



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	RESPONSE 56-2019, HOD 56-2019, HOD 57-2019

Background

The 27th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 27-2020) will be held on 26-28 February 2020 in Vejle, Denmark, at Hotel Munkebjerg (Munkebjergvej 125).

The Meeting will be opened on Wednesday, 26 February, at 10:00 and it is expected to terminate by 12:00 on Friday 28 February.

The Meeting will be chaired by Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Chair of the Response Working Group.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the RESPONSE 27-2020 [Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Annotations to the Provisional Agenda have been prepared on the basis of the 26th Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019), the 56th and 57th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019 and 57-2019) input from the working groups and initiatives related to the Response Working Group as well as consultations between the Chair of the Response Working Group and the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings

Decisions at HELCOM annual meeting and HODs

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HOD 56-2019, held on 18-19 June 2019 and HOD 57-2019, held on 10-11 December 2019 (document to be submitted).

Sub-groups to HELCOM Response Working Group

The sub-groups and related activities will be handled under relevant agenda items as follows: SHORE Network and EWG OWR (Agenda Item 8), SUBMERGED (Agenda Item 9), IWGAS (Agenda Item 10), CG HNS MANUAL (Agenda Item 11).

Other HELCOM groups

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of other relevant HELCOM Meetings.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to consider and contribute to the work on updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), taking into account the Work Plan for the update of the BSAP.

The Meeting is invited to continue the work on rephrasing of existing BSAP actions and follow-up of the HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, taking into account the Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019 and HOD 57-2019 (document 3-1).

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 57-2019 agreed on the proposals from HELCOM Working Groups on actions to be considered as accomplished or that are proposed to be omitted from future implementation and follow-up, as contained in section 2 of HOD 57-2019 [document 3-1](#) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to undertake a technical review of proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP under the mandate of the Response Working Group (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress in the revision of existing HELCOM objectives and development of new ecological and management objectives (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to note that the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference “For a sustainable Baltic Sea: The Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021” will be held in Helsinki on 3 March 2020. The Conference will focus on the Baltic Sea Action Plan and is organized back to back with HELCOM 41-2020 (4-5 March 2020).

Agenda Item 4 Risk assessments and Safety of Navigation

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on formalities and technical details concerning the AISyRisk risk assessment tool from the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA), which can be applied also in the Baltic Sea.

The Meeting is invited to recall that Lithuania informed RESPONSE 26-2019 (c.f. paragraph 4.4 of the Outcome) that the results of the questionnaire on bunkering activities will be submitted to the Secretariat for circulation. Lithuania is invited to provide an update on this task.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present studies on risk assessments and maritime safety relevant to the Working Group.

Agenda Item 5 Matters related to recent response operations

The Meeting is invited to take note of the HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2018 in the Baltic Sea region, which was approved by MARITIME 19-2019.

The Meeting is invited to note that, as decided by MARITIME 18-2018, the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) will be used as the primary source for accident data in future annual reports starting with the reporting of accidents that occurred in 2019. The Meeting is further invited to note that the Secretariat will continue requesting Russia directly to provide their accident data in order to compile the annual accident reports for the Baltic Sea area. The reporting will be considered further by RESPONSE 28-2020.

The Contracting Parties are invited to note that the Secretariat will circulate a request for reporting significant response operations at sea and on the shore for 2019 using the reporting template agreed by RESPONSE 21-2016 (Annex 2 of the Outcome) in due course. The reporting will be considered further by RESPONSE 28-2020 and be included in the annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea during 2019.

Contracting Parties are invited to report on lessons learnt from response operations.

Agenda Item 6 National preparedness at sea and on shore

The Meeting is invited to discuss any national developments regarding response at sea, on the shore and oiled wildlife response as seen relevant based on information reported by the Contracting Parties using the agreed template to be filled in and submitted by the Contracting Parties prior to the meeting (document 6-1).

According to the template the national developments should be reported on the following topics as applicable:

Legislation

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on changes in the legislation or contingency plans.

At sea response

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on enhancements of national preparedness in dealing with response to pollution at sea including new vessels, equipment and projects.

On shore response

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on enhancements of national preparedness on shore, including oiled wildlife response, covering new equipment and development projects of national interest.

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on upcoming projects of relevance to the Response Working Group.

Agenda Item 7 Sub-regional co-operation

The Meeting is invited to update, if needed, the overview list and map of bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea included in Chapter 2 of the [HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1](#). The Contracting Parties are invited to send this information prior to the meeting as information documents.

The Meeting may wish to discuss any other issues related to bi- and multilateral agreements and plans.

Agenda Item 8 Response on the shore and wildlife response

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the 4th Meeting of the Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 4-2020) held on 25 February 2020 in Vejle, Denmark.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the 14th Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 14-2019) held as online meeting on 17 September 2019.

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 56-2019 approved the updated work plan of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) for 2020-2021, as set out in Annex 3 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019.

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the ToR of EWG OWR for the period 2019-2021 (document 8-1)

Agenda Item 9 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

The Meeting is invited to take note of the 8th Meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED 8-2020) held on 7-8 January 2020 in Kiel, Germany, in particular with regard to the ongoing development of the Submerged Assessment.

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide information on new experiences from operations involving hazardous underwater objects, including wrecks.

Agenda Item 10 Remote Sensing

10.1 Aerial surveillance

The Meeting is invited to take note that HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2018 has been published on the [HELCOM website](#).

