



Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 9-2018)

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Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decisions by PRESSURE 8-2018 (Outcome, Paragraph 16.4) and HOD 54-2018 (Outcome, Paragraph 4.4) the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 9-2018) was held in Riga, Latvia on 10-12-October 2018 by invitation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention attended the Meeting. Observers from Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), EurEau, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), John Nurminen Foundation, KIMO International and Race For The Baltic as well as invited guests representing EUSBSR PA Hazards and PA Nutri attended the Meeting. The Data Consultants EMEP MSC-W/Norwegian Meteorological Institute and MSC-E also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 At the opening, Ms. Silvija Nora Kalnins, Vice-Director of the Department of the Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, welcomed the group to Latvia and the Ministry and expressed that it is a pleasure to host a week-long “string” of HELCOM meetings. She highlighted the role of the Pressure group, taking into account the broad range of issues under the responsibility of the Group. The PLC-6 report was mentioned as one of the most crucial HELCOM products. Latvia recognizes that there is a trend of improvement on nutrient inputs to the sea but there is much more still to be achieved within the current BSAP. The importance of regular monitoring and data reporting in this regard is crucial for the development of reliable assessments as a basis also for the forthcoming BSAP updating process. Latvia is eager to contribute to improving the state of environment of Baltic Sea and is aware of its own critical issues to reach agreed targets

0.4 The Meeting was also welcomed by Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM Executive Secretary, who highlighted the “State of the Baltic Sea” report and its results revealing a poor status of the marine environment and thus the importance for this Meeting to start discussing reasons for not accomplishing the Baltic Sea Action Plan yet. She also pointed out the upcoming review and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

0.5 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz, from 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.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work

2.1 The Meeting took note of the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach (doc. 2-2) including perspectives beyond 2021, based on the outcome of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting, noting also that it is a living document to be kept updated.

2.2 The Meeting further took note of the letter by OSPAR (doc. 2-1, Attachment 1) and the reply by HELCOM (doc. 2-1, Attachment 2) and discussed the need and possibilities for new areas of cooperation concomitantly with the review of the level of implementation of Recommendations as part of the BSAP update.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the question of FEAP regarding the Kattegat area covered by both HELCOM and OSPAR assessments, and also took note that both assessments indicate a poor status of that area with regard to eutrophication.

2.4 The Meeting took note of extracts from the outcomes of [HOD 54-2018](#) (14-15 June 2018, Helsinki, Finland) and other HELCOM working groups of relevance for Pressure Group ([Agri](#) and [Maritime](#))

(doc. 2-3). The joint activities of Pressure and State&Conservation groups are reflected in the relevant documents on: hazardous substances, indicators, climate change, underwater noise, and marine litter, and not included into this document to optimize the Group's work.

2.5 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB on the progress in evaluation of the role of ports and terminals handling fertilizers as sources of nutrient input. CCB informed that a questionnaire was circulated to the HELCOM countries and that response was rather poor. Nonetheless, even compiled data indicates that ports could be substantial sources of nutrient input to the Baltic Sea. This work will be continued in cooperation with Swedish and Finnish ports' associations.

Agenda Item 3 Organization of work to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan, including revision of HELCOM Recommendations

3.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (doc. 3-1, Annex 1 and Annex 2) as presented by the Secretariat (**Presentation 1**). The expected contribution by HELCOM Working Groups stemming from the agreed activities in the strategic plan were also presented. The aim is to utilize the existing expertise of the HELCOM groups in the BSAP update, under the guidance of the Heads of Delegation.

3.2 The Meeting noted that analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will be carried out as part of updating the BSAP, in particular to support selection of new actions, as agreed by HELCOM 39-2018. To support the planned analyses a HELCOM Expert Group on Sufficiency of Measures (EG SOM) is under consideration, the Terms of Reference to be adopted at HOD 55-2018.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the view of Germany that while the presented SOM approach is logical, it is also over-ambitious. Furthermore, Germany pointed out that for topics such as eutrophication the necessary expertise and knowledge to formulate new measures already exists within the Pressure WG. The Meeting also noted the view of Russia being against establishing a new group, due to the fact that there are limited possibilities to involve additional national experts in the HELCOM work on SOM.

3.4 The Meeting took note of the view of Denmark that the overall work plan approach is found manageable although very tight, but a more detailed plan for the contribution from Pressure WG is desired, including to agree on the role of associated expert groups and to identify the tasks that will be addressed at future meetings of the Pressure WG.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat that one of the main purposes of the EG SOM is to develop a similar and structured method and approach to identifying needs for new or strengthened measures across the HELCOM working structure. The Contracting Parties will be invited to nominate experts to EG SOM, and the nominations are expected to draw from existing HELCOM expertise, including Pressure WG and associated EGs. Prioritization of topics to be covered by the analysis of sufficiency of measures will be proposed by the GEAR Group, as needed, which is closely linked to the question of available resources.

3.6 The Meeting clarified that consideration of reasons for lagging behind with implementation of some of the BSAP actions is meant as an open-ended discussion, and is not subject to the planned reporting on HELCOM Recommendations.

3.7 The Chair pointed out that the review of ecological objectives in the BSAP update refers to the narrative description of desired status of the environment, e.g. 'Clear water', 'Healthy wildlife'. In this respect, there are no plans to review HELCOM pressure targets or threshold values for indicators.

3.8 The Meeting underlined the importance of early proposals on potential new measures to give appropriate time for Working Groups to review and discuss the proposals, as well as the importance of good coordination and cooperation among the Working Groups in the BSAP update process, to be supported by the Secretariat.

3.9 The Meeting proposed to engage expert groups and networks by including a contribution to the BSAP in the Terms of Reference of relevant groups.

3.10 The Meeting took note that stakeholder contributions are anticipated through the contribution from observers in the planned activities, and that at this time one stakeholder conference has been indicated in the work plan for the BSAP update. The Meeting noted the proposal by CCB to increase the possibilities for stakeholder contributions, e.g. by considering additional stakeholder workshops. The Meeting noted the proposal of Germany to use thematic workshops to discuss new actions to be included into BSAP update.

3.11 The Meeting further took note of the information on the state of reporting and assessment of implementation of HELCOM Recommendations adopted before 2007 and information on the state of related EU regulations (doc. 3-1-Add.1).

3.12 The Meeting considered the process to follow up the implementation of national and regional actions as well as a proposal to include suggested national actions to the list of HELCOM actions under the Pressure WG and agreed on that as reflected in **Annex 2** and **Annex 3**, respectively.

3.13 The Meeting suggested to check the Recommendations adopted before 2007 against BREF and other EU legislation. Russia supports this evaluation informing that BAT approach will be enacted in Russia from January 2019. Also RedCore DG could be invited to review the recommendation related to input of nutrients.

3.14 The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties will share the work on consideration of the Recommendations adopted before 2007 to identify which actions should be included into follow-up system. The Meeting agreed that countries will consider the Recommendations as listed in **Annex 4**. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to consider reviewing of the remaining Recommendations and inform the Secretariat **by 19 October 2018** (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi). The Meeting agreed that the results of evaluation will be reported to the Secretariat **by 21 December 2018**.

3.15 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to provide a specification of the reviewing outcomes **by 19 October 2018**.

3.16 The Meeting took note of the comment by FEAP pointing out that there are two different Recommendations on aquaculture.

3.17 The Meeting took note of document 3-2 containing evaluation of the previous action plan of the Group and a suggestion for the action plan 2019-2020 and agreed to return to its endorsement under agenda item 12.

Agenda Item 4 Marine litter

4.1 The Meeting took note that the Third Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 3-2018) was held on 9 October 2018 and considered an extraction from the Outcome of WS RAP ML 3-2018 reflecting the suggestions by the workshop on the further steps (**Presentation 2**). The Meeting agreed on the joint actions suggested by the Workshop as contained in **Annex 5**.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the HELCOM-Interreg workshop on marine litter and eco-design held on 15 June 2018 in Berlin, Germany, and discussed the “Principles for design reducing/preventing marine litter” evolved from the workshop (doc. 4-5).

4.3 The Meeting also took note that additional discussion is foreseen in terms of resources’ availability and identification of the final product of action RL5. Germany offered to investigate the possibility to present HELCOM work on action RL5 in the “[Design for Sustainability 2018](#)” event to be held on 11-12 December in London, UK.

4.4 The Meeting took note that Denmark welcomes the work done and supports the development of the principles further into HELCOM guidelines.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the clarification that eco-labelling is not approached as part of action RL5 and that principles related to EPR as well as to legislative approaches are aligned with ongoing EU process.

4.6 The Meeting took note that Estonia welcomes document 4-5, and that it has already been shared with national contacts in the eco-design sector.

4.7 The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties will provide national information to Germany (Ms. Stefanie Werner, stefanie.werner@uba.de) and the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) on activities aiming at establishing a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over- packaging and promote wise packaging.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities with regard to ALDFG as contained in document 4-3-Rev.2.

