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**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF
HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP
(HELCOM -VASAB MSP WG)**

INTRODUCTION

0.1 The Sixth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6/2013) was held in Riga, Latvia, on 29-30 January 2013.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by nominated experts from all Baltic Sea countries as well as by a number of invited guests. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland and Mr. Andrzej Cieslak, Poland.

0.4 The Meeting honoured the memory of Ms. Dzintra Upmaze from the VASAB Secretariat who passed away in November 2012.

0.5 The Head of the VASAB Secretariat Mr. Talis Linkaits welcomed the participants and wished all the participants a successful meeting.

0.6 Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the HELCOM Secretariat, welcomed the participants and highlighted the major tasks of the Meeting being to prepare input to the HELCOM and VASAB Ministerial Meetings, specifically a regional roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and a document on the application of the ecosystem approach in MSP. She further addressed the Meeting to consider how to bridge the HELCOM and VASAB Ministerial Meetings with common deliverables.

0.7 Ms. Stankiewicz acted as Secretary of the Meeting assisted by Ms. Laura Meski, Assisting Professional Secretary from the HELCOM Secretariat.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1/1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda (document 1/1) elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

1.2 The Meeting agreed that substantial documents requiring a decision by the meeting should be submitted four weeks in advance and information documents two weeks in advance of the meeting. The handling of documents which are submitted at a later stage will be considered by the Co-Chairs together with the Secretariats.

Agenda Item 2 Information on MSP developments and regional coordination

Documents: 2/1, 2/1/Add, 2/2, 2/2/Corr, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/8

2.1 The Meeting took note of document 2/3 on MSP developments in the Contracting Parties/Member Countries.

2.2 The Meeting took note of the current status of national MSP legislation and on processes to put MSP in place (document 2/6) and thanked Germany for leading the elaboration of the overview. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to make a final check of their respective national information and inform the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) of any amendments needed **by 28 February 2013** before it is published on the website.

2.3 The Meeting agreed to create a list of official MSP contact points in the Baltic Sea region and requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to come up with such

contact points before the next Working Group meeting, if possible, and to inform the Secretariats (laura.meski@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org) accordingly (cf. paragraph 4.6).

2.4 The Meeting was informed that the contact points/institutions for the Espoo Convention can be found on the web page (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/>). These contact points are used when making notifications in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention and for administrative matters. The official MSP contact points, on the other hand, should be contacts which are to be approached when transboundary consultation is needed and also at the early stage of planning.

2.5 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that the inter-service consultation in the European Commission on a proposal for a MSP framework directive has been finalized and the proposal is expected to be adopted by the Commission on 15 March 2013, with the aim to propose it to the Council and the Parliament (the adoption through a co-decision process).

2.6 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by some countries that enough time is needed for the consultation process of the new MSP framework directive as well as the negotiation timetable of other directives needs to be taken into account.

2.7 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU on the progress within the MSP Expert Group under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy, which met four times during 2012. The latest meeting in November 2012 made conclusions on objectives for MSP, coherence between ICZM and MSP and transboundary consultation. Two workshops are being planned for 2013 by the Expert Group: on offshore energy issues and data issues.

2.8 The Meeting referred to the Work Plan of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG where one of the tasks is to create better understanding for the specific conditions and needs for MSP in the Baltic Sea region in the EU and to find a common approach to EU initiatives in the region. Based on this task, the Meeting found it relevant and beneficial to discuss the draft MSP directive at its next meeting with the view to reflect on possible common challenges or specific Baltic perspectives.

2.9 The Meeting took note of the information that the updated Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is expected to be adopted by the European Commission soon. The text of the Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning remains as it has been proposed by the Working Group.

2.10 The Meeting welcomed the possibilities of the Seed Money Facilities to support the work under HA Spatial Planning (document 2/2 and 2/2/Corr) and agreed on the following procedure on how to handle the possible requests for letters of support for MSP-related projects applying to the Seed Money Facility:

- The HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats serve as contact points for the requests;
- The requests are circulated to the Co-Chairs and Vice-Co-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, to consider the relevance of a project against HA Spatial Planning;
- A letter of support is issued by the Chairs;
- The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is informed of the letter.