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the amendments to the joint surveillance reporting format proposed by the Bonn Agreement Working Group on Operational, Technical and Scientific Questions Concerning Counter Pollution Activities (OTSOPA) (document 10-1).

Germany is invited to inform about the Super CEPCO held in September 2019 in the North Sea.

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform of any plans for CEPCO flights in the Baltic Sea.

10.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

EMSA is invited to present any new developments regarding the CleanSeaNet service.

The Meeting is invited to discuss further co-operation in relation to the use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges.

10.3 STW/AIS/SAT model

Sweden is invited to inform on any recent developments with regard to the SeaTrack Web (STW) including statistics on contracts with organisations of HELCOM Contracting Parties.

10.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda item 11 Other developments in response strategies and equipment

11.1 HNS Response

The Meeting is invited to contribute to the development of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual, which is envisaged to replace the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2. The Meeting is further invited to consider any input provided by the Correspondence Group on revising the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2 (CG HNS MANUAL) and to provide comments as appropriate to the West MOPoCo Project drafting team.

The Meeting is invited to take note of any intersessional project initiatives.

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit information documents on progress in drafting national HNS response manuals.

11.2 Response to oil in ice

The Contracting Parties and Observers might wish to present information related to response to oil in ice.

11.3 Places of Refuge

The Contracting Parties are invited to present information related to Places of Refuge.

11.4 Response at night/in bad visibility

The Contracting Parties are invited to present their new experience and activities related to response operations at night/in bad visibility as well as regarding equipment used in bad visibility conditions.

11.5 Emergency towing

The Contracting Parties might wish to present any information on emergency towing capacity and emergency towing exercises.

11.6 Use of dispersants

Germany is invited to present information of a project related to the use of dispersants

The Contracting Parties/EMSA may wish to present recent information related to the use of dispersants.

11.7 Non-traditional fuel types

The Contracting Parties/EMSA may wish to present recent information related to the use of non-traditional fuel types.

Denmark is invited to inform on the status of their project application related to non-traditional fuel types.

Agenda Item 12 **Exercises**
12.1 **BALEX DELTA**

The Meeting is invited to take note of, and use in forward planning, the current schedule of HELCOM BALEX DELTA exercises up to 2025, as agreed by RESPONSE 15-2012, 17-2013 and 23-2017 (2020 Estonia, 2021 Finland, 2022 Germany, 2023 Latvia, 2024 Lithuania, 2025 Poland and 2026 Russia) and recall the decision by RESPONSE 20-2015 that starting from BALEX DELTA 2017 the exercises will be held in the last week of August (c.f. paragraph 11.3 of the Outcome of the Meeting).

The Exercise Evaluation team (EET) of BALEX DELTA 2019 (conducted around and on the island of Bornholm on 27-29 August 2019), is invited to submit a report of the exercise using the evaluation template as found in RESPONSE 21-2016 document 11-4 (RESPONSE 21-2016 paragraph 11.18).

Estonia is invited to inform the Meeting about the preparations for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2020, which will take place 25-27 August 2020 near Tallinn.

Finland is invited to inform about any preliminary plans for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2021.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of other international exercises held during the inter-sessional period or plans for future exercises.

12.2 **National exercises**

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of other national exercises held during the inter-sessional period or plans for future exercises.

12.3 **HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)**

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposed HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) process to be presented by the steering group of the project (document 12-1).

Agenda Item 13 **HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual***Response Manual*

The Meeting is invited to consider and the draft revised HELCOM Response Manual, and agree on a way forward regarding its finalization and adoption (document to be submitted).

Contracting Parties are urged to verify the correctness of the national contact information and web links included in Chapter 1 of the [HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1](#) (at sea, on shore and oiled wildlife), and to submit a document to the meeting with up to date information including a link to a list of available response resources.

The Meeting is invited to recall that up-to date contact information is very important as according to [HELCOM Recommendation 36/3](#) POLREP messages should be sent via SafeSeaNet, Marine Pollution CECIS or any available communication means.

The Meeting is invited to recall the request by the EU for the Member States to keep also the contact details in CECIS-MP up to date.

The Meeting is invited to discuss any issues related to CECIS-MP and SafeSeaNet

HELCOM Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 56-2019 invited Contracting Parties to confirm willingness to take the lead in developing proposals for revisions to HELCOM Recommendations 12/7 on *Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea* and 17/12 on *Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty*. However, no lead countries have been identified to date.

The Meeting is invited to consider developments regarding the revision of Recommendation 28E/12 on *Strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field* by the SHORE Network.

The Meeting may wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 14 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

The Meeting is invited to take note of information from EMSA on any outstanding Issues not covered by the other agenda items.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 15 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to check and update the contact addresses of the Response Working Group (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 26-2019 considered a number of BSAP actions and Ministerial Declaration commitments that were previously assigned as “too general”, with a view to their possible concretization in the process of the update of the BSAP and inclusion in the update BSAP (Annex 2 of the Outcome). RESPONSE 26-2019 further agreed that many of those issues are good ideas that could be used e.g. when developing project proposals, and to establish a list of such issues that may need future development, as an ongoing topic/document submission to each HELCOM Response Meeting. The Meeting is invited to take action as appropriate in this regard.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 16 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the time and place of RESPONSE 28-2020, noting the tentative offer by Estonia to host the meeting in autumn 2020.

The Meeting is invited to consider and update a preliminary list of HELCOM and other meetings in 2020 of relevance to Response Working Group (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 17 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft Outcome of the Meeting will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.

The Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.