4.9 The Meeting took note of the information that Finland has received funding for further relevant studies. Finland pointed out that bottom topography is quite specific in the northern part of the Baltic Sea and differs from the southern areas which requires also specific approaches to snagging sites mapping.

4.10 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Denmark on the document and that consolidated position will be presented at FISH meeting in November 2018.

4.11 The Meeting agreed in principle to develop further the suggestions on potential regional actions included in document 4-3-Rev.2, pending on the study reservation by Denmark.

4.12 The Meeting took note that WWF Poland is working on drafting a follow-up project to the MARELITT Baltic project (“Baltic Sea Blueprint”) and that partners willing to join the project consortium can contact WWF Poland (Ms. Sylwia Migdal, smigdal@wwf.pl).

4.13 The Meeting took note of the information on “Clean Beach Campaign” organized in 2018 in Russia as well as in some other HELCOM countries as contained in document 4-6 and agreed with the views of the WS RAP ML 3-2018 that there is a need to make these activities more regionally promoted.

4.14 The Meeting encouraged countries to seek for opportunities to join to the Baltic Sea “Clean Beach Campaign 2019” with national events and to distribute information on the campaign to potential target groups in the region.

4.15 The Meeting took note of the information on the Seminar on Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea as provided by Germany (doc. 4-4) as well as of the invitation to nominate national experts for participation in the seminar, if possible one per country.

4.16 The Meeting took note of the information on ongoing European and global processes with regard to marine litter as contained in document 4-7.

4.17 The Meeting took note of the evaluation of the implementation of ToR for the EN-Marine Litter as contained in document 4-1. Based on this evaluation, the Meeting considered the update of the ToR for the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter for the period 2018-2021 and agreed on the ToR as contained in **Annex 6**.

4.18 The Meeting took note of the position of EU that the main role of the network is to support the implementation of the HELCOM Regional Plan against marine litter, and that this implementation can and should take place in close coordination with the work under MSFD for facilitating achievement of GES for marine litter for HELCOM Contracting Parties not being also EU Member States; in particular with regard to monitoring and assessment, the experts’ network should work in close collaboration with the TG ML under the CIS MSFD.

Agenda Item 5 Underwater noise

5.1 The Meeting considered the updated reporting format to the OSPAR-HELCOM registry of underwater noise and agreed on it (doc. 5-2).

5.2 The Meeting took note of the position of Estonia that the resolution used for reporting should be adjusted to the Baltic Sea needs, e.g. 5 km grid.

5.3 The Meeting took note that Russia foresees some difficulties due to lack of data when uploading data to the registry.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the information on the upcoming International Conference “Noise mitigation for the construction of increasingly large offshore wind turbines - Technical options for complying with noise limits” to be held on 22-23 November 2018 in Berlin, Germany (doc. 5-3).

5.5 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work in TG Noise under the lead of Germany on how the application of noise-mitigation measures can be included in the reporting to the impulsive noise registry. The report is to be finished by the end of 2018. Germany will share the document within HELCOM once available. The Meeting was also informed about a comprehensive field study (to be finalized by the end of 2019) on the progress and efficacy of noise-mitigation measures, using pile driving sound measurements from German offshore construction projects up to the end of 2018. Germany will share the document within HELCOM once available.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the report on current activities of the HELCOM EN-Noise as contained in document 5-4, and used it as bases for consideration of the proposed Terms of Reference for the HELCOM EN-Noise for the period 2018-2021 (doc. 5-1).

5.7 The Meeting took note that the EU supports the proposed ToR, as it aims to facilitate the implementation of the commitments of the Ministerial Declaration 2018. Although the EU understands that the main role of the network is to support the implementation of the HELCOM roadmap on noise, it believes that this implementation can and should take place in close coordination with the work under MSFD for facilitating achievement of GES for underwater noise for HELCOM Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States; in particular with regard to monitoring and assessment, and definition of threshold values, the experts’ network should work in close collaboration with the TG NOISE under the CIS MSFD.

5.8 The Meeting agreed on the revised Terms of Reference for the HELCOM EN-Noise for the period 2018-2021 as given in **Annex 7**.

Agenda Item 6 Measures to reduce nutrient loads

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress in work on elaboration of the Nutrient Recycling Strategy (docs. 6-5 and 6-11).

6.2 The Meeting discussed the work plan of the work on the Nutrient Recycling Strategy, provisional agenda of the Nutrient recycling workshop (doc. 6-6) and the draft vision of the nutrient reduction strategy.

6.3 The Meeting agreed that the Strategy is an example of work which connects requirements for fresh water and marine water environment contributing to their good environmental status. The Meeting also recommended to take into account bio wastes as a potential source of nutrients to the environment.

6.4 The Meeting agreed that comments on the text of the vision (doc. 6-11) should be provided **by 26 October 2018** to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi). The Meeting invited to provide comments as direct text corrections marked by track changes.

6.5 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on the report “[Speeding up the ecological recovery of the Baltic Sea – Assessment of the contribution of internal nutrient storages to the eutrophied state of the Baltic Sea and technical, socio-economic, political, legal and institutional aspects of potential measures to mitigate the internal nutrient leakage from bottom sediments](#)”, funded by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

6.6 The Meeting thanked Finland for the ambitious report and noted that it provides excellent basis also for legal aspects of management of internal nutrient reserves. Finland clarified that copyright on the report belongs to the Ministry and that the report can be further distributed to stakeholders.

6.7 The Meeting took note that Germany is of the opinion that the legal analysis as provided in the Finnish report indicated that the London Protocol might be the most appropriate framework to apply to sea-

based measures given the uncertainties of their effects. Germany also recalled that WFD prohibits deterioration of water bodies and coastal waters and urged CART should be achieved at source.

6.8 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB pointing out that the roadmap for sea-based measures should be considered as “proposed roadmap” and also that some items of the roadmap could be more general.

6.9 The Meeting took note of a clarification of Finland that the whole report is prepared by a consultant, and the proposals represent consultant’s opinion. Sweden informed that the measures tested in coastal waters were short-term experimental studies, and they did not affect status classification under the WFD. John Nurminen Foundation (JNF) informed that the activities will go through normal procedure of environmental permitting and related environmental impact assessment.

6.10 The Meeting considered the initial proposal by Germany for Terms of Reference for the group to draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (NUTRI RISK) (doc. 6-8) and initial comments by Finland (doc. 6-17) on the German proposal.

6.11 The Meeting took note of the remark by the EU pointing out the importance of this work for the EU MSFD and WFD and the invitation to do it in cooperation with EU eutrophication group.

6.12 The Meeting agreed on the updated ToR for the Group to draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (IN MINUTS) as contained in **Annex 8**.

6.13 The Meeting noted that JNF supports the ToR as it involves stakeholders to participate in the work of IN MINUTS.

6.14 The Meeting took note of the offer by Germany to take the lead in the development of the frame and invited the Contracting Parties to consider co-leading to support Germany.

6.15 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on joint research project of University of Helsinki and Finnish Environment Institute, *SAVE – Saving the Archipelago Sea by applying gypsum to agricultural fields* (<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/save-kipsihanke/?lang=en>), funded by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. The Meeting also took note of the information by JNF on the NutriTrade project (<http://nutritradebaltic.eu/pilots/pilot-gypsum/>), funded by the EU Interreg Central Baltic programme, which tested the method in large scale (**Presentation 3**).

6.16 The Meeting took note of the comments by the EU that the measure can contribute to the River Basin management.

6.17 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that there are restrictions for the application of the suggested method, and that there are other methods such as structural liming, erosion prevention, regulation of the use of P, thorough fertilization taking into account soil quality, balanced fertilization, etc. Germany urged the Meeting to consider potential negative effects of the method.

6.18 The Meeting pointed out that despite of the restriction for application of the suggested measure in the region, due to various soil and hydrological conditions, it can be considered as one of the measures in a tool box of various methods to prevent nutrient losses from agricultural lands.

6.19 The Meeting noted that Finland considers the measure as a water-protection measure and that it has passed quite thorough investigation of the potential negative effects.

6.20 The Meeting took note of the information by the PLC-6 Project Manager regarding progress in elaboration of the assessment of the effectiveness of measures (doc. 6-15).

6.21 The Meeting noted that the part of the assessment related to quantification of effects of various measure is rather challenging, and that the material for such assessment had been compiled and the assessment will be made by the end of the year as a pilot product forming a background for the similar assessment by PLC-7.

6.22 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Germany to include source- and load-oriented approach in one comprehensive document in the PLC-7 rather than splitting it into two reports.

- 6.23 The Meeting took note of a draft Executive summary of the PLC-6 project which is the final project deliverable (doc. 6-7).
- 6.24 The Meeting welcomed the product in general, suggested to mention nutrient loads due to nitrogen fixation in the Baltic Sea in the summary and to shorten the section on effectiveness of measures.
- 6.25 The Meeting in principle endorsed the Executive summary for publication after language check and layout as well as proposed updates.
- 6.26 The Meeting took note of the PLC-6 project evaluation report and also of the supplementary document (doc. 6-14 and 6-14-Add.1.) informing of the original project description.
- 6.27 The Meeting discussed the implementation of the project tasks and achievement and the overall objectives of the project pointing out that timely reporting of high quality data and of strict data quality control is the core for reliability of the final assessment products.
- 6.28 The Meeting thanked the project participants and highly valued the project deliverables.
- 6.29 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that there is a need to once again discuss the frequency of the PLC assessments, starting from the timing for PLC-8, as not to rush from one assessment to another.
- 6.30 The Meeting agreed that the project achieved its objectives and recommends to submit the closing report to HOD 55-2018 for decision on closing of the PLC-6 project.
- 6.31 The Meeting took note of the information on the agenda of the NutriRed workshop (doc. 6-16).
- 6.32 The Meeting commented that the major task of the workshop is to bring together all information methods to assess the input of nutrients and progress in its reduction, and to discuss what kind of steps are needed to enhance the application of the scheme and cater for various policy needs. The Meeting also took note of the recent studies on the climate change effect on water ecosystems made by SMHI and that information would be valuable for the workshop.
- 6.33 The Meeting discussed the updated HELCOM core indicator on input of nutrients (1995-2016) and major conclusions from this new data (doc. 6-13).
- 6.34 The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark that waterborne input of nitrogen from Denmark from 2007 to 2014 might be underestimated.
- 6.35 The Meeting suggested to keep copies of the previous indicator assessments available on the HELCOM website. The Meeting also expressed concern regarding frequent changes of the assessment method by EMEP. EMEP reported that emissions data now come from CEIP and differ from previous years. The Meeting invited EMEP to provide the assessment data based on the most recent model and latest emission data.
- 6.36 The Meeting invited EMEP to provide the data on N-deposition as early as late August to make the updated indicator available in time for consideration by the Pressure Working Group in October.
- 6.37 The Meeting endorsed the indicator for submission to HOD 55-2018 for publication after a commenting round. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide comments on the text of the Indicator to the PLC-7 Project Manager (Lars M. Svendsen, lms@dce.au.dk) and the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).
- 6.38 The Meeting took note of the information on the results of reporting of the data on phosogypsum stacks and agreed that the data will be analysed by the Secretariat with the support of RedCore DG and PLC-7 Implementation Group and presented to PRESSURE 10-2018.
- 6.39 The Meeting took note of the information by FEAP on the report "Assessment of Danish inventories of nitrogen and phosphorus supplies to Kattegat, Danish Straits and the Central Baltic Sea according to the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and assessment of the re-allocation/crediting of excess reductions from a water area to a neighbouring area" (doc. 6-3). In the document FEAP proposed an

international evaluation of HELCOM calculation models, but the Contracting Parties did not support the proposal.

6.40 The Meeting pointed out that the HOLAS report had shown that GES had not yet been reached in the Danish straits and that the assessment model was based on the recent scientific knowledge and served for policy needs. The Meeting also took note of the still pending study reservation by Germany on the use of extra reduction of nutrients.

6.41 The Meeting took note of the clarification by Denmark that the document does not reflect the official position of Denmark.

6.42 The Meeting took note of the results of revision of the “Guidelines for the annual and periodical compilation and reporting of waterborne inputs to the Baltic Sea (PLC-water)” as one of the key tasks of the HELCOM PLC-7 Project (doc. 6-9).

6.43 The Meeting took note that Russia will provide minor additional information on the transboundary chapter and that the EU has got some minor comments on the document.

6.44 The Meeting agreed to provide minor remaining comments on the draft Guidelines **by 25 October 2018** to the PLC-7 Project Manager (lms@dce.au.dk) and the HELCOM Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

6.45 The Meeting in principle endorsed the draft for submission to HOD 55-2018 after commenting.

6.46 The Meeting took note of the PLC-7 Progress report and that the work is going on in accordance with the foreseen timetables (doc. 6-10).

6.47 The Meeting urged the Contracting Parties to report national PLC-data in time, as the project has a tight time frame and timely reporting of high quality data is the key factor of producing reliable project deliverables

6.48 The Meeting considered the report by EMEP on emissions and deposition of nitrogen (doc. 6-2 and **Presentations 4 and 5**) and also comments by Finland (doc. 6-17) on the report.

6.49 The Meeting thanked EMEP for the report and agreed that written comments on the report should be provided to EMEP-W (michael.gauss@met.no) with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 8 November 2018**.

6.50 The Meeting requested the RedCore DG to update the policy message of the fact sheets before their publication. The Meeting endorsed the publication of the fact sheets after implementation of the comments and update of the policy message by RedCore DG.

Agenda Item 7 Hazardous substances

7.1 The Meeting considered the report by EMEP on airborne input of cadmium, mercury, benzo(a)pyrene and PCB-153 in the period from 1990 to 2016 (doc. 7-1 and **Presentation 6**).

7.2 The Meeting noted the remark by CCB that airborne deposition of mercury remains one of the main pathway for this contaminant to the Baltic Sea environment, which underlines the need of full implementation of relevant agreements.

7.3 The Meeting also was of the opinion that the policy relevance concerning airborne input of pollutants should be updated. The Meeting agreed to discuss suggestions for key messages at PRESSURE 10-2018, considering e.g. identification of break points on statistical trends.

7.4 The Meeting agreed that written comments on the report should be provided to EMEP (alexey.gusev@msceast.org; Michael.Gauss@met.no) with a copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 8 November 2018**.

7.5 The Meeting thanked EMEP for the work done and in principle endorsed the publication of the fact sheets (docs. 7-1-Att.1 – Att.6) after implementation of the comments.

- 7.6 The Meeting took note of the information by EUSBSR PA Hazards that the work on improvement of reporting of the data on PFOS is one of the PA's priorities with the aim to make assessments more consistent since 2019.
- 7.7 The Meeting agreed that in EMEP reports the final values should be given using significant figures according to EMEP expertise.
- 7.8 The Meeting agreed on the List of substances for assessment in the period 2018-2019, as given in **Annex 9**.
- 7.9 The Meeting considered the preliminary analysis of micropollutants in WWTPs and rivers in the Baltic Sea catchment which is a part of the joint HELCOM action on micropollutants in WWTP effluents, and welcomed the achieved progress (doc. 7-8).
- 7.10 The Meeting took note of the information that new WFD requirements oblige to monitor PFOS in biota, which might reduce data flow on PFOS in river water. The Meeting also suggested to inform on limits of quantification to the analysis. The Meeting welcomed the work done and took into account that the EU encouraged further work on expansion of the list of monitored contaminants in rivers.
- 7.11 The Meeting took note of the preliminary analysis of pharmaceuticals in WWTP effluents which is a part of the cooperation programme between HELCOM and PA Hazards (doc. 7-5). The data will further be utilized for accomplishing of the HELCOM action on micropollutants in WWTP effluents, identification of the regional priority contaminants and advancement of HELCOM indicators.
- 7.12 The Meeting took note of the report on the work done by HELCOM CG PHARMA in the last year (doc. 7-6). The EU recommended to take into account the work of the Commission on pharmaceuticals and encouraged CG PAHRMA group to cooperate with the Commission.
- 7.13 The Meeting took note of the current work of the EN-Hazards and, particularly, planned activities on further advancement of HELCOM indicators of contamination of the Baltic Sea environment incorporating data on loads, sources, use of chemicals.
- 7.14 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by the EU to use this work to support national reporting for the EU WFD and MSFD.
- 7.15 The Meeting supported the cooperation of Pressure and State&Conservation Groups aimed at further elaboration of HELCOM indicators and encouraged national experts to contribute to this work.
- 7.16 The Meeting noted the remark by CCB urging the Contracting Parties to Helsinki Convention to implement relevant measures to prevent contamination of the Baltic Sea environment by hazardous substances.
- 7.17 The Meeting took note of the information on utilization of BREF for HELCOM work on hazardous substances (doc. 7-9).
- 7.18 The Meeting took note of the document for future work on hazardous substances in HELCOM based on the assessment of the life cycle of particularly hazardous substances (doc. 7-7).
- 7.19 The Meeting welcomed the new vision of HELCOM Indicators of contamination of the Baltic Sea environment, highlighting the urgent need to connect the data on loads and sources of contaminants with the state of the Baltic Sea environment. This approach will allow to follow up the effect of undertaken measures and appropriately react on emerging pollutants preventing accumulation of contaminants in the environment. FEAP asked for a more detailed division of the marine areas of the Baltic Sea. For example Danish Straits could be divided into the Sound and the Belts. In the report "State of the Baltic Sea" there is big difference in the eutrophication status of the Sound and the Belts. As far as FEAP is informed, the analysis in HELCOM has started.
- 7.20 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Germany to take account of the MSFD Commission decision EU2017/848 with respect to descriptor 8 and concerning the work on hazardous substances in HELCOM, to e.g. develop an indicator on oil spills. Concerning offshore sources of pollutants Germany

suggested to consider copper. Germany also suggested to scrutinize the relevance of the substances of the COMBINE Database to develop them into indicators.

7.21 The Meeting also noted that OSPAR works on offshore sources of contaminants, particularly fish farms and wind mills.

7.22 The Meeting noted the concern of Denmark that this extensive work will increase the amount of meetings and that they are to be organized back-to-back with other events. Though, Denmark fully supports the suggested work on indicators.

7.23 The Meeting took note of the suggestion to launch a regional questionnaire on handling of medical wastes and the reporting format jointly prepared by HELCOM CG PARMA and CW PHARMA project as a part of practical cooperation between HELCOM and PA Hazard (doc. 7-4).

7.24 The Meeting took note that some countries might not be in the position to report complete information.

7.25 The Meeting expressed strong support to this activity and requested the Secretariat to circulate the questionnaire and the reporting format **by 19 October 2018**. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to respond to the questionnaire **by 21 December 2018**.

7.26 The Meeting considered the initial suggestion for the update of the HELCOM Recommendation on anti-fouling systems prepared by Finland (doc. 7-3-Rev.1 and **Presentation 7**) and comments by Sweden on the suggestion (doc. 7-10).

7.27 The Meeting welcomed the thorough analysis of the current regulation and the existing knowledge base made by Finland and also the initial suggestion to update the Recommendation.

7.28 The Meeting discussed the suggestion and proposed the following: to include total ban of biocides in fresh water and in low-salinity areas such as the Gulf of Bothnia; in case of banning of the use of biocides in antifouling paints, a transitional period will be needed; consider further development of non-biocide antifouling and develop relevant infrastructure; consider inclusion of other toxic substances, such as iganol into the Recommendation; take all measures to assure preventing contamination of Baltic Sea environment by biocides.

7.29 The Meeting took note of the position of Denmark that due to the specific character of national marine waters and the lack of knowledge from risk assessment of antifouling paints, Denmark cannot at the moment support the revision of the Recommendation.

7.30 The Meeting agreed to continue intersessional work encouraging Denmark to join the consultations on the update of the Recommendation and to consider the update of the Recommendation at PRESSURE 10-2019.

7.31 The Meeting also took note that Poland in general supports further work on updating of the Recommendation and that it should be in line with the current work of IMO on the issue and to involve HELCOM Maritime Group.

Agenda Item 8 Physical damage to the sea floor and hazardous substances in bottom sediments

8.1 The Meeting considered a suggestion for consolidated reporting to London Convention of the data on depositing of dredged material at sea and welcome this initiative of EN DREDS.

8.2 The Meeting discussed the proposed reporting format and procedure for data verification/reporting and agreed to test the suggested reporting procedure on 2017 data in cooperation with the Secretariat of London Convention (doc. 8-1).

8.3 The Meeting took note of the progress in the work of EN DREDS, as reported in the Outcome of EN DREDS 5-2018 (doc. 8-2), and requested the group to continue the work on improvement of national reporting and the use of compiled information for assessment of sea-floor integrity. The Meeting encouraged national experts to attend the EN DREDS Group meetings to fully utilize available knowledge.

8.4 The Meeting took note of the status of 2017 data reporting (doc. 8-3) and encouraged countries to intensify the reporting, bearing in mind that the data 2017 will be used as a test for consolidated reporting to London Convention.

Agenda Item 9 Remaining HELCOM hot spots and follow up of their deletion

9.1 The Meeting considered a proposal by Russia concerning hot spots Nos. 15, 49, 50 and 69 (doc. 9-1 and **Presentation 8**). The Meeting welcomed the improvement of the provided information.

9.2 The Meeting discussed the proposal and concluded as following: data on potential soil and ground water contamination should be presented for closed sites together with data on monitoring of water quality; to prove the application of BAT at the operational site No. 49.

9.3 The Meeting agreed to rename hot spot No. 15 and to split hot spot No. 69 but based on the information provided was not in the position to recommend HOD to remove the hot spots.

9.4 The Meeting took note of the information by Latvia regarding ongoing study of the state of hot spots and welcomed the information on the results of the study when it is available.

9.5 The Meeting noted information by CCB on the work on criteria for diffuse hot spots when the BSAP had been adopted. The Meeting agreed to consider the results of that work.

9.6 The Meeting noted the concern of CCB regarding availability of information on the progress of international cooperation on the hot spot Krasny Bor. The Meeting encouraged Russia to inform on the state of the site, preferably at the upcoming HOD 55-2018 meeting.

Agenda Item 10 Any other business

10.1 The Meeting considered HELCOM work on climate change and supported the direction of the dedicated work on climate change involving Baltic Earth network.

10.2 The Meeting in general supported the suggested fact-sheet approach providing the following reflection on the matter: to organize work along BSAP update issues; there are too many detailed fact sheets and it might be more beneficial to have less e.g. one fact sheet on eutrophication; reflect carbon cycle in PLC work; reflect increase of organic matter in fresh water; reflect the issue of atmospheric deposition and involve EMEP into the work on deposition, particularly the effect on ammonia emissions; changes of nutrient loads due to changing of farming practices; initiate work to quantify the capacity of healthy Baltic Sea to store carbon. Finland informed that it will provide comments to State&Conservation.

10.3 The Meeting took note of the information on current CCB work related to climate change and availability of information on, e.g. implications with regard to storm-water management, river-basin management especially in transboundary context.

10.4 The Meeting took note of the concept of the XX Anniversary International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and encouraged national experts to attend the Forum and contribute to its agenda.

10.5 The Delegations checked and updated the Contact lists of the Group contained in document 10-1. The Contracting Parties and Observers were invited to submit further updates to the Secretariat (leena.heikkila@helcom.fi).

10.6 The Meeting thanked Mr Jerzy Bartnicki, the prominent scientist and long-term HELCOM consultant for all the valuable work on airborne depositions into the Baltic Sea Area.

10.7 The Meeting expressed its sincere gratitude to Latvia for hosting the Meeting and for the great hospitality and excellent facilities.

Agenda Item 11 Future work and meetings

11.1 The Meeting welcomed the offer of Estonia to host the next meeting of Pressure Group (PRESSURE 10-2019) during week 8-12 April 2019.

11.2 The Meeting welcomed the offer of the EU to host the Eleventh Meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 11-2019), tentatively during week 21-25 October 2019.

11.3 The Meeting also reiterated the need to minimize the document flow through intersectional consideration of the information documents. The Meeting also requested to return to thematic focus of meetings.

11.4 The Meeting suggested that the results of the EMEP work will be considered by PLC-7 Implementation Group or RedCore DG, bearing in mind that the final endorsement of the results is under the mandate of Pressure Group.

Agenda Item 12 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair(s)

12.1 The Meeting thanked Mr Lars Sonesten for the successful chairing of the Group during the past four years and invited him to chair the Group for the next 2-year period.

12.2 The Meeting discussed the election of the Vice-Chair(s) and invited the Secretariat together with the Chair to identify potential areas where the Vice-Chair can provide support to the Chair and use this as a guidance for the Vice-Chair elections at PRESSURE 10-2018.

Agenda Item 13 Work Plan 2019-2020

13.1 The Meeting considered the evaluation of the implementation of the group's work plan 2017-2018 (doc. 3-2) and agreed on it as given in the **Annex 10**.

13.2 The Meeting agreed on the work plan for the period 2019-2020 as given in **Annex 11**.

Agenda Item 14 Outcome and closing of the Meeting

14.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (doc. 14-1).

14.2 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 all documents and presentations given during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants

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Annex 2 National actions to follow up

Suggestion to include into the follow-up of national actions

Action	Current status	Proposed process
National programmes to eliminate hazardous substances	Partly accomplished (Implementation by 6/9 countries)	To follow up
Elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List (municipal and industrial)	Assessment on-going (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Secretariat to follow up
Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury	Assessment on-going (Implementation by 0/9 countries)	No need to follow up now but include into the BSAP update.

How to organize further follow-up of national actions

Action	Status in March 2018	Comment
National programmes to achieve nutrient reductions	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 5/9 countries)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes for reduction of nutrients and need for additional measures, in order to reach the country-wise reduction targets	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 4/9 countries)	Should be also specified in the updated BSAP and probably merged with the previous one.
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Nitrogen	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 1/9 countries)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Phosphorus	Not accomplished. (Implementation by 0/9 countries)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.
Advanced municipal waste water treatment under HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Remove from this follow-up and include into the follow-up of Recommendations.
Initiate joint activities to address transboundary nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme	Future target year (Implementation by 3/9 countries - proposed change by Pressure WG 4/9)	Evaluation can be done by PLC and RedCore DG, move to regional actions.
Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2015	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 8/9 countries)	To follow up. It can be further developed including other users of detergents e.g. industrial users or dishwashers for the updated BSAP.

Action	Status in March 2018	Comment
Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 3/9 countries - proposed change by Pressure WG 2/9)	Put on hold pending elaboration of the regional strategy on P-recycling.
Establishment of chemical product registers to be built upon e.g. the EU REACH (EC1907/2006) framework (2010)	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 6/9 countries)	To follow up.
Ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 7/9 countries)	To follow up. It can remain in the updated BSAP in a new wording.
Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8	Partly accomplished (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	To follow-up and keep as it is.
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes to eliminate hazardous substance	Partly accomplished. (Implementation by 5/9 countries proposed change by Pressure WG 4/9)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.

Annex 3 Regional actions to follow up

Suggestion to include into the follow-up of regional actions

Action	Current status	Proposed process
Identify the socio-economic and biological impacts of marine litter, also in terms of toxicity of litter	Not accomplished	Pressure Group has no expertise but a specific group might be established. Pressure could be involved into assessment of social-economic impact.
Carry out the monitoring of the progress towards achieving the agreed goals and to gain an inventory of marine litter in the Baltic Sea as well as scientific sound evaluation of its sources	Partly accomplished	Pressure Group will provide contribution related to sources of microliter, riverine or other land based loads.

Suggestions on the accomplishment of regional actions

Action	Current status	Proposed process
Update of HELCOM requirements for iron/steel industry (HELCOM Recommendation 24/4)	Not accomplished	To analyse added value of the Recommendation compared to existing BREF. HAZBREF to evaluate.
Evaluation of the need to develop further requirements for reduction of heavy metals and other hazardous substances emissions from energy production and industrial combustion plants	Partly accomplished	Expert advice needed. BREF document is only a year old. Comparison with the BREF is the way forward.
Collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment and to develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea	Partly accomplished	The implementation will be significantly advanced but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.
Develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, of marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends	Partly accomplished	The implementation will be significantly advanced but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.

Annex 4 Evaluation of HELCOM Recommendations

Currently under revision

Antifouling paints containing organotin compounds	20-4/1999	Hazardous	TBT
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Implemented in 2011

Reduction of Emissions of Lead from Combustion of Leaded Gasoline	9-4/1988	Hazardous	Lead
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Over-arching recommendation on use of BAT; Secretariat to evaluate

Reduction of Emissions and Discharges from Industry by effective use of BAT	25-2/2004	Hazardous Eutrophication	Cadmium, lead, inputs of nutrients
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Mercury; Germany to evaluate

Measures Aimed at the Reduction of Mercury Resulting from Dentistry	6-4/1985	Hazardous	Mercury
Measures aimed at the reduction of mercury pollution resulting from light sources and electrical equipment	23-4/2002	Hazardous	Mercury
Reduction of emissions and discharges of mercury from chloralkali industry	23-6/2002	Hazardous	Mercury

Eutrophication; RedCore DG to evaluate

Reduction of Pollution from Discharges into Water, Emissions into the Atmosphere and Phosphogypsum out of the Production of Fertilizers	17-6/1996	Eutrophication	Input of nutrients.
Managing Wetlands and Freshwater Ecosystems for Retention of Nutrients	18-4/1997	Eutrophication	Input of nutrients
Reduction of Nutrients and other Pollutants leaching from forestry land	25-3/2004	Eutrophication	Input of nutrients
Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from Water and Marine Fish Farming	25-4/2004	Eutrophication	Input of nutrients

Industrial emissions

Recommendation	Rec. no/Year	BSAP segment	HOLAS indicator	
Industrial Connections and Point Sources other than Household Connected to Municipal Sewerage Systems	13-2/1992	Hazardous		Finland
Reduction of discharges from urban areas by the proper management of storm water systems	23-5/2002	Hazardous		Finland
Reduction of Emissions and Discharges from the Iron Steel Industry	24-4/2003	Hazardous		Denmark
Reduction of discharges and emissions from the metal surface treatment	23-7/2002	Hazardous		Denmark
Reduction of Discharges and emissions from production of textiles	23-12/2002	Hazardous	PCBs, mercury,	
Elimination of PCBs and PCTs	25-1/2004	Hazardous	PCBs	Estonia
Reduction of Emissions into the Atmosphere from the Pulp and Paper Industry	16-4/1995	Eutrophication Hazardous		Sweden will consider
Reduction of Discharges from the Kraft Pulp Industry	17-8/1996	Hazardous Eutrophication		Sweden will consider
Reduction of Discharges from the Sulphite Pulp Industry	17-9/1996	Hazardous Eutrophication		Sweden will consider
Basic Principles for Realization of BAT and BEP in Food Industry	17-10/1996	Hazardous Eutrophication		Finland
Restriction of atmospheric emissions and waste water discharges from hard coal cokeries	23-9/2002	Hazardous Eutrophication	PAH, input of nutrients	
Basic Principles in Waste Water Management in the Leather Industry	16-7/1995	Hazardous Eutrophication		
Requirements for discharging of waste water from the chemical industry	23-11/2002	Hazardous/ Eutrophication	Input of nutrients, mercury, cadmium, lead	
Approval of pesticides ("Plant protection products") for use in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea	20-2/1999	Hazardous		Estonia
Reduction of discharges and emissions from production and formulation of pesticides	23-10/2002	Hazardous		
Reduction of discharges from oil refineries	23-8/2002	Hazardous		
Limitation of emissions into atmosphere and discharges into water from incineration of waste	27-1/2006	Hazardous	Cd, dioxins and furans, mercury	Estonia
Limitation of Emissions to the Atmosphere and Discharges into Water from Glass Industry	14-3/1993	Hazardous eutrophication	Lead	

Annex 5 Agreed joint actions in relation to the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

- The Meeting agreed that Germany will prepare a questionnaire for HELCOM countries to compile background information for drafting HELCOM guidelines on best practice on waste management to prevent waste turn into marine litter (RL3) and probably addressing cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment (RL2) and marine litter references in waste management plans (RL1).

Agreed deadlines:

- draft questionnaire by 23 October
 - commenting by the EN-Marine Litter by 13 November
 - endorsement by PRESSURE via correspondence
 - results of the questionnaire to PRESSURE 10-2019.
- The Meeting welcomed the offer by CCB to compile national available information and produce an initial draft of revised HELCOM Recommendations on waste and storm water management intended to integrate into these Recommendations specific requirements concerning prevention of micro litter with support by the FanPLEStic-Sea project. HELCOM national experts will provide national available information.
 - The Meeting agreed on the process to conclude action RL8:
 - Poland will provide a final report on the assessment of the importance of sewage related waste coming from the upstream waste flow RL8 by the end of 2018
 - The Secretariat will investigate the possibilities how to share the report with River and River Basin Commissions.
 - The Meeting invited countries to contribute to the questionnaires on EPS in the Baltic Sea developed by Denmark (action RL9). Process:
 - A draft report sent for commenting round in December.
 - Final report available in March 2019.
 - To come back to a future plan to accomplish action RL9 once the report is available.
 - The Meeting agreed to repeat the questionnaire on landfills which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment (action RL14) prepared by Estonia in 2016. Process: summary report including evaluation prepared by the lead country and conclusion on accomplishment of the action.
 - In relation to best practice - model on recycling of ELB (End-of-Life boats) (action RS1), the Meeting agreed to:
 - Invite countries to reply to a questionnaire by Finland by the end of December 2018 on:
 - Number of boats: How many leisure boats (from 2,5 m to 24 m in length) are there in your country? Where is this number derived from and when was it estimated? Is there a boat register in your country? If a register exists, is the data available somewhere? please indicate where

- Legislation: How are ELB's treated in your national legislation? If they are not mentioned or treated, please indicate this too.
 - Waste flow calculations: Are any waste flow calculations made in your country in regards of ELB's? How many ELB's will be in need of dismantling in the near future (5 years, 10 years, 15 years)?
 - Practices and FRP recycling/reuse: How are ELB's dismantled and disposed in your country? Is there a FRP recycling or reusing scheme in place? If a scheme is in place, please describe it.
 - Any other information on the matter that would be useful in fulfilling action RS1.
- Subsequently, a report summarising the outcome of the questionnaire will be submitted for consideration to PRESSURE 10-2019.
- The Meeting agreed to nationally explore the possibility of joining the project proposal consortium by WWF Poland on a follow-up project to MARELITT Baltic ("Baltic Sea Blueprint").
 - The Meeting agreed that there is a need to continue holding regular Workshops on implementation of the RAP ML. Themes for the next workshop will be selected based on the suggestions by countries and prioritization of actions including actions without leadership.

Annex 6 Terms of Reference for HELCOM EN-Marine Litter

The call for establishing this network has been raised through the need to (i) facilitate the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, (ii) develop regional core indicators on marine litter and (iii) carry out regional assessments on occurrence and impacts of marine litter in the Baltic Sea.

