark and Sweden co-lead litter on the seafloor	STATE related to development of core indicators and joint monitoring In cooperation with OSPAR and Barcelona Conventions	2018

<sup>14</sup> Lead regional implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and coordinate its implementation with relevant subsidiary bodies to enable their substantial contribution

5.2	Coordinate and follow up implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Leads countries, PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Marine Litter) in cooperation with STATE&CONSERVATION, MARITIME and FISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange information with OSPAR and the other RSCs.</li> </ul>	Continuous
<b>Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise<sup>15</sup></b>				
5.1	Implementation of Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 aiming at preparing a knowledge base towards a RAP on underwater noise in 2017/2018.	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with STATE&CONSERVATION and MARITIME	Contribute to MSFD for EU Member States, and relevant legislation of Russian Federation Cooperation with OSPAR Intersessional group on noise	2018
5.2	Contribute to development of core indicators on underwater noise	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with STATE [a project] Indicator leads: Poland-continuous sound; Germany-impulsive sound.	In coordination with OSPAR to the extent it is appropriate.	2017

<sup>15</sup> Lead the work on underwater noise, including evaluating inputs of noise to the marine environment with the view to developing regional action on underwater noise as far as necessary, in coordination with relevant subsidiary bodies.

<b>Action 7 Assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution<sup>16</sup></b>				
7.1	Consider, and where applicable agree on, the elimination of remaining hot spots on the JCP list	Contracting parties		Hot Spots included in the BSAP NIPs should be removed by 2018
7.2	Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures			On-going
<b>Action 8 Reporting on implementation of BSAP and HELCOM recommendations in the remit of PRESSURE</b>				
8.1	Contribute to indicator-based follow up system for BSAP; regular reviewing the state of implementation of the HELCOM agreements; follow up implementation of national actions.	CPs to report	New indicator-based BSAP follow-up system initiated under GEAR, to complement the joint documentation on Programmes of Measures	continuous
8.2	Establishing a long term plan on revision of the HELCOM agreement which fall under the ToR of the group		In cooperation with GEAR	continuous

<sup>16</sup> Respond to the requests to assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution as may be needed; Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures, including in relation to remaining hot spots from the list of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme