



## Outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 5-2016)

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## Outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 5-2016)

### Introduction

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

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention attended the Meeting. Observers from Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and WWF Poland, as well as invited guests from the Baltic Nest Institute (BNI), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), EUSBSR-PA Hazards, EUSBSR-PA Nutri and representatives of the Krasnyi Bor Landfill and TechnoTerra. The Data Consultants EMEP MSC-W and MSC-E also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 Ms. Adriana Dembowska welcomed the participants to the Meeting on behalf of the host, the National Water Management Authority.

0.4 HELCOM Executive Secretary, Ms. Monika Stankiewicz expressed her gratitude for the increasing attention to the important issues, such as hazardous substances, dredging, marine litter and underwater noise.

0.5 The Chair of the Group acknowledged that this is the first time in the Pressure Group's lifetime that all the Contracting Parties are represented at the Group's meeting.

0.6 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group, and Ms. Monika Stankiewicz. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz and Ms. Leena Heikkilä, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1-Rev.1.

### **Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work**

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcomes of other HELCOM meetings of relevance to Pressure Group (doc. 2-1) and decided to make use of the presented information under relevant items, as appropriate.

### **Agenda Item 3 Marine litter**

3.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Workshop on Implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter (ML) in general (doc 3-3) and discussed the progress in implementation of the RAP ML. The Meeting approved the updated table to follow up implementation (Annex 3 of doc. 3-3). The Meeting noted that there are still problems for the Contracting Parties to take a lead even in small actions. The Meeting welcomed that Poland will take a lead action RL13.

3.2 The Meeting took note of a suggestion by Germany to have regular workshops on implementation of the RAP on ML, e.g. back-to-back with Pressure group meetings.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the information on cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) (doc.3-1).

3.4 The Meeting took note that the next meeting of RSCs may be held in Germany and invited HELCOM members to participate in the RSCs cooperation.

3.5 The Meeting noted that the cooperation should serve for SDG goals and that cooperation between the secretariats of the RSC should be strengthened.

#### **Microplastics**

3.6 The Meeting took note of the information on concrete ways of reducing microplastics in stormwater and sewage (doc. 3-2) presented by CCB.

3.7 The Meeting considered the need to update HELCOM Recommendations 23/5 “Reduction of discharges from urban areas by the proper management of storm water systems” and 18/4 “Managing wetlands and freshwater ecosystems for retention of nutrients”, respectively, addressing stormwater management systems and use of wetlands, with a view to promote BAT/BEP and application of ensure synergistic and cost-efficient solutions. The Meeting also considered a potential revision of HELCOM Recommendations 28E/5 “Reduction of discharges from urban areas by the proper management of storm water systems”.

3.8 The Meeting invited the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter to investigate the possibilities to update the Recommendations and come up with the concrete suggestions and timeline. The Meeting decided to include a possibility to revise the Recommendations into the Work Plan of the Pressure group.

#### **Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise**

4.1 The Meeting considered documents on the two HELCOM indicators on underwater noise: on Impulsive sound – candidate indicator on ‘Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sounds’ (doc. 4-3-Rev.1) and on Continuous sound – pre-core indicator on ‘Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound’ (doc. 4-4-Rev.1), noting that the documents have been submitted also to STATE&CONSERVATION 5-2016 (7-11 November) with a request to the Contracting Parties to provide a consolidated final response. The indicators will be used for the HOLAS II assessment through a descriptive approach.

4.2 The Meeting welcomed the progress of the indicators work and supported to shift the status of the indicator ‘Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sounds’ to pre-core indicator.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the concern by Finland regarding the lack of monitoring of impulsive noise and that the discussion should be continued at the upcoming State&Conservation meeting.

4.4 The Meeting further considered the proposed indicator concept for continuous sound presented in document 4-4-Rev.1 and the proposed assessment protocol.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the position of Denmark that the assessment protocol follows a very precautionary approach, since the first step of the assessment proposed also applies to areas where no sensitive species are present.

4.6 The Meeting agreed that the formulation should be fine-tuned at STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 to clarify that this first step only applies to areas where sensitive species are present. The Meeting also agreed that national Pressure group experts will contact experts in the State&Conservation group to elaborate a consolidated position.

4.7 The Meeting took note of the Swedish suggestion, supported by Germany, to expand the frequency bands to include higher frequencies bands up to 200 kHz in the planned monitoring. Germany also informed about the setting up of a research and development project measuring also frequency bands especially effecting harbour porpoises in German waters of the North and Baltic Sea.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the progress in reporting data to the impulsive noise register (doc. 4-5). The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide additional information regarding upcoming data reporting to the registry by **11 November** to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)).

- 4.9 The Meeting noted that lacking of impulsive events are to be reported as zero values to the registry.
- 4.10 The Meeting took note of the information on Resolutions from the 8th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (doc. 4-6 and 4-6-Annex 1) and invited the Contracting Parties to share and use it nationally, as appropriate.
- 4.11 The Meeting invited the HELCOM EN-Noise to cooperate in updating the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities and agreed to include the task in the HELCOM EN-Noise ToR.
- 4.12 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on Underwater Noise, held on 5-6 October 2016 (doc. 4-7).
- 4.13 Based on the Outcome of the Workshop, the Meeting:
- considered the recommended principles for establishing good environmental status (GES) for impulsive and continuous noise (Annex 5 and Annex 6 of the Outcome, respectively) noting that in the future they may need to be amended based on new knowledge;
  - supported improvement of the regional registry of impulsive events.
- 4.14 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Russia and suggestion to consider the recommended principles further at the meeting of State&Conservation group. The Meeting invited Russia to lift the study reservation within two weeks (**by 11 November**) and inform the Secretariat accordingly ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)).
- 4.15 The Meeting took note of the Danish position that, since the draft Commission decision on GES assessment under MFSD state that the threshold values and threshold levels should be agreed upon at union level, Denmark is of the opinion that final decision on GES principles and threshold values should be consolidated at EU-levels in accordance to the draft Commission decision. Therefore, Denmark is not in the position to support the presented GES principles at the moment and makes a study reservation on Annex 5 of doc. 4-7.
- 4.16 The Meeting took note of the information that the discussion on the issue related to implications of the latest version of the revised GES decision will be held at the upcoming GEAR meeting.
- 4.17 The Meeting took note that Germany cannot agree with principle one in Annex V of the document with regard to harbour porpoises. The Meeting agreed that a new proposal for this specific principle will be circulated via the HELCOM EN Noise and delivered to the upcoming GEAR meeting for consideration.
- 4.18 The Meeting agreed that the suggested principles are a fruitful way forward and that the discussion regarding consistency of principles for defining GES in EU, OSPAR and HELCOM areas should be continued at GEAR group. The Meeting also agreed to include the corresponding item into the ToR for HELCOM EN-Noise.
- 4.19 The Meeting agreed to support national testing of the recommended decision-support trees for ambient and impulsive noise (Annex 3 and Annex 4 of doc. 4-7) and tasked the HELCOM EN-Noise to further develop them according to the conclusions from the workshop, taking into account a two week's study reservation (**by 11 November 2016**) by Russia.
- 4.20 The Meeting also took note that Denmark can support the "decision-support trees" are developed further with the understanding that this is a working process and that it will be a possibility for the Contracting Parties to evaluate the final approach.
- 4.21 The Meeting considered the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the HELCOM EN-Noise for the period 2017-2018 (doc. 4-1). The Meeting recalled that HELCOM 37-2016 adopted the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 and that the HELCOM EN-Noise work has so far focused on facilitating the implementation of the Roadmap.

4.22 The Meeting noted the view by Russia on the need to amend the ToR to stress the need of cooperation with Maritime group as well as closer coordination with IMO activities. The Meeting also took note of the position of Denmark that the timeline set (2016) for certain items in the ToR is not feasible. The Meeting also took note of the views of Sweden to include ambient noise data handling in the ToR.

4.23 The Meeting agreed on the revised ToR as contained in document 4-1/Rev. 1, taking note of the study reservation by Germany, Denmark and Russia for national consultation of the revised ToR by **21 November**. The remaining Contracting Parties are given the same time to confirm the revised ToR.

4.24 The Meeting considered the underwater noise mitigation report (doc. 4-2). The Meeting noted that Germany will provide clarification regarding national information included in the document and that the report will be amended based on the comments received, including during the last Maritime group meeting.

4.25 The Meeting decided to take into account the document as a contribution towards a further development of a regional action plan on underwater noise in 2017/18.

4.26 The Meeting welcomed the election of Mr. Peter Sigray, Sweden, as Chair for the HELCOM Expert Network for Underwater Noise.

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

5.1 The Meeting took note of the overview of the data on dredged material reported in 2016 (doc. 5-6) and encouraged those countries which have not reported data to inform about the reasons of delay and timing of reporting the missing data. The Meeting also noted that there is still a need for further verification of the reported data and approval of the dataset by national experts.

5.2 The Meeting took note that Russia will report the data by the end of November and that Latvia is collecting the data and will report as soon as possible.

5.3 The Meeting took note the position of Finland and Estonia that the way the overview is presented requires revision in future and invited the Secretariat to elaborate a new approach to visualize the completeness of the reported data.

5.4 The Meeting considered the proposed updates to the HELCOM reporting format on dredged material (doc. 5-1 and 5-1-Att.1). The Meeting supported in general the suggested updates and agreed on the submission of updates to the "HELCOM Guidelines on sustainable handling of dredged material" to HOD 51-2016 for endorsement and to further use for annual reporting round in 2017 and onwards.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Russia to remove the category "beneficial" from the drop menu of the "placement/beneficial use" column of table 3 "details of activity". The Meeting took note that Denmark is not in the position to report data on dredging operations and suggested to include a statement regarding their optional character into the document, in order for Denmark to agree on updated reporting format to be included in the HELCOM Recommendation 36/2.

5.6 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will circulate the updated format to the Contracting Parties not later than 31 November for *tacit approval* by **4 November 2016**.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by the expert group on dredged material regarding a procedure to verify reported data on dredged material (doc. 5-2) and agreed that the procedure to report annual data as well as their verification and approval by the national expert should be automated.

5.8 The Meeting concluded that design and development of the verification procedures as well as software for data reporting, approval, and storage require remarkable resources and invited the Secretariat to investigate opportunities for a project application to support this work. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to consider an opportunity to lead the project.

5.9 The Meeting considered document 5-5, Draft methodology for assessment of impact by dredging/depositing operations, presented by the Secretariat and agreed to use it for the purposes of the HOLAS II assessment and further assessments based on annually reported data. The Meeting highlighted that the methodology could be utilized by HOLAS II for the calculation of the Baltic Sea pressure index and Baltic Sea impact index.

- 5.10 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will make a first assessment based on the methodology and that the methodology might be updated after expert consideration.
- 5.11 The Meeting agreed on the need for establishing a time-limited expert group on dredging/depositing operations at sea and discussed a proposal for Terms of Reference for Expert Group for Dredged Material (doc. 5-5).
- 5.12 The Meeting emphasised that the expert group should assure integration with OSPAR, ICES and Emodnet.
- 5.13 The Meeting noted that Denmark is not in the position to allocate resources for preparation of any materials within the group but only to provide the data and comments on the documents, and that Germany is not in the position to lead the group but ready to contribute to its work.
- 5.14 The Meeting took note of the comments by countries on the draft ToR and agreed on the proposed revised version contained in **Annex 2**.
- 5.15 The Meeting considered the suggestion on the structure of the Regional status report on exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor (doc. 5-3) and agreed on its contents.
- 5.16 The Meeting discussed the use of the information on exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor and agreed that the information is quite relevant to support MSFD reporting for the EU member states and HOLAS II assessment, as well as to contribute to the economic and social assessment and to be utilized for maritime spatial planning.
- 5.17 The Meeting agreed to initiate the process to compile information and prepare the regional Status report on exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor in accordance with the suggested structure, but noted also that some data might have confidential character. The Meeting took note of the remark by CCB that the part of the report devoted to the assessment of impact by these activities on the marine environment should be strengthened.
- 5.18 The Meeting invited the countries to consider a possibility to lead the work on the Status report and discussed the use of the information.

#### **Agenda Item 6 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling**

- 6.1 The Meeting recalled that HOD 50-2106 had requested PRESSURE 5-2016 to consider the further elaborated version of the Draft HELCOM Recommendation on Sewage Sludge Handling.
- 6.2 The Meeting considered the revised Draft HELCOM Recommendation (doc. 6-1-Rev.1.), which incorporates all comments received by 18 October 2016.
- 6.3 The Meeting noted the general points, as provided by Sweden, that there is a need to emphasize the purpose of the Recommendation, which aims at improving water quality and finally to improve the status of the Baltic Sea, emphasising the link to the circular economy.
- 6.4 The Meeting agreed to submit the draft Recommendation to HELCOM HOD 51-2016 for further consideration and approval.
- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Germany on the new text and that Germany will strive to lift it before HELCOM HOD 51-2016.
- 6.6 The Meeting emphasised that the Recommendation identifies general principles for sustainable handling of sewage sludge and upstream measures to improve the quality of the sludge and paves the way for a regional dialog to elaborate regionally agreed parameters assuring maximum utilization of the valuable components of the sludge and minimise potential negative effects.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Hazardous substances**

##### State of the HELCOM hot spot Krasnyi Bor

- 7.1 Representatives of the Krasnyi Bor landfill introduced the current activities at the Krasnyi Bor landfill and future steps to remediate the area (doc. 7-5, **Presentation 1**). The presented information also

included response to the questions raised by CCB in document 7-8. The Meeting was once again assured that the landfill has not been accepting any wastes since January 2014 and has no plans accepting any wastes in the future or establishing any on-site waste incineration facilities.

7.2 The Meeting also took note of the information and reviewed the progress of the measures undertaken to prevent current environmental risks posed by the landfill.

7.3 The Meeting also noted that the construction of the coverages for the reservoirs on the landfill is to be completed by the end of the year 2016, according to the plan announced during the study visit to the site in July 2016. The Meeting took note of a suggestion by NEFCO to visit the landfill after the construction of the coverages for the open reservoirs.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the information on monitoring the situation around Krasnyi Bor toxic waste landfill (doc.7-6) and the comments regarding the current situation and activities on Krasnyi Bor landfill (doc.7-8), as presented by CCB.

7.5 The Meeting took note of the position of CCB that the information about ongoing activities on this environmentally dangerous site, i.e. about selected remediation options, monitoring programme, etc. should be more openly communicated to the general public and civil society in Russia and in countries bordering Russia.

7.6 The Meeting took note of the information on the results of the environmental monitoring in the vicinity to the landfill (**Presentation 2**).

7.7 The Meeting concluded that the site is still posing an environmental risk which has been proved by the monitoring observation. The Meeting in general supported the recommendations provided in the presentations and also suggested to include the HELCOM priority substances into the updated monitoring programme, as well as to develop a GIS-based information system compiling the available information and indicating the state of the environment around the site. The Meeting also supported the suggestion to develop a number of risk scenarios, which could be applicable for either environmental monitoring or management purposes.

7.8 The Meeting also noted that one of the possible and cost-efficient ways to remediate the site would be on-site remediation and not transporting the waste for long distances.

7.9 The Meeting took note of the joint position of Estonia, Finland and Sweden regarding increasing cooperation with Russia in remediation of the landfill Krasnyi Bor and management of toxic wastes in NW Russia in general. The Meeting noted that NEFCO (the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation) has a long experience in supporting various environmental projects and invited NEFCO to consider possibilities to:

- establish cooperation with Russia, with the local authorities of St. Petersburg and other stakeholders,
- coordinate potential international support in project preparation, and
- inform HELCOM Pressure Group on the actions taken and progress made.

7.10 The Meeting also noted that NEFCO, owned by the five Nordic Governments, indicated its preparedness to study options to promote environmentally sound solutions at the Krasnyi Bor hazardous waste dump already at the HELCOM annual meeting in 2016.

7.11 The Meeting welcomed the preparedness of the Russian Federation to cooperate with international expert society and involve international expertise into finding the most cost-efficient solutions to remediate the site.

#### Collecting information on hazardous substances to identify HELCOM priorities

7.12 Data Consultant MSC-E presented a draft report on the atmospheric supply of cadmium, mercury, BaP and PBDE to the Baltic Sea in the period 1990-2014 (doc.7-3 and fact sheets 7-3\_atts 1-4) (**Presentation 3**).

7.13 The Meeting thanked EMEP for the regularly provided valuable information on the airborne input of substances. The Meeting emphasized that the significant reduction of the input of pollutants was achieved in the 90's and almost levelled off after 2000, which is worrying.

7.14 The Meeting noted a remark by CCB that one of the most important sources of the airborne input of these pollutants are the large combustion plants (LCPs) and that this input might be reduced through introduction of new BREF/BAT Conclusions under EU IED for such installations. Also, the EMEP's data and ongoing IED negotiations prove the need to come back to discussions on limiting emissions from combustion sources within HELCOM Area.

7.15 The Meeting discussed the results of the assessment and decided on the substances for the assessment in 2017: Cd, Pb, Hg and dioxins. The Meeting welcomed the offer by EMEP to provide a short overview of the potential airborne input of PFOS as an additional information to the annual contract.

7.16 The Meeting took note of the reservation by Denmark, Germany and Poland on publication of the BSEFs and the report for more thorough consideration of the documents. The reservation will be lifted and comments on the fact sheet reports will be provided to MSC-E, with copy to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) **by 11 November 2016**.

7.17 The Meeting noted that Finland had provided comments on the first draft of the fact sheets and that the fact sheets have already been updated accordingly. The Meeting endorsed the fact sheets and technical report for publication on the EMEP and HELCOM websites, pending the reservations.

### Pharmaceuticals

7.18 The coordinator of EUSBSR PA Hazards informed the Meeting about the results of a joint process of HELCOM and PA Hazards, namely the highly valued Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea (doc. 7-10) which was finalized in August 2016 (**Presentation 4**).

7.19 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden regarding release of a report on WWT techniques to remove pharmaceuticals and by CCB on the plan to be involved in promotion of the take-back system and other upstream measures and on the carried out [international conference on obsolete pharmaceuticals](#) in Minsk, Belarus. The Meeting also noted the information by Finland regarding ongoing activities aimed at WW from medical institutions and treatment techniques. Lithuania and Latvia informed on ongoing and planned activities aimed at monitoring of medical substances in the aquatic environment.