The duties of the expert network are detailed in the following sections to be fulfilled in the period 2019-2021, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora. PRESSURE will regularly revisit the progress of the work according to these ToR and will consider, together with STATE&CONSERVATION, arrangements for further work beyond 2021.

Facilitate the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

As part of the work of the Pressure Working Group and in cooperation with Maritime Working Group and other groups as appropriate, the HELCOM EN-Marine litter will:

- Provide expertise to facilitate practical implementation of the HELCOM Recommendation 36/1. More specifically, the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter will support the Lead Parties for the implementation of individual regional actions and provide expertise to facilitate implementation of actions with currently no lead.
- Seek synergies with other Regional Seas Conventions, namely OSPAR, the Barcelona Convention and the Black Sea Commission, but also other international fora, such as the UN and EU, in implementation of actions of common interest.
- Provide expert input, as may be requested by HELCOM working groups e.g. Maritime WG, on relevant measures to reduce further inputs of marine litter from sea- and land-based the sources and impacts of marine litter in the HELCOM area.
- Provide expert input to the process of updating BSAP as needed.
- Contribute to the revision of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to be held in 2021.

Monitoring and assessment

The HELCOM EN-Marine Litter will act as the platform for discussion and review of HELCOM indicators on marine litter being developed by Lead Countries and appointed experts as part of the work by State and Conservation Working Group. More specifically, the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter will support Lead Countries in the further development of HELCOM indicators on marine litter, namely:

- Further develop the HELCOM pre-core indicator on beach litter aiming at shifting it to core indicator.
- Further develop the HELCOM pre-core indicator on litter on the seafloor aiming at shifting it to core indicator.
- Assay the adequacy of the existing HELCOM candidate indicator on microlitter in the water column as a microlitter indicator. Based on the results of the assay further work on the development of a regional microlitter indicator.
- Consider the development and establishment of biological indicators to predict for the impacts of marine litter in the Baltic Sea area.
- Building reliable knowledge base on monitoring of microlitter in storm water, effluents of sewage treatment plants and sewage sludge applied as fertilisers in the environment.
- Develop a regionally coordinated monitoring sub-programme on macrolitter characteristics and abundance/volume.

- Develop a proposal of a regionally coordinated monitoring sub-programme on microlitter particle abundance and characteristics.
- Work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea in coherence with similar work undertaken by CP under other relevant fora.
- Update the indicator reports at regular intervals as decided in HELCOM.
- Ensure timely and quality assured delivery of indicator based assessments of marine litter.
- Provide suggestions for regional action on monitoring of litter, including micro-plastics, in rivers.

Working procedures

The network consists of experts nominated by Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures. Additional experts and representatives of organizations can be invited to the meetings. The expert network will function as a joint network of Pressure WG and State and Conservation WG receiving guidance from both HELCOM working groups according to their mandates (Pressure WG overall coordination of the RAP ML; State and Conservation indicators, monitoring and assessment) and providing support to other groups, in particular Maritime WG, as may be requested.

The mode of work for the expert network will be mainly via correspondence and tele-meetings, with at least one physical meeting organized annually. A Chair for the network will be elected. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspace dedicated to this use. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the Network.

Annex 7 **Terms of Reference for HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise for 2018-2021****Rationale**

Progress has been made in the implementation of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017, including the establishment of a joint HELCOM/OSPAR registry of licenced impulsive sound events and on-going work for a regional monitoring programme and for monitoring guidelines for continuous noise, as well as new evidence regarding potential impact of underwater noise on species in the Baltic Sea. However, there is still a need to further develop the pre-core indicators and to implement the [2018 Ministerial Declaration](#) commitments on underwater noise (para. 38-40).

Overall aims and tasks

The overall aim of the HELCOM EN-Noise is to contribute to the development of an action plan, preferably by 2021, and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming, in the long-term, at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities. The network shall contribute to the fruitful cooperation between European Regional Seas Conventions, and in particular OSPAR, in order to exchange good practices and to fill knowledge gaps, and to continuing regional work in developing scientifically sound threshold values for underwater noise that are consistent with GES for species identified as sensitive to noise in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora including EU TG Noise, OSPAR ICG NOISE, UNEP Regional Seas Programme and IMO. Finally, the network is to support to improve our understanding of the adverse impacts of underwater noise on those identified noise sensitive marine species and in particular the cumulative impacts of noise from multiple activities.

The Network will in the period of 2018-2021:

- Support HELCOM work on development of an action plan on underwater noise (decided to be developed preferably by 2021) and of regionally coordinated actions.
- Provide expert input to HELCOM work related to underwater noise, in particular support the Pressure, State & Conservation and Maritime WG, as well as other groups as may be requested.
- Continuing regional work in developing scientifically sound threshold values for underwater noise that are consistent with GES for species and habitats identified as sensitive to noise in the Baltic Sea and (in particular) to further work on the HELCOM input to the process of establishing environmental targets (including maximum levels for impulsive and continuous noise in those frequency bands and distances from sources that are required) for underwater noise, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora including EU TG Noise, UNEP Regional Seas Programme and IMO.
- Act as a platform for discussion and review of HELCOM indicators on underwater noise being developed by Lead Countries and appointed experts. In particular, support the Lead Countries in the further elaboration of the underwater noise indicators.
- Update the indicator reports at regular intervals as decided in HELCOM.
- Review the state of the art knowledge on impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise in the Baltic Sea and in particular the cumulative impacts of noise from multiple activities.
- Update information on available and suitable noise mitigation measures in the Baltic Sea.

Through these actions the Network will also provide expert input to the process of updating the BSAP as needed.

Participants

The expert network will consist of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures. Additional experts and representatives of organizations can be invited to the meetings. The network will cater for cross-sectorial expertise to carry out the tasks as needed.

Working procedures

The expert network works under the mandate of Pressure WG. The expert network will receive guidance from and contribute to State and Conservation WG according to its mandate as well as from Maritime WG (on IMO related issues) and provide support to other groups, in particular HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, as may be requested.

The mode of work for the expert network will be mainly via correspondence and tele-meetings, with physical meetings being organized as needed. A Chair for the network has been elected. A detailed work plan for the network might be elaborated. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated to this use. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network.

Annex 8 Terms of Reference for the Group to draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (IN MINUTS)

The HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 states:

“24. RECOGNIZING with concern that large amounts of nutrients have accumulated in the Baltic Sea during the past decades due to anthropogenic activities, resulting in an enhanced internal flux of nutrients between sediments and sea water thereby exacerbating eutrophication;

25. WE ENCOURAGE, as a first step, further improving the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserves.

26. WE ENCOURAGE, as a second step, undertaking research on the potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves that have accumulated in the sediments due to anthropogenic activities in the last decades; WE EMPHASIZE that the risks to ecosystem and human health stemming from measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, as well as the long-term sustainability of their effects, need to be considered and thoroughly evaluated; WE ALSO ENCOURAGE in parallel developing and applying a risk assessment framework in HELCOM to meet the necessary environmental requirements for measures planned for the open sea and any other measures having potentially significant transboundary effects; WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE the need to elaborate in line with the Helsinki Convention commonly agreed regional principles as guidance for internal nutrient reserves management”.

These are the Terms of Reference for the Group to draft the (a) risk assessment framework and (b) regional principles as guidance for nutrient reserves management.

The Group needs to discuss a number of issues to be able to deliver a) and b). The scope of this discussion covers:

- Scale of the measures
- Location of the measures
- Scientific research and deployment
- Which internal nutrient management measures to include
- Propose the regional principles guiding the management of internal nutrient reserves
- Propose the risk assessment framework
- Propose how to incorporate the regional principles and the risk assessment framework into the HELCOM acquis.

The Group will mainly work through correspondence and online meetings and report to Pressure WG. Workshops are foreseen to facilitate the work and help engage stakeholders.

The Group should consist of interested Contracting Parties, scientists familiar with the characteristics of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, and experts on relevant legal issues. Furthermore, HELCOM Observer organisations are invited to the Group.

Milestones:

- Present a proposal for the consideration of PRESSURE 10-2019 (spring 2019), describing measures to include, scales, location and basic content of the regional principles and risk assessment framework with the aim to agree on these basic issues as a prerequisite to further develop concrete contents.
- Deliver a first proposal for regional principles/ risk assessment framework to PRESSURE 11-2019 (autumn 2019)
- Deliver refined proposals to PRESSURE 12-2020 (spring 2020)
- PRESSURE 13-2020 (autumn 2020) to endorse final products and recommend to HOD
- Adoption of the product in 2021 together with the BSAP update.

