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<b>Document title</b>	Proposal to invite NEFCO to consider its possibilities to co-operate and coordinate potential international support in project preparation on Krasnyi Bor landfill
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<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	7- Hazardous substances
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**NOTE:** *This is a late document submitted after the established deadline, meaning that it may not be considered by the Meeting.*

### Background

Krasnyi Bor hazardous waste dump in the vicinity of St. Petersburg has been recently under discussion and consideration within the HELCOM framework as well as in mass media in some HELCOM Contracting Parties. At the HELCOM PRESSURE 4-2016 (Paragraphs 6.17-6.25) Russia provided information on the conditions and the state of environmental measures at the toxic waste landfill and the meeting discussed the current state and operations of the treatment facilities, future remediation plans as well as the necessity in the long run to find other locations and options for environmentally safe hazardous waste management.

At the meeting some Contracting Parties also expressed readiness for cooperation, sharing experience and expertise on handling hazardous waste. The Meeting also noted the information by Russia that the national funds are already allocated in the regional and federal budgets to mitigate the most acute environmental risks posed by the landfill. In addition the Russian Federation intends to involve international experience as well as international financial tools into the remediation work of the area. The HELCOM PRESSURE meeting expressed the preparedness for cooperation and assisting Russia to identify potential external funding sources to mitigate environmental risks and to eliminate environmental damage caused by the landfill.

In the HELCOM Annual meeting in 2016 the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation NEFCO, which is owned by the five Nordic Governments, indicated its preparedness to study options to promote environmentally sound solutions of the Krasnyi Bor hazardous waste dump.

As suggested by the PRESSURE 4-2016 meeting a study visit of the HELCOM group of experts to the landfill was arranged on 10 June 2016 in order to evaluate the current situation at the polygon and to outline the ways towards elimination of the hot spot. The study visit was very much appreciated by the visitors. The HELCOM HOD 50-2016 meeting in June considered the outcome of the study visit, thanked Russia for open and constructive discussions on the site as well as for offering to provide further information on the current activities on the landfill, progress achieved and future planning (road map) towards remediation of the landfill for consideration of HELCOM PRESSURE 5-2016.

Based on the recent development discussion has been continued on national and multinational level to seek possible solutions to involve international experience and international financial tools to the process. From the previous experience in the 1990s e.g. in the Sillamäe Radioactive Tailing Pond Remediation Project, Estonia, cooperation with and coordination by NEFCO was found to be very successful. Moreover, NEFCO has a solid track record from environmental investment projects in Northwest Russia. NEFCO would

according to our conclusion have the best and most relevant expertise and experience to coordinate potential international support in project preparation including (i) plan for environmental monitoring, (ii) site surveys, (iii) inventory of stored hazardous waste based on available data, (iv) identifying most appropriate and cost efficient remediation measure for various hazardous waste fractions (liquid and solid), (v) preparation of investment plan to address all environmental issues related to the Krasnyi Bor landfill and (vi) preparation of long term plan for the hazardous waste disposal in St. Petersburg area.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- consider the proposed way forward for involving international experience and cooperation with international financial institutions,
- invite NEFCO to consider its possibilities to establish cooperation with Russia, with the local authorities of St. Petersburg and other stakeholders, to coordinate potential international support in project preparation and to inform HELCOM Pressure Group on the actions taken and progress made.