7.20 The Meeting considered the draft Terms of Reference for the expert group on pharmaceuticals (doc. 7-2). After having exchanged views on the possible tasks and targets for the expert group, as well as its working procedures and timeline, the Meeting endorsed the Draft ToR for the Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (HELCOM CG PHARMA) as contained in **Annex 3** to this Outcome, to be submitted to HOD 51-2016 for approval.

7.21 The Meeting took note of the information on the screening study on PFAS presented by Sweden (doc. 7-9 and **Presentation 5**) and discussed the next practical steps towards assessment on the input of the organic pollutants of high concern into the Baltic Sea.

7.22 The Meeting considered the results of the section of the questionnaire to the Contracting Parties dedicated to persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other hazardous substances (doc. 7-4) and discussed (tour-de-table) what may be reported by the Contracting Parties, i.e., which substances and what kind of monitoring data are available (loads for areas or individual rivers, only screening studies, only concentrations, etc.):

- Sweden: plans a screening study including PFAS and phenolic substances estimation in ten rivers during 2017 and that the report on 500 new sites contaminated by PFAS;
- Russia: no information on the requested substances except screening activity in Kaliningrad area;
- Poland: monitoring of the regulated substances only;
- Lithuania: monitoring of hazardous substances under 2013/39/EU at 16 sites, including, where appropriate, PFAS and phenols; an additional monitoring campaign has been launched at 23 stations;
- Latvia; monitoring of the 15 priority substances. PFAS was monitored in biota;

- Germany: currently no information regarding monitoring in water due to the absence of the German expert on hazardous substances; Germany also stated that they have doubts in the validity of the prioritization and that the substances identified to be of major concern might just be the ones for which currently sufficient information exists;
- Finland: screening data on phenols, PFAS is planned by 2018;
- Estonia: there is no systematic monitoring in place, some data on PFAS are available from previous screening studies;
- Denmark; data on concentrations in sediments and results from screening studies.

7.23 The Meeting agreed that the next practical step to collect information on waterborne input of POPs is a questionnaire focused on the three identified substances (nonyl phenol, octyl phenol, PFAS) of major concern; to collect information on the character of the available data and their usability for mapping of a potential input of these substances into the aquatic environment in the region.

7.24 The Meeting agreed that the questionnaire will be prepared by Sweden in cooperation with PA Hazards and with assistance by the Secretariat. The questionnaire will be circulated to the Contracting Parties by the end of January 2017 with an intention to report the preliminary results to PRESSURE 6-2017.

#### Micropollutants in effluents from WWTPs

7.25 Sweden presented information on an ongoing project “Advanced wastewater treatment as a measure to reduce chemical pollution of the Baltic Sea” (doc.7-7 and **Presentation 6**). The Meeting took note of the project findings and encouraged the Contracting Parties to utilize them for the implementation of the HELCOM action on micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants.

7.26 The Meeting agreed on the next practical steps and the timeframe:

- Step 1: Compilation and assessment of available information and data on micropollutants of concern for Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea – during 2016 (PRESSURE)
- Step 2: Compile information from Contracting Parties on treatment techniques and experiences—during 2016/7
- Step 3: Summary report on advanced treatment techniques, including consideration of feasibility, costs, good practice and management options – during 2017.

7.27 The Meeting considered the results of the section of the questionnaire dedicated to micropollutants (doc. 7-1), agreed on the substances of “high concern” and discussed (tour-de-table) what may be reported by the Contracting Parties on identified priority substances:

- Denmark: expressed high concern on PFAS and informed that a mixture of information on concentrations, estimated pollution loads of areas and screening studies can be reported for the substances of concern;
- Estonia: for some WWTP only data on HM are available from permit-based monitoring;
- Finland: supported the identified substances of high concern. Data are available from several WWTPS;
- Germany: informed that there is a national project running to develop national strategy on micropollutants in the aquatic environment to be finished in summer, ending in the middle of 2017. More information on the micropollutants of high concern will be provided until PRESSURE-6 meeting. Data on concentrations in effluents are available; Germany has doubts in the validity of the prioritisation and that the substances identified to be of major concern might just be the ones for which currently sufficient information exists;
- Latvia: mainly HM are monitored and quite little information on the other substances. A screening studies have been launched and some data might be available;

- Lithuania: mainly HM are reported to national sewage discharge inventory. The screening project, which includes observation of relevance for particular situations hazardous substances in effluents from WWTP, has been launched and the data will be partly available;
- Poland: has only legally regulated substances monitored. Poland is not in the position to provide any data on micropollutants;
- Russia: has only legally regulated substances monitored. Data regarding HELCOM priority substances are available only for WWTP of Vodokanal of St.Petersburg for 2009-2012;
- Sweden: data obtained by screening campaigns on PFAS, pharmaceuticals and microplastics.

7.28 The Meeting agreed that the questionnaire will be prepared by Sweden in cooperation with the Secretariat and that the questionnaire might include also information on available information on the WWT technologies applied in the different countries, as well as the possibility to indicate the further micropollutants of high concern. The questionnaire will be circulated to the Contracting Parties by the end of January 2017 with an intention to report the preliminary results to PRESSURE 6-2017.

## **Agenda Item 8      Pollution Load Compilation**

8.1 The Meeting took note of the annual EMEP report Atmospheric supply of nitrogen to the Baltic Sea in the period 1990-2014 (doc. 8-4 and 8-4\_atts 1-2). The Draft EMEP report for HELCOM is available on the EMEP web page: [http://emep.int/mscw/mscw\\_publications.html](http://emep.int/mscw/mscw_publications.html) (**Presentation 7**).

8.2 The Meeting noted that the use of the new EMEP model which identifies higher deposition of nitrogen in the past years, changed the data on the reference period which would have implications for MAI/CART that need to be further discussed. The Meeting invited EMEP to include into the report a chapter briefly explaining the changes in the model and consequent changes in the results.

8.3 The Meeting took note of information by Germany that the data on ammonia emissions used in Germany differ from that which are used by EMEP, and that discrepancy will be clarified in dialog with EMEP as soon as possible.

8.4 Finland introduced the comments to EMEP Draft Technical Report 1/2016 (doc. 8-12). The Meeting took note of the comments and discussed the quality of EMEP reports and actions to improve the quality.