Annex 9 List of substances for EMEP assessment in 2018-2019

The following elements and compounds were included into the list of HELCOM core indicators and are to be used for the second holistic assessment of Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea:

Substance	EMEP status	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
nitrogen		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
cadmium	Protocol on Heavy Metals 2003	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
lead	Protocol on Heavy Metals 2003	x	x		x		x	
mercury	Protocol on Heavy Metals 2003	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB-153)	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2003		x			x		x
Dioxins and furans (PCDD/Fs)	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2003	x			x		x	
Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and their metabolites	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2003			x		x		x
Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS)	New POPs included to the Protocol on POPs				x			
Polybrominated biphenyl ethers (PBDE)	New POPs included to the Protocol on POPs			x				
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD)	New POP-like substances (under consideration)							x

- The first row of the table indicates years of contract: grey – past, yellow – current, green – future.
- The second row indicates the year of the data used in the assessment.
- Asterisk indicates substance to be assessed in the particular year.

Annex 10 Evaluation of Implementation of the Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area 2017-2018

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE IN HELCOM	IMPLEMENTATION
Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators			
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"> - Produce annual report and BSEFS¹ - Review and develop a revised structure of the annual report - Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances in accordance with the HELCOM priorities and data availability 	Data reporting by CPs PLC-Air Centre EMEP RedCore DG and EMEP	BSEFS on airborne input of hazardous substances are published annually. Annual rotation of some substances in the assessment discussed and decided. Test evaluation of the availability of data on pollutants of high concern e.g. PFAS has been made (PRESSURE 7-2017).
1.2	Compilation of PLC 7 data (monitoring in 2017): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updated PLC-Water Guidelines; - quantification of the sources and pathways of inputs of nutrients; - assessment of input of selected hazardous substances, their sources and pathways 	PLC-7 project RedCore DG	PLC-Water Guideline updated and submitted for endorsement to PRESSURE 9-2018; Assessment of sources and pathways of inputs of nutrients was published (BSEP 153) Assessment of input of selected hazardous substances adopted for publication (HOD 54-2018).
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	PLC-Water database is regularly updated. Public access to the PLC-Water database was opened. A new information segment "land base pollution" was introduced into HELCOM Map and Data service. The segment contains digital maps of land-based pollution load and its sources.
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.	RedCore DG	The external project proposal (Big Rivers 4 Baltic) aiming at harmonisation of approaches to nutrient loads assessment between countries sharing catchment areas of four out of seven biggest rivers of the Baltic Sea region has been developed (unfortunately not supported by Interreg). Seed money project has been launched to QWATERA.

Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme			
2.1	Update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	RedCore DG, BNI and DCE	The indicator has been regularly updated and published on the HELCOM web page .
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 DCE Denmark RedCore DG PLC-7, MAI-CART OPER possible support by project	The progress assessment (1995-2014) was adopted by HELCOM 39-2018 and published on the HELCOM web page . The scientific report is to be presented at the NutriRed workshop 12-13 November 2018. New statistical methods for the assessment have been approved (PRESSURE 7-2017) and included into the updated PLC-Water guideline. The first phase of the MAI-CART OPER was accomplished.
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	Organization of workshop with river basin commissions was approved by HOD 54-2018. A new HELCOM project proposal (HELCOM ACTION), if approved for funding, would support the workshop.
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]	HELCOM-PA Nutri workshop took place in November 2017. The outcomes of the workshop laid a basis for the commitments of the MD2018 on this issue. PRESSURE 8-2018 launched the work on elaboration of a risk assessment framework.
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	A first assessment of effectiveness of measures is at the preparation stage.
Action 3 Pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge			
3.1	Finalize HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge	Co-Lead: Russia	Adopted by HELCOM 38-2017
3.2	Follow-up on full implementation of HELCOM Rec. 28E/5 and 28E/6 on sewage treatment	CPs reporting	Information on implementation of the Recommendations is an integral part of BSAP follow up. The information was updated by CPs and overview presented to PRESSURE 9-2018.
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	[Lead countries]	Workshop on sewage sludge handling was organized in Vilnius on 27 October 2017. An extended reporting format was adopted by PRESSURE 7-2017.

	practices to utilize its valuable properties minimising a potential adverse environmental effect.		BSR-WATER project, with HELCOM participation, starts in November 2018 to support elaboration of a palette of solution to enhance nutrient recycling in waste water sector.
3.4	Implementation of the new HELCOM action on Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants.	[Lead countries]	Micropollutants of high concern have been identified and available data collected. A first draft analysis of the collected data is presented to PRESSURE 9-2018. Policy messages will be produced with support of the BSR-WATER project platform and cooperation with CW PHARMA and PA Hazards of the EUSBSR.
3.5	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Nutri of EUSBSR	Finland and Poland are leading	A number of joint workshops was organized. Regular participation in the PA NUTRI steering committees and consideration flagship projects. Follow up regional projects. PA NUTRI contributed to the MD2018 regarding internal nutrient reserves (the joint workshop) and will support elaboration of the nutrient recycling strategy.
Action 4 Solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances			
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]	Information to lay a basis for the revision is being compiled. Report on riverine input of hazardous substances has been adopted. MD2018 commitment paves the way for revision of the Recommendation as a part of the BSAP update.
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]	PFAS was identified as a group of substances which requires specific attention. The information on concentration of the substances belonging to this group was collected and is currently being processed. The work on identification of pharmaceutical compounds of high concern in addition to diclofenac is going on.
4.3	Early ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury and subsequently identification of possible joint actions for harmonized implementation		The action is being advanced on national level.
4.4	Consider policy-relevant proposals raised by PA Hazards of EUSBSR	Sweden leading in their capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards	PA Hazards steering committee meetings were attended. An initial suggestion on revision of HELCOM Recommendation on antifouling paints is submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018. A plan of cooperation between HELCOM and PA Hazards was adopted by PRESSURE 7-2017.

4.5	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.	[CPs to report Secretariat HELCOM Expert Network on dredging/ depositing operations at Sea (EN DREDS)]	Reporting format of the the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea was advanced. The data are regularly reported and compiled into the database. A general assessment methodology was approved. The details of regular assessment method is being developed bearing in mind assessment made by OSPAR.
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]	A suggestion on organization of consolidated reporting of data on handling of dredged material at sea is submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018.
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	Data on presence of pharmaceuticals in WWTP effluents has been compiled. A questionnaire to compile information of the use of pharmaceuticals in veterinary has been organized. A suggestion to organize a survey to collect information on handling of medical waste is submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018.
Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan			
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	HELCOM core indicators on marine litter have not been developed yet. However, the three indicator reports have been substantially improved, and the seafloor litter indicator has been shifted from candidate to pre-core indicator. Links to the indicator reports: - HELCOM pre-core indicator on beach litter and Annex . - HELCOM pre-core indicator Litter on the seafloor - HELCOM candidate indicator on microlitter in the water column
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	Informal coordination meetings between the Barcelona Convention, the Black Sea, HELCOM, OSPAR took place in Brussels, Belgium (document 3-5 to PRESSURE 8-2018) and Vrachati, Greece (document to be submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018). Regular follow up is organized through annual workshops and maintaining of up-to-date follow up table. Annual Forum Baltic Sea Day is utilized for discussion of specific issues with Russian expert society.

5.3	Consider potential amendments of relevant Recommendations to address marine litter		<p>A proposal for revision of HELCOM Recommendations on waste/storm water management is under consideration. Currently, the ongoing studies are aimed at building reliable knowledge base on monitoring of microlitter in order to identify its main sources and pathways into the marine environment.</p> <p>Initial draft for a HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) considered by PRESSURE 7-2017 (document 3-4). Further discussions held in PRESSURE 8-2018, FISH 7-2017 and FISH 8-2018 have led to the upcoming consideration in PRESSURE 9-2018 and FISH 9-2018.</p>
Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment and countries reporting annually (study reservation by Russia) to the joint HELCOM/OSPAR registry of licenced impulsive sound events. - Monitoring guidelines for continuous noise adopted. - Regional monitoring sub-programme for continuous noise approved. - HELCOM Input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise agreed. The document is to be submitted to the upcoming 12th EU TG Noise (6-8 November 2018, Brussels). - Report on noise sensitivity of aquatic animals in the Baltic Sea to be published as a BSEP. The document is pending its finalization on a final revision to address comments received after HELCOM 38-2017. - Joint Session of OSPAR ICG-Noise and HELCOM EN-Noise (Oct. 2017, Gothenburg, Sweden). - HELCOM work presented to the 10th (Nov. 2017) and 11th EU TG Noise meetings (June 2018).