2.11 The Meeting further agreed that the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats and the Co-Chairs and Vice-Co-Chairs will be involved in commenting the applications during the evaluation process of the European Commission.

2.12 The Meeting noted an interest of a number of countries to apply for the Seed Money support and was of the opinion that it would be beneficial to exchange information on and facilitate planning of different project proposals at an early stage. Therefore, the Meeting requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to exchange information on the planned project developments through the Secretariats in order to build the necessary partnerships and avoid duplication of initiatives.

2.13 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland on the current status of the PartiSEApate (Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea

Region) project (document 2/8, **Presentation 1**). A set of stakeholder workshops will be organized within the project focusing on aquaculture, climate change, shipping and research. The HELCOM Secretariat offered to provide some background material on HELCOM work for the aquaculture workshop and climate change workshop. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties/Member States to provide any possible input to the content of the workshops to Poland (jacek.zaucha@im.gda.pl).

2.14 The Meeting welcomed that the project will contribute to developing input to the Ministerial Meetings such as updating and an online version of the VASAB Compendium on MSP. The overview of the national legislative basis (document 2/6) will be used to produce fact sheets on MSP structures in the countries as part of the compendium. In addition, the Meeting referred that also other projects like Plan Bothnia and BaltSeaPlan have produced some lessons learned on which the Ministerial input could be built on.

2.15 The next Expert Group meeting of the PartiSEApate project will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in April 2013. The Meeting invited those interested in receiving more detailed information on the PartiSEApate project to contact Poland (jacek.zaucha@im.gda.pl).

2.16 The Meeting stressed the fact that the input from the PartiSEApate project to the HELCOM and VASAB Ministerial Meetings needs to be presented to and considered by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

2.17 The Meeting supported the idea to organize a workshop on ecosystem-based fisheries in the context of broad-scale MSP (document 2/5) and welcomed the information that the HELCOM Secretariat and the PartiSEApate project will cooperate in planning and arranging the workshop. The workshop is supported by the technical assistance funds of the EUSBSR and will be the activity which will also contribute to the HA Spatial Planning.

2.18 The Meeting considered the project idea on developing a pilot maritime spatial plan for the Gulf of Finland (document 2/4). The project will build on the ongoing preparatory MSP work of the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 (GOF2014) initiative. The overall aim of the project will be to advance MSP in the transboundary areas of the Gulf of Finland and to develop and establish a closer cooperation among the relevant authorities of the participating countries on MSP.

2.19 The Meeting supported the draft project proposal to be developed further in cooperation with the Secretariat and interested countries and in order to seek for financing. The Meeting invited all interested to be in contact with Ms. Anita Mäkinen (anita.makinen@trafi.fi), leading the MSP activity under the GOF2014, on the further project development.

2.20 Referring to the discussion on the projects planning (cf. paragraph 2.12), the Meeting considered the development of a larger MSP project, building on the work within the Gulf of Finland (GOF2014 initiative), to cover a number of pilot areas/topics.

2.21 The Meeting agreed to have a more thorough discussion at the next meeting on the needs and the scope of a larger transnational pilot project possibly to be initiated in the future.

2.22 The Meeting concurred that having a list of identified MSP needs in the region could be of assistance when considering which project should be prioritized and that such a list should be linked to the EUSBSR and could be part of the MSP Roadmap (see Agenda Item 4).

2.23 The Meeting took note that the DG REGIO has approached the Secretariats with a request for initial feedback on how the existing EU financing programmes could be changed for the EU programming period 2014-2020 to better serve future projects for developing coherent and ecosystem based MSP in the Baltic Sea region (document 2/7).

2.24 The Meeting found it important that the future EU financing programmes, including European Regional Development Fund, provide opportunities for transnational

projects on MSP and that added value of international cooperation is recognized in these programmes.

2.25 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties/Member States to consult their relevant MSP experts and to provide further feedback on how to ensure that the MSP needs are duly taken into account in the next EU programming period no later than **by 22 February 2013** to the Secretariats (laura.meski@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org). The feedback will be compiled and forwarded to the DG REGIO.

2.26 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Recommendations relevant to the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 2/1) and discussed how this instrument could be used to support coherent MSP in the Baltic Sea.

2.27 The Meeting agreed that in principle the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG could propose recommendations to be adopted within the HELCOM framework. One possibility could be to consider in the future a recommendation on transnational consultation on marine spatial plans.

2.28 The Meeting discussed that the ecosystem services valuation would be of great use in spatial planning, however, knowledge in this field is lacking, and could be subject of a new HELCOM Recommendation. The Meeting took note of the information by the HELCOM Secretariat that a workshop is being planned by HELCOM and Sweden in cooperation with UNEP on the economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services. The Working Group will be informed and invited to the workshop.

2.29 The Meeting welcomed that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG also in the future will consider HELCOM Recommendations having relation to MSP.

2.30 The Meeting considered the technical amendments to HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 on Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations affecting the Baltic Sea (document 2/1/Add).

2.31 The Meeting discussed possibilities for a more substantial revision of the Recommendation to reflect the Espoo Convention, however, noted that not all Baltic Sea countries are parties to the Espoo Convention and that having some common basic region-wide provisions on consultation, as included in the Recommendation, might be useful.

2.32 The Meeting invited Lithuania to provide their comments to the attachment of the Recommendation in writing to the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) **by 28 February 2013**.

2.33 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Germany on the amended Recommendation and requested Germany to clarify it **by 28 February 2013**.

2.34 The Meeting requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with Poland to finalize the draft revised Recommendation based on the comments received.

Agenda Item 3

Lessons learnt from MSP pilot plans

Documents: 3/1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the overview on the spatial designations chosen for the MSP pilot project area Pomeranian Bight/Arkona Basin within the Interreg IVB project BaltSeaPlan (document 3/1, **Presentation 2**). The Meeting thanked Germany for the presentation.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Finland and Sweden on the pilot maritime spatial plan for the Bothnian Sea, which was prepared within the Plan Bothnia project (**Presentation 3**). The Meeting thanked Sweden for the presentation.

3.3 The Meeting discussed the legal status of the pilot plans and concluded that these two cases were outcomes of projects and thus, have no legal status. Based on the experiences from the Plan Bothnia project, Sweden and Finland, as partners of the Plan

Bothnia project, pointed out that it will be important to consider who the owner of the spatial plan is and how far it should influence decision-makers and management.

3.4 The Meeting agreed that case studies should be discussed also in future meetings.

Agenda Item 4 Towards the Ministerial Conferences

Documents: 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, 4/5, 4/5/WP1, 4/6, 4/7/WP1,

4.1 The Meeting took note of the information that the VASAB Ministerial Conference is to be held in autumn 2014. One of the main themes for the Conference is MSP, especially on linking MSP to land-based planning. The suggested deliverables for the Ministerial Conference are a compendium on MSP systems, a concept for a transnational institutional and governance model on transnational coordination, agreements and data exchange in MSP, recommendations for transnational MSP (policy document based on minimum requirements and a handbook for multi-level MSP consultation process). PartiSEApate is foreseen to contribute to these deliverables.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to be held on 3 October 2013 in Denmark. The first draft of the Ministerial Declaration will be ready for the HELCOM 34/2013 meeting on 5-6 March 2013.

4.3 The Meeting suggested that both ministerial declarations should refer to and recognize good cooperation on MSP between HELCOM and VASAB.

4.4 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 5/2012 agreed that a regional roadmap for MSP is needed and considered the draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap as contained in document 4/5. The following suggestions on how to develop the Roadmap further have been made:

- the goal has been supported by the participants, and the roadmap is to be substantiated on how this goal is to be reached, with the use of procedures that will be put in place (procedural recommendations), closing knowledge gaps, addressing stakeholders (outside public sector), setting the targets etc.;
- the roadmap should demonstrate what has been achieved so far (beyond adoption of the broad-scale MSP Principles) and the need to focus the roadmap on future actions;
- scoping of the road map into selected issues is needed, however reflecting on/linking to other processes and work (such as foreseen in the EU) contributing to reaching the goal;
- possibly to cover key transnational topics relevant for future development (pan-Baltic perspective);
- to consider how to structure the document, whether according to the MSP Principles, or refer to the Principles in any other way.

4.5 The Meeting established a drafting group of Finland, Poland, the EU, Germany, Latvia, Denmark, HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats, and EWEA to further develop the roadmap based on the suggestions above. The drafting group was chaired by Sweden.

4.6 The Meeting considered the outcome of the drafting group as contained in document 4/5/WP1 and clarified that the request for contact points on transboundary MSP consultation concerns either a person or an institution and is at the discretion of the country concerned, while noting that focal points under the Espoo Convention have already been established (cf. paragraph 2.3).

4.7 With the above clarification the Meeting agreed to take the document as basis for further work and agreed on the following timetable for continuing the work to be led by the HELCOM Secretariat:

- first draft to be sent out by the HELCOM Secretariat **by 12 February 2013**,

- comments to be received by the Secretariats **by 12 March 2013**,
- second draft to be circulated **by 19 March 2013**,
- comments to be received **by 2 April 2013**,
- final draft to be submitted by the Secretariat to the next meeting.

4.8 The Meeting considered document 4/3 containing additional information by Germany and Latvia on the implementation of the MSP Principles in national legislation on MSP. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries, which have not yet done so, to fill in the table and send it no later than **by 28 February 2013** to the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi). Germany will provide corrected information on Principle 2/Territorial Sea.

4.9 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Finland on the steps in the planning process, based on the further developed document on the practical application of the ecosystem approach in MSP (document 4/2, **Presentation 4**). The Meeting thanked Finland for their work and the EU and Poland for their input provided in the intersessional period.

4.10 The Meeting took note of the introduction by Germany on the document on a common understanding of the ecosystem approach in MSP (document 4/6). The Meeting thanked Germany for the valuable contribution.

4.11 The Meeting established a drafting group of Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and HELCOM Secretariat to consider the documents on ecosystem approach in MSP. The drafting group was chaired by Poland. The Meeting gave, on the basis of the comments received during the meeting, the following terms of reference for the drafting:

- on general level, planning steps as outlined in document 4/2 by Finland are common to all countries (some small differences exist though);
- to consider the issue of “developing maritime spatial plan” vs. “maritime spatial planning”, and how ecosystem approach is to be applied in both;
- to be forward-looking and focus on issues of urgency, in other words on different conflicting uses/elements and what is the vision for solving it, while anticipating future developments, and taking into account the requirement to reach a good environmental status;
- to consider whether starting point could be ecosystem approach, instead of planning steps;
- to consider how status of environment and which ecosystem elements under high pressure would be important to reflect on, and if SEA procedure is sufficient for ensuring integrated and ecosystem based approach;
- to incorporate Malawi principles and reflect on common understanding on Ecosystem Approach in MSP, utilizing document 4/6 by Germany;
- the document would be part of the regional roadmap for MSP.

4.12 The Meeting considered the outcome of the drafting group as contained in document 4/7/WP1 and took note of the following comments and discussion points:

- concerns have been raised by some countries over extending the MSP procedures to include some additional elements, which could prolong procedures and raise the costs; in this relation, the important issue to reflect upon is how MSP is, or should be different from terrestrial planning, taking into account that MSP is related to management of human activities this should be an essential part of the ecosystem approach document, and is especially important as in some countries the planning of terrestrial and marine areas are incorporated into the same process, and interlinkage and continuity of the planning of both in terrestrial and marine areas should be maintained;

- defining marine ecosystem functions and their contributions to the different uses of the sea will contribute to the ecosystem based MSP; some work on valuation of ecosystem services is ongoing, for instance in Sweden; needs of the planners in terms of the information on ecosystems, its functions and valuation should be included in the roadmap;
- the document should consist of the planning cycle table, providing clear implementable steps on how to incorporate ecosystem approach in MSP, as well as a part with concrete steps and timetable to bring closer to full application of ecosystem approach in MSP (which would then be incorporated into the regional MSP roadmap);
- information on ecosystems is of the highest importance for the ecosystem based MSP; number of initiatives in HELCOM as well as in the countries are ongoing to increase the knowledge on marine ecosystems such as HELCOM RED LIST project on mapping threatened species, habitats in biotopes in the whole Baltic Sea region (to be completed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting), or VELMU project in Finland on underwater habitat mapping;
- regarding data and information for MSP, it is important in planning to build on existing knowledge and apply precautionary approach, and identify additional data needs; a data workshop planned within the EU could be an occasion to continue the discussion on this issue;
- a dialogue with other institutions and organizations collecting data and monitoring the marine environment within different policy frameworks should be addressed so that MSP needs are taken into account to improve the data and information products (e.g. assessments) so they can better serve MSP;
- initial assessments by the EU member countries under MSFD provide some information of use and relevance for MSP.

4.13 The Meeting welcomed the offer of Finland, Germany and Sweden to further work on the document taking into account the comments made during the Meeting, and invited Lithuania as well as other Contracting Parties/Member Countries to provide their comments and suggestions for input to the ecosystem based MSP document in writing by **28 February 2013** to these three countries in copy to the Secretariats. The Secretariats will send a reminder on the requested input in mid-February.

4.14 Based on the comments received, the co-leading countries are invited to develop the document further and distribute it to the Contracting Parties /Member Countries in March 2013 for an additional round of comments and submission to the next meeting of the Working Group in May 2013.

4.15 The Meeting took note of the overview of legislative basis, including the conclusions (document 4/4) and found the document to constitute useful background information and endorsed the conclusion that there are no legal obstacles that would prevent the countries from planning in territorial waters and EEZ. The Meeting suggested that this message is conveyed to the Ministers in the appropriate parts of the Declarations.

4.16 The Meeting thanked Germany and other contributors for the work on the document.

4.17 As some questions have been raised in the last two paragraphs on page 3 of the document (a case on wind farms), the Meeting requested Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Sweden to clarify these paragraphs of the document **by 13 February 2013**, in order to have the background document finalized. The finalized document is to be sent to the Secretariats, for further distribution to the Contracting Parties/Member Countries for internal consultation, and with the aim of presenting it at the next meeting of the Working Group and reaching a common understanding on the legal basis for MSP in line with the Work Programme of the Working Group.

4.18 The Meeting discussed the further use of the document, to serve the discussion on rights/requirements regarding specific uses (such as wind farms) and consideration which

legal regimes are applied to these activities and under whose authority. The Meeting acknowledged that the existing legislation do not prevent conflicts to occur, which could be addressed in another document where these differences are debated. The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are invited to contribute to such a discussion through submitted documents.

4.19 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the background for the proposed new HELCOM Recommendation on Safeguarding important seabird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of energy production (document 4/1, **Presentation 5**).

4.20 The Meeting, in general, found the new Recommendation as pointing to some important matters and appreciated the background material on potential conflicts between conservation of birds and wind energy production.

4.21 The Meeting took note of the following comments by the participants:

- the map information on planned wind farms needs checking; the Meeting welcomed the offer by the VASAB Secretariat to contribute with information on wind farms to the background document in cooperation with BASREC (Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation);
- some further consideration is needed regarding recommendation on locating wind farms in deep waters, whereby information of the GORWIND project (Gulf of Riga as a resource for WIND energy) could be utilized;
- seasonal consideration regarding wildlife should be looked at;
- the recommendation should have a broader scope and be complemented with recommendations on mapping migration routes and staging areas of species of conservation concern and enhance research and monitoring to improve the understanding of the impacts of wind farms on birds;
- reference to renewable energy should be made and it should be clarified what other installations are referred to;
- it has been pointed out that there are important benefits for renewable energy which should be recognized;
- Germany noted that IBA are designated by a private entity that has not been legitimized by governments; Germany is hesitant to link public planning processes to the activities of private entities; the Meeting noted the German position;
- the last recommendation should be re-phrased to provide, in a more clear way, the steps that are to be taken.