8.5 The Meeting noted that Finland had provided comments also on the first drafts of the fact sheets on nitrogen deposition and that the fact sheets have already been updated accordingly. The Meeting invited all Contracting Parties to address their comments to the MSC-W, with a copy to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) by **11 November 2016**.

8.6 Meeting endorsed the fact sheets and the Technical report for publication on the EMEP and HELCOM websites after corrections in accordance with the comments by the Contracting Parties. The Meeting noted the comments by Finland and that the report should be streamlined and requested RedCore DG in cooperation with EMEP centers to discuss and propose a revised structure of the Technical report by EMEP - to make it more reader friendly and avoid multiple errors. The suggested format will be endorsed by PRESSURE 6-2017 and further used as an annex to the annual contract between HELCOM and EMEP centers.

8.7 The Meeting took note of the information in document "Note - Data on emissions from international shipping" (doc. 8-7) that the FMI emissions from shipping are higher than the official CEIP data currently used by EMEP. The Meeting also took note that EMEP will suggest a combination both methodologies when assessing to incorporate FMI data on ship emissions in the future.

### Methodologies for PLC-6 assessment

8.8 The Meeting took note of the progress of the Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-6) project and the upcoming deadlines for the data reporting and information on PLC-6 product releases (doc. 8-9).

8.9 The Meeting took note that, provided the revised timelines can be met, Germany can still use the data for MSFD reporting (public consultation starts already in October 2017), but this requires that the products are released in sequence as already foreseen in the new timeline.

8.10 The Meeting considered the methodology and provided feedback on the accounting for extra reductions to follow up CART assessment (doc. 8-3).

8.11 The Meeting took note that Sweden and Finland need the option to be credited with the extra reduction in order to meet their CARTs.

8.12 The Meeting took note of the concern of Germany regarding the use of the methodology, particularly the assumption regarding nutrient fluxes between sea basins, and that Germany will only use the methodology if it rests on sound scientific basis. Germany is also concerned about using extra that are not due to measures implemented since the reference period but result from basins that have no reduction targets.

8.13 The Meeting noted that the extra reduction can be used by all the countries where applicable, not only by those which are exemplified.

8.14 The Meeting noted that FEAP asked for the scientific basis of the calculations. The extra reduction for phosphorus in “Danish Straits” in document 8-3 is calculated as 17 tons, earlier it was 134 tons. The answer was that new point sources had been detected and two more years of inputs were added and break point analyses applied.

8.15 The Meeting noted that Denmark supports the use of the methodology and its principles, but without the principle 8 that extra reduction cannot be used for purposely increase the input to a basin. The position by Denmark is that the use of extra reduction is under national competence and not for HELCOM to decide.

8.16 The Meeting also noted that Germany supports the precautionary principle which lays in the basis of the principle 8 of the proposed methodology which is backed up by the commitment taken in the Ministerial Declaration 2013.

8.17 The Meeting agreed that the methodology will be used for a trial calculation in the PLC-6 assessment.

8.18 The Meeting considered the suggestions for the contents of the CART assessment policy message and the Contracting Parties expressed the views on the contents of the policy message product to be further elaborated by RedCore DG and finalized at the MAI/CART workshop:

- Denmark suggests that the CPs should be able choose individually which of three methods presented in the document should be used to evaluate CART, and furthermore informs that Denmark is in favour of using a 5-year averaging period for the assessment;
- Sweden is of the opinion that the CART assessment should be based on 3-year average, when uncertainty can be calculated by trend analyses. Sweden also expressed a doubt regarding using break points in the trend analyses, as three years is a too short period, as 25 yrs is too short a time series if there is no prior information explaining the position and reason of the trend break;
- Russia supports the idea to include into the message an estimation of a period when the CART could be achieved by the country;
- Germany supports including the data on missing reduction into the policy product and also supports distinguishing of air- and waterborne input reduction. Germany also suggests to use 5-year average period but understands that other compromise approaches are possible. It supports the further use of break points in trend analysis, which might enable more accurate future projection;
- Finland does not object using 3-year assessment period but would be in favour of 5-year period;
- Poland supported the use of 3-year period but that is not the final position;

- Denmark suggested to avoid using colours to indicate progress but only numbers with white background of the table sells. Denmark also suggested to include information on economic aspects of the undertaken measures into the policy message.

8.19 The Meeting noted a remark by observer (WWF) regarding pending lack of commitment by some Contracting Parties on CARTs and the need for parallel work leading to the official acceptance of CARTs by all Contracting Parties.

8.20 The Meeting took note of a clarification by the Chair that the break point should only be used when there is information to support changing trends.

8.21 The Meeting also recalled that the assessment data will be available for each country to utilize them nationally irrespectively of a content of the policy messages.

#### MAI/CART Workshop

8.22 The Meeting took note of the agenda of the workshop on MAI/CART prepared by the RedCore DG and invited all Contracting Parties to ensure the attendance by relevant participants representing different target groups and stakeholders in the workshop.

8.23 The Meeting suggested that the workshop lasts at least two full days to have a proper discussion on all the suggested agenda items and requested the RedCore DG to organize the agenda in such a way to enable the technical and policy sessions of the meeting be attended by different experts. The Meeting also agreed that the workshop will be held on 6-7 March 2017.

8.24 The Meeting took note of a suggestion by Lithuania to pay specific attention on the matters related to proper estimation of the transboundary load and also to include into the agenda a discussion on application of reasonable retention coefficients in MAI/CART follow-up assessments.

8.25 The Meeting suggested that the Contracting Parties could invite to the workshop national representatives in the river basin commissions.

8.26 The Meeting also suggested to utilize PLC-6 meetings as much as possible to discuss technical aspects with national experts and invited the Contracting Parties to attend the PLC-6 project meetings.

#### PLC-7 Project proposal

8.27 The Meeting took note of and welcomed the PLC-7 project proposal based on the concept note agreed by the HOD 50-2016 and exchanged views on the project structure, deliverables and timeline. The Meeting also welcomed the idea to split the outcome of the project to several relatively independent products which will be released in sequence. The Meeting also emphasized that the part related to hazardous substances should be better described in the main part of the project proposal.