6.2	Contribute to development of core indicators on underwater noise	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with State&Conservation Indicator Leads: Poland-continuous sound; Germany-impulsive sound.	HELCOM core indicator on underwater noise have not been established yet, however, the two indicator reports have been substantially improved, and the impulsive sound indicator has been shifted from candidate to pre-core indicator. Links to the indicator reports: - HELCOM pre-core indicator on continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound. - HELCOM pre-core indicator on impulsive sound Needs for improvement have also been identified by the Network.
Action 7 Assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution			
7.1	Consider, and where applicable agree on, the elimination of remaining hot spots on the JCP list	Contracting Parties	The HELCOM Hot Spot No. 6 – Dalälven River has been deleted.
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		Compilation of information on current status of phosphogypsum stacks has been arranged. The countries have been invited to consider potential sources off shore pollution sources. The growth of ammonia emissions has been recognized in the region. Agri group was invited to look into the issue to identify possible reasons.
Action 8 Reporting on implementation of BSAP and HELCOM recommendations in the remit of PRESSURE			
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	The level of implementation of the actions currently included into BSAP follow up has been reassessed. The results are submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018. A compilation of the other actions has been done. The list is submitted to the group for decision on needed reporting.
	Review the status of implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 24/4 on iron and steel industry and 28E/8 on small-scale combustion		No progress
8.2	Establishing a long-term plan on revision of the HELCOM agreement which falls under the ToR of the group		The discussion on work plan of BSAP revision and practical involvement of the group into this process is doing on.

Annex 11 Draft Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure) 2019-2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE IN HELCOM	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators²				
1.1	Annual compilation of air- and waterborne inputs of nitrogen, phosphorus and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea: - Produce annual report and BSEFS ³ - Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances in accordance with the HELCOM priorities and data availability	Data reporting by CPs PLC-Air Centre EMEP RedCore DG and EMEP		- Annually - Continuously
1.2	Compilation of PLC 7 data reporting. Producing assessment reports: - Update of the PLC-water Guidelines and statistic report - sources and pathways of nutrient inputs; - assessment of input of selected hazardous substances, their sources and pathways; - nutrient input by major rivers; - evaluation of effectiveness of measures.	PLC-7 project RedCore DG		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

² 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

³ Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet

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.	PLC-7 project RedCore DG	PA Nutri Regional and bilateral projects	Continuous
1.5	Elaboration of guidance to improve national data on effectiveness of measures and consequent HELCOM reporting	PLC-7 project RedCore DG [project]	[HELCOM ACTION project]	2020
Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme⁴				
2.1	Update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	PLC-7 RedCore DG, BNI and DCE		Annually
2.2	Assess progress towards national nutrient reduction targets, both scientific assessment and policy document	BNI Sweden DCE Denmark RedCore DG PLC-7, possible support by project		2020
2.3	Cooperate more closely with relevant river basin authorities to better align nutrient reduction requirements for river basins with those of the BSAP; Develop methodological background to set the reduction targets for individual rivers.	[Lead countries(s)] RedCore DG PLC-7 BNI Sweden	PA Nutri HELCOM Agri Group [HELCOM ACTION project] EU Ecostat group	Workshop 2019
2.4	Follow up further improving of the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserve and potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves.	BNI Sweden [Lead country]	PA Nutri	Continuous 2020

⁴ 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 modelling 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.

2.5	Elaborate regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves.	[IN MINUTS]		In line with the update of BSAP
2.6	Update of the HELCOM Nutrient Reduction Scheme as a part of the work on BSAP update.	PLC-7 RedCore DG	PA Nutri	2020
Action 3 Pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge⁵				
3.1	Follow-up on full implementation of HELCOM Rec. 28E/5 and 28E/6 on sewage treatment	CPs reporting		Continuous
3.2	Follow up implementation of the HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge in terms of compilation of the reported data and discuss on opportunities to set regional limit values for hazardous substances.	[Lead countries]		Continuous
3.3	Discussion on the best available solution to utilize nutrients and other valuable properties of sewage sludge minimising a potential adverse environmental effect. Contribution to the regional Nutrient recycling strategy	[Lead countries] Cooperation with HELCOM Agri Ggroup in the work on the Nutrient recycling strategy	PA Nutri BSR-WATER project platform	Workshops in accordance with BSR-WATER plan Palette of solutions 2020
3.4	Implementation of the new HELCOM action on Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants.	[Lead countries]	BSR-WATER project platform CW PHARMA Contribution by Baltic Eye through project PA Hazards	2019
3.5	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Nutri of EUSBSR	Finland and Poland are leading		Continuous
3.6	Contribute to the update of the BSAP, suggest specific actions.			In line with the BSAP update process

⁵ Cooperate on pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge

Action 4 Solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances ⁶				
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" as a part of the BSAP update	[Lead countries] Projects [CG PHARMA] HAZBREF BSR-WATER project platform	PA Hazards	2020
4.2	Cooperate with State&Conservation to further advance HELCOM indicators on hazardous substances integrating into them information on loads, pathways and sources of the pollutants. As a part of policy relevance of indicators also follow up development of relevant national and international legislation (e.g. UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention, Gothenburg protocol, etc.)	[Lead country] Projects RedCore CG PHARMA EN-Hazards State & Conservation EMEP, PLC-7	PA Hazards	2020 and further on
4.3	Identification of emerging pollutants, evaluation of the scale of problems and suggestion of mitigation measures.	State & Conservation PA Hazards CW PHARMA HAZBREF BEST BSR-WATER project platform	Watch list of the WFD; National and international screening campaigns.	Continuous 2020
4.4	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	Cooperation with the other RSCs.	Workshop(s) 2020 and further on

⁶Share 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)

4.5	Identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects, and develop appropriate mitigation measures.	CPs to provide relevant information HELCOM Maritime group		2019
4.6	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Hazards of EUSBSR	Sweden leading in the capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards		Continuous
4.7	Contribute to the BSAP update with regard to objectives for conventional hazardous substances, emerging pollutants, off shore sources of contaminants and measures to mitigate contamination of the Baltic Sea Environment.			
<i>Action on assessing of sea-bed damage</i>				
4.8	Regularly compile data on dredging/depositing operations at sea reported in accordance with the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea. Regular assess environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea. Further develop methodology to evaluate pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea and, if possible, exploitation of mineral resources on the sea bed. Contribute to assessment of sea floor integrity and cumulative impact on ecosystem. Consider measures to mitigate this pressure where it's needed.	CPs to report Secretariat HELCOM Expert Network on dredging/ depositing operations at Sea EN DREDS) To seek cooperation with ongoing projects evaluating cumulative impact.	Coordination with OSPAR Cooperation with IMO	Continuous
4.9	Further advancing of the system for reporting, verification and storing the data on dredging/depositing operations as well as tool for visualizing. Setting of the system for consolidated reporting to LC/LP on depositing of dredged material at sea.	HELCOM EN DREDS [Project]	In cooperation with OSPAR	2019
4.10	Contribute to the BSAP update with regard to measures to minimise pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations and exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor.	HELCOM EN DREDS		2020
Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan ⁷				
5.1	Contribute to the development of HELCOM core indicator(s) related to marine litter in the Baltic Sea environment in cooperation with State&Conservation.	Indicator leads: Poland-beach litter; Finland-microliter. Denmark and	STATE related to development of core indicators and joint monitoring	2019

⁷ Lead regional implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and coordinate its implementation with relevant subsidiary bodies to enable their substantial contribution.

		Sweden co-lead litter on the seafloor HELCOM EN-Marine litter	In cooperation with OSPAR and Barcelona Conventions	
5.2	Coordinate and follow up implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to achieve a significant quantitative reduction by 2025. Develop ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter.	Lead 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 as well as drafting new ones to address marine litter including microlitter	In cooperation with State&Conservation, Maritime and Fish		Continuous
5.4	Contribute to the update of the BSAP with regard to specific actions aimed at mitigation of input of plastics, including micro-plastics into the marine environment, addressing also micro-plastics in riverine inputs, urban waste water effluents and storm water.	In cooperation with State&Conservation, Maritime and Fish Contribution by projects EN-Marine litter		2020
Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise⁸				
6.1	Assess the implementation of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017	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 IMO work	2018-2019

⁸ 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.

6.2	Develop an action plan on underwater noise. Contribute to the update of the BSAP with regard to specific actions aimed at mitigation of input of energy and underwater, particularly, noise into the marine environment	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 IMO work	2021
6.3	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. IMO work	2019
Action 7 Assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution⁹				
7.1	Consider, and where applicable agree on deletion of remaining hot spots from the JCP list in accordance with HELCOM procedures.	Contracting Parties		Continuous
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
Action 8 Climate change				
8.1	Contribute to scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change together with multiple other stressors on the Baltic Sea marine environment and environmental pressures in cooperation with State&Conservation	State&Conservation [EN CLIME] Projects	HA Climate PA Nutri	Continuous
8.2	Develop suggestions, within the group's mandate, to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by adaptation of relevant policies and recommendations.	State&Conservation [EN CLIME]	HA Climate	2020

⁹ 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

Action 9 Reporting on implementation of BSAP and HELCOM Recommendations in the remit of PRESSURE				
9.1	Regular reviewing the state of implementation of the HELCOM agreements; follow up implementation of national actions; reviewing of the existing Recommendations Further contribute to the HELCOM Explorer (indicator-based follow up system for BSAP) as may be decided	CPs to report		Continuous
9.2	Revision of the other sections of BSAP by request of HOD and in cooperation with other HELCOM groups			2020