



16 August 2017

To: HELCOM Heads of Delegation  
HELCOM Observers  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM Pressure Working Group  
HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter  
HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise  
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of HELCOM Groups

**Re. Invitation to the Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 7-2017) on 24-26 October 2017; and Workshop on CART Assessment and Workshop on Implementation of RAP ML on 23 October; Workshop on Sewage sludge handling on 27 October 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania**

Dear Madam/Sir,  
Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the Outcome of PRESSURE 6-2017 (paragraph 11.1) and the Outcome of HOD 52-2017 (paragraph 3.16) I have the honour to invite the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and Observer Organizations to the Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 7-2017). The Meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania in Vilnius on 24-26 October 2017.

The PRESSURE 7-2017 Meeting will be opened **at 10:00 on Tuesday, 24 October**, and it is expected to terminate **by 16:00 on Thursday, 26 October 2017**. The Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) is attached. "Information for Participants" (meeting venue, visa support, practicalities) will be submitted by 1 September 2017.

The major products of the HELCOM PLC-6 Project will be presented to PRESSURE 7-2017 seeking for endorsement. The Meeting will also discuss pollution of the Baltic Sea by hazardous substances, progress in implementation of the HELCOM Action Plan on Marine Litter, methodological aspects of assessment of physical damage to the sea floor and related data reporting as well as underwater noise. The Meeting will also be invited to consider the follow-up of implementation of HELCOM Recommendations, including the Recommendation on sewage sludge handling.

Two short **workshops**, namely on CART assessment (9:00-13:00) and implementation of the RAP ML (14:00-18:00) will be held back-to-back prior the PRESSURE Meeting on Monday **23 October 2017**. Further, a workshop on Sewage sludge handling is scheduled for Friday, **27 October 2017** (10:00-15:00). Agendas for the respective workshops will be circulated by 8 September 2017.

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The Delegations are requested to note that according to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission, **basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision** by the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat ([Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) by **02 October 2017**. Bulky documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the Meeting. **Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents** should be received by the Secretariat by **17 October 2017**. The Secretariat recommends using the document template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the *restricted* Document library on the [PRESSURE 7-2017 Meeting Site](#) in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). Please find here [instructions](#) for signing up as a *first time user* of the Meeting Portal.

Participants to PRESSURE 7-2017 and/or the Workshops are kindly requested to register to the meetings by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than by **18 October 2017**.

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA**  
**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

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Ms. Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary  
Helsinki Commission  
Finland

2017-08-10

No. (19-2)-D8-5571

**Invitation to HELCOM PRESSURE 7/2017 and workshops on cart assessment, on implementation of RAP ML and on sewage sludge handling in Vilnius, 23–27 October 2017**

Dear Ms. Stankiewicz,

With the reference to the Outcome of the sixth Meeting of the Working group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 6/2017), The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania has the pleasure to invite representatives and nominated experts of HELCOM Contracting Parties and relevant observers to the Workshops on CART assessment and on Implementation of RAP ML at 9:00 on the 23<sup>th</sup> of October. The Workshops will be followed by HELCOM PRESSURE Working Group meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> of October and the Workshop on Sewage sludge handling on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 which is expected to be ended until 15:00. All Meetings will take place at the premises of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, A. Jakšto St. 4, LT-01105, Vilnius.

For any further questions and practical arrangements please contact Ms. Agnė Lukoševičienė, tel. +370 706 61 851, e-mail [agne.lukoseviciene@am.lt](mailto:agne.lukoseviciene@am.lt).

We are looking forward to welcoming HELCOM Contracting Parties' representatives, nominated experts and observers to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,  
Vice-Minister of Environment  
Mindaugas Gudas