8.28 Germany expressed concern about the report on the effectiveness of measures, due to difficulties in getting the relevant data, and suggested to return to the contents of this part when results of the PLC-6 are available. Germany also sees the need to further investigate possibilities of harmonizing the PLC data requirements with data collected for WFD reporting. Germany will inform the PLC-7 project team accordingly.

8.29 Sweden supported the concern by Germany regarding the contents of the section devoted to the effectiveness of measures but informed on national modelling to identify where the measures are to be implemented.

8.30 PA Nutri informed on the planned activities on assessment of measures and environmental instruments applied to manage nutrient reduction, particularly from agriculture around the Baltic Sea region which could be brought into the report.

8.31 Poland highlighted the importance of keeping the proposed timetable which is bound with the already made national arrangements.

8.32 The Meeting proposed Lars M. Svendsen at DCE to act as the PLC-7 project manager.

8.33 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to circulate the letter with the project proposal updated in accordance with the recommendation of the Meeting and the table with suggested timeline and man/month by **4 November 2016**, with the invitation to identify leadership of the particular products of the project. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to respond the letter identifying a potential leadership of the particular products by 19 November 2016 ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)).

*Internal loading of phosphorus in the Baltic Sea*

8.34 After a presentation by BNI on internal load of nutrients (**Presentation 8**), the Meeting exchanged views regarding the potential role of sea-based measures to mitigate eutrophication of the Baltic Sea (doc. 8-12).

8.35 The Meeting took note of the information presented on the joint position of environmental NGOs - CCB and WWF, on internal loading in the Baltic Sea (doc. 8-6) pointing at the necessary focus to be put at causes of eutrophication, as external loading of phosphorus reductions before entering the sea.

8.36 The Meeting pointed out that the internal load has been already taken into account in the calculation of maximum allowable input.

8.37 The Meeting also pointed out the continued importance of implementation of measures to reduce external loading with the understanding that achievement of the GES is a long process. The Meeting also was of the opinion that the methods and technologies aiming at reduction of internal load should not be implemented without an appropriate impact assessment.

8.38 The Meeting also pointed out that the measures to manage internal load should not be excluded from consideration and supported further research activities to create a knowledge base, highlighting that the research should also take into account a potential adverse effect of measures. The Meeting also noted a view of Germany that there is no need to apply measures to reduce internal phosphorus loads for the Baltic Sea to achieve GES.

8.39 The Meeting took note of a call from both PA Nutri and PA Hazards for better national consultation and more active involvement of national representatives in the work of the policy areas, particularly in evaluation of project proposals.

8.40 Germany brought to the attention of the Meeting two project proposals on measures to reduce internal loads and the Meeting requested the opportunity to comment on those until 4 November 2016.

8.41 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB regarding potential nutrient losses from port facilities handling fertilizer cargo and also noted the invitation to the Contracting Parties to share relevant information on this matter.

8.42 The Meeting took note the statement by Estonia that all operation with fertilizers in port facilities are regulated by environmental permits.

8.43 The Meeting also noted the concern by Germany of the problem of transportation of fertilizers by sea with regard of potential accidents as well as potential input of nutrients and hazardous substances when cleaning the cargo holds.

8.44 The Meeting requested the Maritime group to provide information regarding the input of nutrients and hazardous substances with cargo ships, particularly concerning the above mentioned cleaning of cargo holds.

8.45 The Meeting invited RedCore DG to investigate the issue and invited the Contracting Parties to share the information with the national experts participating the RedCore DG. The work should be done in cooperation with the Maritime group, particularly in the part related to the operations at sea.

8.46 The Meeting took note of the information documents presented by FEAP on its negative position regarding the report by ECA. FEAP pointed out that both WWF/CCB and HELCOM referred to the report in their papers.

8.47 The Meeting pointed out that according to the outcomes of the HOLAS I the Baltic Sea, including the Kattegat, is in eutrophic status. The HOLAS II will provide new information regarding the status of the sea and the data will be available by June 2017.

8.48 The Meeting was of the opinion that fish farming may have a significant local effect, especially in the areas with low nutrient load. Some Contracting Parties also pointed out to the Ministerial Declaration 2013, where the Contracting Parties have committed to implement nutrient reductions to improve environmental status even if no reduction requirements were established for certain basins.

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

9.1 The Meeting considered the parts relevant to Pressure group of the implementation status of the ministerial commitments and other information included in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan follow-up (doc. 9-1), and agreed to include items 8 and 10 into the Work Plan and discuss the perspective to implement the commitments.

9.2 After a discussion the Meeting decided to include the unaccomplished actions into the Work Plan of Pressure Group for 2017-2018.

#### **Agenda Item 10 Any other business**

10.1 The Meeting considered the information on the compliance of the Kehra Pulp and Paper plant to the existing environmental requirements and concluded that the hot spot No. 27 "Kehra Pulp and Paper" could be deleted from the list of HELCOM Hot Spots and a document submitted to HOD 51-2016.

10.2 The Meeting welcomed the progress achieved by Estonia in reducing the negative environmental impact by the site and invited Estonia to provide the requested information by HOD 51-2016.

10.3 The Meeting took note of the invitation by WWF Poland to the first international conference of MARELITT, Baltic project on derelict fishing gear in the Baltic Sea, on 1 December 2016 in Malmö, Sweden, and invited the Contracting Parties to contribute to the event.

10.4 The Meeting checked and updated the Contact Lists of the Pressure Working Group (document 10-1).

#### **Agenda Item 11 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair(s)**

11.1 The Meeting re-elected Mr Lars Sonesten, Sweden, as the Chair of Pressure Group for the next two-year period (2017-2019).

11.2 The Meeting postponed the election of Vice-Chair(s) to the next meeting of the Group.

#### **Agenda Item 12 Future work and Meeting**

12.1 The Meeting discussed the future work of the Pressure Group in the light of developments and considered the Work Plan for Pressure Group for 2017-2018 (doc. 12-1).

12.2 The Meeting updated the draft Work Plan (doc. 12-1) as contained in **Annex 4**.

12.3 The Meeting welcomed the preliminary invitation of Russia to host the next meeting of Pressure Group (PRESSURE 6-2017) in St. Petersburg on [25-27] April 2017.

12.4 The Seventh Meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 7-2017) will be held during week 43/2017 and the Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to consider hosting of the meeting on 23-27 October 2017.