4.22 The Meeting invited the HELCOM Secretariat to reflect these comments in the draft Recommendation, as far as possible, and circulate the draft **by 8 February 2013** to the Contracting Parties/Member Countries for their comments to be provided to the HELCOM Secretariat **by 28 February 2013**. Based on the comments received, the Secretariat in cooperation with Finland and Sweden will prepare the second draft of the Recommendation, to be circulated to the contacts of the MSP WG and HELCOM HABITAT with the aim to submit the final draft Recommendation to the next meetings of the Working Group as well as HELCOM HABITAT, with the aim to adopt the Recommendation at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

4.23 The Meeting requested the HELCOM Secretariat to further work on the background document on potential conflicts between conservation of birds and wind energy production based on the comments from the Contracting Parties/Member Countries.

Agenda Item 5

Data gathering and sharing for MSP in the Baltic Sea

Documents: 5/1

5.1 The Meeting took note of the modernization of the HELCOM data management system, as well as of the planned work on developing the existing and planned data functions of HELCOM to contribute to the availability of coherent MSP-relevant data sets (the activity co-financed by the technical assistance of the EUSBSR) (document 5/1). The Meeting welcomed the developments to support the availability of data for MSP.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that in relation to the modernization of the HELCOM data and management systems no new additional obligation should arise to lead to active duty to provide data in a certain format from that country to HELCOM. The ICT staff of the Secretariat can be contacted by interested countries for any clarification on data formats.

5.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany on the PartiSEApate project and a data workshop preliminary planned for autumn 2013.

5.4 The Meeting welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat and the PartiSEApate project to cooperate, with the aim to support the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to develop further steps in relation to MSP-relevant data gathering, availability and sharing.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

Documents: 6/1, 6/2/INF, 6/3/INF, 6/4/INF

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia Federation on the XI Annual Leaders of Strategic Planning Forum, which was held in St. Petersburg 22-23 October 2012. The Meeting appreciated the opportunity of the Forum to present the MSP in the Baltic Sea and noted that the number of members of the Group have been actively contributing to the Forum through the years.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the UNESCO project “Scaling Up Marine World Heritage through Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning” (6/2/INF) and invited the Secretariats to be in contact with the project manager, as well as to invite the project manager to the workshop on cultural heritage within PartiSEApate.

6.3 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Ms. Paula Lindroos, Baltic University Program (BUP) on the outcome of the project aimed to develop courses for professionals and universities on MSP (**Presentation 6**). The Meeting appreciated the initiative and offered to distribute widely the information about the activity as well as support it as far as possible and needed.

6.4 The Meeting took note of the information on the HELCOM-BONUS Stakeholder Conference “Future research needs of the Baltic Sea”, which will be held on 4 March 2013 in Helsinki, Finland (document 6/3/INF).

6.5 The Meeting took note of the information on the upcoming BALTFIMPA Stakeholder Conference to be held on 25-26 March 2013 at the ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark (document 6/4/INF).

6.6 The Meeting took note of the List of Contact Addresses of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 6/1) and requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to send possible updates to the list at the latest **by 7 February 2013** to the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi). The list of nominated experts for HELCOM-VASAB MSP is contained in **Annex 2**.

6.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the Nord Stream pipeline project and the cooperation under the Espoo Convention, including consultation of EIA. Five countries were involved in the consultation, nine countries were considered as affected. Russia, not being a party to the Espoo Convention, acted following the Convention as far as possible. The intention of Nord Stream is to make data available to HELCOM.

6.8 The Meeting noted that a number of the countries such as Sweden and Finland responded to the consultation of the EU Green paper “Marine knowledge 2020; from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting, as did the HELCOM Secretariat (cf. Attachment 1 to

document 5/1), and considered it useful to share the national inputs and continuously discuss the European data developments and how these could be useful to support MSP in the Baltic.

6.9 Sweden informed on the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers related to MSP, including a plan for a workshop in Iceland in cooperation with ICES, and on two projects: one project on legislative base and the other on analysis of vulnerability of sea areas.

6.10 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the work of the Agency for Water and Marine Management, and a MSP portal to be launched soon.

Agenda Item 7 Future work and meetings

Documents: 7/1

7.1 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to provide input to the status of implementation of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2010-2013 (document 7/1), especially regarding future priorities for the work, with a view to discussing the Work Plan of the Working Group for a new period at the next meeting.

