



Document title	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland on Co-operation in Combatting the Effects of Marine Pollution Incidents.
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Background

On the 25th of August 2020 Finish and Estonian Ministers of Interior signed the memorandum of understanding between both countries Ministry of the Interiors on co-operation in combatting the effects of marine pollution incidents (hereinafter MOU). MOU was prepared and written in tight co-operation between Estonian Ministry of the Interior Border Guard Policy Department and Finnish Ministry of the Interior Border Guard.

MOU signing and ministers meeting was planned back-to-back with HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2020 exercise. It was good opportunity to combine events and get more public attention to environmental issues in Baltic Sea, HELCOM format and co-operations between HELCOM countries solving oil pollution accidents. Also of course to both countries tight and good co-operation. On 26th both ministers visited HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2020 exercise. During the meeting and exercise visit, Estonia also gave over next BALEX DELTA exercise planning to Finland.

About signed MOU:

- MOU applies to co-operation in respect of combatting the effects of marine pollution incidents.
- Participants (ministries) and competent authorities (Estonian Police and Border Guard Board and Finnish Border Guard will closely co-operate in developing combatting procedures, methods and equipment as well as exercising together and training personnel.
- Participants will strengthen their co-operation in matters subject to MOU. Such co-operation will include joint projects, joint exercises and training workshops, liaison visits by experts, exchange of information and experience (including best practice) in the HELCOM Response Group and other international working groups' topics.
- In order to consider and decide on matters of practical co-operation, participants will meet as necessary, but at least once per year.
- Participants will co-operate by developing common policy and positions in common EU and other international working groups.
- Competent authorities of the participants will:
 - prepare and agree on the practical implementation of MOU;
 - regularly exchange information on units, means and methods of disposal of pollution damage;

- regularly conduct joint tabletop and practical exercises (including combined with SAR and according to HELCOM) for the removal of pollution damage and the annual exercises relating to the exchange of information on joint activities.
- In order to consider and decide on matters of practical co-operation, the competent authorities of participants will make separate co-operation protocol (including a work plan, annual exercises, meetings, common projects, et cetera).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland on Co-operation in Combatting the Effects of Marine Pollution Incidents.