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Agenda Item	13 - HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual
Submission date	8.10.2020
Submitted by	Finland
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM RESPONSE 27-2020

Background

Following the invitation by HOD 56-2019, RESPONSE 27-2020 tasked Finland to take the lead on developing a draft revision of HELCOM Recommendation 12/7 on special cooperation in case of a chemical tanker accident in the Baltic Sea for consideration by RESPONSE 28-2020.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and, if possible, approve the proposal by Finland on the revised HELCOM Recommendation 12/7 on special cooperation in case of a chemical tanker accident in the Baltic Sea with the view to have it submitted to HOD 59-2020 for approval and HELCOM 42-2021 for adoption.



HELCOM Recommendation xx/xx

Supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 12/7

Adopted **20 February 1991**,
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

SPECIAL COOPERATION IN CASE OF A CHEMICAL TANKER ACCIDENT IN THE BALTIC SEA

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Article ~~11-14~~ and Annex VI~~*~~ of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, ~~1974~~1992, (Helsinki Convention), concerning cooperation in combatting marine pollution which also covers cooperation in combatting hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) spillages,

RECALLING ALSO the provision of Regulation ~~9.1.10.1~~ of Annex VI~~*~~ to the Convention, which establishes an information network between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties,

RECALLING FURTHER that HELCOM Recommendation ~~11/1331/1~~ concerning the development of national ability to respond to spillages of oil and other harmful substances establishes common requirements for national ability to combat **HNS** spillages,

RECOGNIZING that in combatting **HNS** spillages, special expertise on several fields is needed, and all necessary experts may not be available in each of the Contracting Parties, especially if the accident occurs off the coast of a Contracting Party where the chemical concerned is not used on a large scale,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that disposal of **HNS** wastes originated from the combatting operation may cause overwhelming difficulties to the third Parties not using that chemical,

RECOGNIZING ALSO need for HNS specific training and exercises on a regular basis. Basic information of HNS behaviour and response possibilities should cover organisations' personnel in required level. HNS knowledge on deeper level should be part of the training for those participating on response operations. These capabilities should be trained and tested both on national and transnational level.

RECOMMENDS that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- a) **develop operational guidelines based on the Marine HNS Response Manual and exercise these procedures regularly on international exercises;**
- b) **urges relevant national organisations to familiarise and implement the Marine HNS Response Manual content on required level to national guidelines and procedures;**

c) nominate a contact point through which competent authorities of other Contracting Parties can, in emergency situations, without delay get information on the chemicals carried by a tanker from or to a harbour of a Party concerned;

d) by national measures create as soon as possible but not later than by the end of 1992 an information system which would, in case of a chemical spillage, facilitate access by the competent authorities to data concerning the chemicals carried by the tankers;

e) provide, in accordance with Regulation 8 of Annex VI^{*)} to the Convention, and within their ability, other Parties with special assistance like experts to respond to chemical spillages, special protective clothing and equipment for combatting personnel, and special instruments for chemical analyses,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that the Governments of the Contracting Parties inform each other of their national facilities where HNS wastes emanating from combatting operations can be treated and disposed of and make all efforts to provide necessary waste treatment possibilities after an accident has occurred off the coast of another Contracting Party,

~~AUTHORIZES the Combatting Committee to develop an appropriate section concerning the implementation of this Recommendation to be included into the Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution,~~

URGES FURTHER that action taken by the Contracting Parties to implement this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission and its ~~Combatting Response Working Group Committee~~ for the first time before 30 May 1993.

~~*) after the entering into force of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, the relevant reference is to Annex VII~~