7.2 The Meeting decided to arrange its next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 7/2013) at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland on 6-7 May 2013. The Meeting decided to focus the next meeting on deliverables to the Ministerial Meetings.

7.3 The Meeting decided to consider the need for a pre-meeting before HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 7/2013 on the ecosystem approach and the MSP roadmap depending on progress being made during the intersessional period.

7.4 The Meeting agreed that in the future the Contracting Parties/Member Countries should consider hosting the Working Group meetings. The Meeting clarified that the cost of arranging the meetings will be covered by the host.

7.5 The Meeting preliminarily decided that the eighth meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will be arranged in early 2014.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: None

8.1 The Meeting adopted the List of Decisions.

8.2 The Minutes of the Meeting have been finalized by the Secretariats of HELCOM and VASAB in consultation with the Co-Chairs and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal as well as on the VASAB website, together with meeting documents and the presentations given during the Meeting.

ANNEX 1

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ANNEX 2

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

HELCOM - VASAB MSP WG 6/2013	Date dd.mm.yy	Title	Submitted by
1/1	17.12.12	Provisional Annotated Agenda	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats
2/1	17.01.13	HELCOM Recommendations of relevance to the work of HELCOM- VASAB MSP WG	HELCOM Secretariat
2/1/Add	22.01.13	Proposal for a revision of HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 on Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations affecting the Baltic Sea	HELCOM Secretariat
2/2	17.01.13	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Seed Money Facility	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/3	17.01.13	National Maritime Spatial Planning developments	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/2/Corr	24.01.13	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Seed Money Facility	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/4	22.01.13	A project idea: To develop a pilot Maritime Spatial Plan for the Gulf of Finland	HELCOM Secretariat and Finland
2/5	22.01.13	A proposal for a Baltic workshop on ecosystem-based fisheries (and aquaculture) in the context of the broad-scale MSP	HELCOM Secretariat
2/6	23.01.13	Overview on national legislation on MSP and processes to put MSP in place – final draft	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/7	23.01.13	Preparations for the EU programming period 2014-2020	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/8	24.01.13	Progress report of the PartiSEApate project	Poland
3/1	24.01.13	Conflict issues and area designations in Pomeranian Bight	Germany (BSH)
4/1	17.01.13	Proposal for a new HELCOM Recommendation on Safeguarding important seabird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of energy production	HELCOM Secretariat
4/2	17.01.13	Ecosystem approach in drafting a plan for marine areas	Finland
4/3	22.01.13	Coverage of joint HELCOM/VASAB Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning principles in national legislation related to MSP	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats

4/4	22.01.13	Overview of the legislative basis	HELCOM Secretariat
4/5	24.01.13	Draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
4/5/WP1	30.01.13	Further developed draft regional Baltic Roadmap	Drafting Group
4/6	26.01.13	Ecosystem Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning	Germany
4/7/WP1	30.01.13	Drafting Group outcome on the Ecosystem Approach	Drafting Group
5/1	17.01.13	HELCOM work to contribute to availability of coherent MSP-relevant data sets in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM Secretariat
6/1	17.12.12	Contact Addresses of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
6/2/INF	17.12.12	UNESCO project "Scaling Up Marine World Heritage through Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning"	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariat
6/3/INF	17.01.13	HELCOM-BONUS Stakeholder Conference and BONUS calls	HELCOM Secretariat
6/4/INF	26.01.13	Workshop on sustainable fisheries for a healthier Baltic Sea	HELCOM Secretariat
7/1	23.01.13	The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan for 2010-2013 and progress in the implementation	HELCOM Secretariat

LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

No.	Title	Presented by
1.	PartiSEApate	Poland
2.	Zoning in MSP- Conflict Issues and Area Designations in Pomeranian Bight/Arkona Basin MSP Pilot Case (BaltSeaPlan)	Germany
3.	Lessons learnt from the Plan Bothnia project	Finland and Sweden
4.	Ecosystem Approach in drafting a plan	Finland
5.	Background - HELCOM Recommendation on seabirds and wind farms	HELCOM Secretariat
6.	Baltic University Program	Baltic University Program