#### **Agenda Item 13 Outcome of the Meeting**

13.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (doc. 13-1).

13.2 The Outcome of the Meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentations given during the Meeting.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

\*) Head of Delegation

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## Annex 2      **Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Network on dredging/ depositing operations at sea (HELCOM EN DREDS)**

Depositing of dredged material is one of the pressures that is to be considered within the holistic assessment of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Impact Index (BSII), which is used for the assessments, reflects the spatial distribution of human induced pressures and impacts on different ecosystem components, including benthic species and biotopes. Dredging/depositing operations is one of the human activities which impacts on the ecosystem components.

HELCOM Recommendation 36/2, adopted by HELCOM 36-2015 on 4 March 2015, recommends that the Contracting Parties follow the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea and that the Contracting Parties report on the national data on management of dredged material according to the Reporting Format of the HELCOM Guidelines.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) of the European Union included seafloor integrity into the list of descriptors for determining good environmental status. The MSFD also identified the physical loss and physical damage to the marine environment and human activities which cause them e.g. dredging/disposal of dredged material; impact on the seabed of commercial fishing, boating, anchoring; exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources on seabed and subsoil.

### Objective

The HELCOM Expert Network on dredging and subsequent depositing operations at sea (hereinafter – EN DREDS):

- supports reporting and validation of data on dredging/depositing operations at sea;
- facilitates the work of the Pressure Group in terms of assessment of environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea.

### Timeline

The expert network is established for two years (2017-2018).

### Tasks

The HELCOM EN DREDS will

- a. follow up the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 including reporting formats and providing suggestions on updates of the documents when it is relevant;
- b. review and verify the annually reported data on dredging/depositing activities at sea according to HELCOM Recommendations 36/2 and an established verification procedure;
- c. provide methodological support for the development of the HELCOM information resources on dredging/depositing operations at sea (development pending availability of resources);
- d. guide the assessment of dredging/depositing operations at sea with the use of the agreed methodology and based on reported data, with the immediate need to provide input to HOLAS II (e.g. data to the Baltic Sea Pressure Index),
- e. suggest further developments of the methodology;
- f. implement any other specific tasks related to the expertise of the group by requests of the HELCOM Pressure Group;
- g. coordinate their activities with corresponding reporting and assessments activities of OSPAR, with the Contracting Parties members to the two RSC serving as a liaison and utilizing information exchange between the secretariats, as well as with ICES and EMODNET.

### Deliverables of the network shall be (among others)

- a. The further developed methodology for the assessment of dredging/depositing operations at sea;
- b. The HELCOM database on dredging/depositing operations at sea (pending availability of resources);
- c. Validated annual datasets on dredging/depositing operations at sea;
- d. Updates of the data reporting formats on dredging/ depositing operations at sea as may be needed;
- e. Regular reporting to HELCOM Pressure Group;
- f. Verification procedures.

### Working procedures and timeline

The EN DREDS will report to HELCOM Pressure Group and will assist other subsidiary bodies and projects of HELCOM with requested information.

The EN DREDS will meet as often as necessary and will utilise video-/teleconferencing as the major working method, though physical meetings are possible, if appropriate as agreed by the Pressure group.

The Secretariat will provide administrative support during the meetings. The EN DREDS will record the outcomes of the meetings in form of short memos.

The EN DREDS will identify tasks that may require additional resources, or are long-term tasks and may come up with proposals for projects.

The mandate of HELCOM EN DREDS will last until the end of 2018.

### Resources needed

The Contracting Parties are to nominate their representatives to the Expert Network, and the work will rely on expert participation and contribution of the Contracting Parties. Additional resources will be sought for through various projects. HELCOM Secretariat will provide GIS expertise.

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## Annex 3      **Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (HELCOM CG PHARMA)**

### Background

In the 2010 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, the Contracting Parties of HELCOM agreed to 'further assess the environmentally negative impacts of pharmaceuticals and other substances that are not monitored regularly, with the aim as a first step to assess in a coordinated manner their occurrence in the Baltic Sea and evaluate their impacts on the Baltic biota' (HELCOM 2010). The commitment was followed up by the 2013 Ministerial Declaration, in which the Contracting Parties agreed 'to collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment' (HELCOM 2013).

The EU directive 2013/39/EU considers the contamination of water with pharmaceutical residues as an emerging environmental concern (European Commission 2013). Diclofenac, 17-beta-estradiol (E2), 17-alpha-ethinylestradiol (EE2) and estrone (E1), a breakdown product of E2, and three macrolide antibiotics erythromycin, clarithromycin and azithromycin are included on the first 'watch list' under the EU Directive 2013/39/EU.

HOD 50-2016 approved the publication of the Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region and noted that the Status report has to be followed by elaboration of measures addressing reduction of input of pharmaceuticals into the environment. PRESSURE 4-2016 had decided to establish an expert group to work further in order to suggest further actions on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region.

### Objective

The HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (hereinafter - CG PHARMA):

- provide a scientific background for the regional environmental policy regarding pharmaceuticals in the environment;
- provide a scientific background of suggestions on the regional actions to minimise environmental impact by release of pharmaceutical substances
- serve, in cooperation with PA Hazards of EUSBSR, as a platform for regional dialog on the various environmental aspects of the use of pharmaceutical substances and treatment of the wastes and other matters containing pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region.

### Tasks (to be amended as necessary)

The CG PHARMA will

- a. elaborate suggestions on prioritization of pharmaceutical substances against their impact on the environment with the view to include them into the HELCOM priority list;
- b. facilitate HELCOM work on assessment of the environmental impact by pharmaceutical substances;
- c. elaborate suggestions on regional needs in monitoring of pharmaceutical substances in the environment and thus provide input to the work of State & Conservation Group;
- d. provide regional guidance on methods and technics for monitoring of the selected pharmaceutical substances in the aquatic environment and thus provide input to the work of State & Conservation Group;
- e. guide collection of national data to fill in gaps in regional knowledge on sources and pathways of pharmaceuticals into the environment;

- f. elaborate suggestions on research needs to identify threats posed by pharmaceutical substances to the environment;
- g. elaborate suggestions on regional recommendations and guidelines on upstream measures to prevent/minimise input of pharmaceutical substances into the environment e.g. promotion of take-back systems, handling medical waste, public awareness, etc.;
- h. establish a dialog with relevant stakeholders, organize regional stakeholder meeting(s) and elaborate suggestions on environmental practices and technical solutions for waste water management to prevent/minimise input of pharmaceutical substances into the environment;
- i. cooperate with regional and global projects in the sphere of the expert group expertise;
- j. cooperate with international organizations acting in the field of the group expertise, in particular, PA Hazards/EUSBSR, UNESCO, UNEP, SAICM, etc.;
- k. follow up implementation of measures aimed at prevention/minimizing of impact by pharmaceutical substances on the environment;
- l. ...

#### Deliverables of the group shall be (among others)

- a. priority list of pharmaceutical substances posing risk for the environment in the HELCOM area;
- b. recommendations, guidelines and other regional documents regarding monitoring of pharmaceutical substances in the environment for consideration by State & Conservation Group;
- c. overviews of the regional data, filling in informational gaps;
- d. regional projects aimed at filling in gaps in knowledge on environmental effects of pharmaceutical substances;
- e. suggestions for regional action plans to minimize environmental impact by pharmaceutical substances;
- f. regular reports to HELCOM Pressure Group.

#### Working procedures and timeline

The CG PHARMA will report to Pressure Group and will assist other subsidiary bodies and projects of HELCOM with requested information.

The CG PHARMA will assure cooperation with HELCOM State&Conservation group regarding the issues related to the methodologies and technics used for monitoring of the pharmaceutical substances in the marine environment through involvement of the representatives of this HELCOM group and submission of the relevant materials to the group for consideration.

The CG PHARMA will coordinate activities related to elaboration of HELCOM core indicators on pharmaceutical substances through close cooperation with the network on hazardous substances.

The CG PHARMA will involve experts of various specializations to provide relevant expertise to fulfil the task of the correspondence group.

The CG PHARMA group will meet as often as necessary and will utilise video-/teleconferencing as the major working method, though physical meetings are possible, if appropriate.

The Secretariat will provide administrative support during the meetings. The CG PHARMA group will focus on elaboration of proposals, documents and products, and will record the outcomes of the meetings in the form of short memos.

The CG PHARMA group will identify tasks that may require additional resources and may come up with proposals for projects.

The mandate of the CG PHARMA group will last for an initial period of 3 years which can be extended for further years.

#### **Resources needed**

The Contracting Parties are to nominate their representatives to the group, and the work will rely on expert participation and contribution of the Contracting Parties. Additional resources will be sought for through various projects.

## Annex 4 Draft Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area 2017-2018

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE IN HELCOM	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<b>Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators<sup>1</sup></b>				
1.1	Annual compilation of air- and waterborne inputs of nitrogen, phosphorus and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce annual report and BSEFS<sup>2</sup></li> <li>- Review and develop a revised structure of the annual report</li> <li>- Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances in accordance with the HELCOM priorities and data availability</li> </ul>	Data reporting by CPs PLC-Air Centre EMEP RedCore DG and EMEP		- Annually - continuously
1.2	Compilation of PLC 7 data (monitoring in 2017): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- updated PLC-Water Guidelines;</li> <li>- quantification of the sources and pathways of inputs of nutrients;</li> <li>- assessment of input of selected hazardous substances, their sources and pathways</li> </ul>	PLC-7 project RedCore DG		- 2019 data available - 2020
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 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	RedCore DG	PA Nutri	2019

<sup>1</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>2</sup> Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet

	sources in the whole catchment e.g. via cooperation with relevant river basin commissions and non-CPs.			
<b>Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme<sup>3</sup></b>				
2.1	Update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	RedCore DG		Possibly annually 2017
2.2	Regularly assess progress towards country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CART), both scientific assessment and policy document Development of the methodological background for the assessment	BNI Sweden RedCore DG PLC-7, MAI-CART OPER possible support by project		workshop in 2017 next CART in 2017 and thereafter as decided
2.3	Identify how to cooperate more closely with relevant river basin management commissions in order to engage them to consider the environmental targets for the Baltic Sea in river basin management plans	[Lead countries(s)] RedCore DG	Regular meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the European Water Commissions PA Bioeconomy 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 [Lead country]	PA Nutri	continuous
2.5	Assess effects and as far as possible, effectiveness of measures to reduce input of nutrients and identify sources which have a reduction potential.	PLC-6 and PLC-7	In cooperation with Agri Group PA Nutri	2017

<sup>3</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>4</sup></b>				
3.1	Finalize HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge	Co-Lead: 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]	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]	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>5</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 [CG PHARMA]	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 [CG PHARMA]	PA Hazards Work on core indicators on hazardous-substances WFD Watch list	2019

<sup>4</sup> Cooperate on pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge

<sup>5</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly compile data on dredging/depositing operations at sea reported in accordance with the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea and regular assessment of dredging/depositing operations at sea with the use of the methodology to be further developed.</li> </ul>	[CPs to report Secretariat HELCOM Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at Sea (EN DREDS)]	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.	[HELCOM EN DREDS] [Project]	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.	[HELCOM CG PHARMA] Sweden in the capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards [Lead country(s)] Projects	In cooperation with UNESCO Cooperation with the other RSC.	Workshop(s) 2019
<b>Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan <sup>6</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>6</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	Exchange information with OSPAR and the other RSCs.	Continuous
5.3	Consider potential amendments of relevant Recommendations to address marine litter			
<b>Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise<sup>7</sup></b>				
6.1	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 and EU TG Noise	2018
6.2	Contribute to development of core indicators on underwater noise	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with State&Conservation [a project] Indicator Leads: Poland-continuous sound; Germany-impulsive sound.	In coordination with OSPAR to the extent it is appropriate.	2017

<sup>7</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>8</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 and other 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	Regular reviewing the state of implementation of the HELCOM agreements; follow up implementation of national actions. Further contribute to the HELCOM Explorer (indicator-based follow up system for BSAP) as may be decided	CPs to report		continuous
	Review the status of implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 24/4 on iron and steel industry and 28E/8 on small-scale combustion			2018
8.2	Establishing a long-term plan on revision of the HELCOM agreement which falls under the ToR of the group			continuous

<sup>8</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