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upcoming Lithuanian presidency will organise a workshop on fisheries and the following Greek presidency aim to organise a workshop on maritime transport/shipping;

- The proposed directive targets also ICM. The current EU framework for ICM is non-binding (Recommendation), which has resulted in implementation challenges as only 5-6 coastal states have put in place concrete ICM plans or strategies by 2010;
- The geographical scope of ICM (on-shore, internal waters and territorial waters) and MSP (internal waters, territorial waters and the EEZ) overlaps, in the coastal and territorial waters of EU Member States, where MSP will map human activities while ICM will ensure the integrated management of these activities. Applied jointly they both improve sea- land interface planning and management.

2.3 The Meeting noted that in addition to discussion in the European Council and Parliament the proposal has already been discussed within several EU Member State Parliaments.

2.4 The Meeting highlighted that the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has provided a functional platform for intergovernmental dialogue on MSP in the Baltic region during the last years and that this good experience should also be considered in the context of the proposed Directive.

2.5 The Meeting noted the comment by WWF, urging for a swift adoption of the proposed directive.

2.6 The Meeting was informed by the European Commission (DG REGIO) on the recent development within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The Meeting noted that planning is currently underway for the next programming period for the structural and investment funds. The European Commission has organised meetings in Arlanda (January 2013) and Espoo (April 2013) in order to facilitate embedding the EUSBSR in Partnership Agreements and Operational Programs. The European Commission will follow up in dialogue with EU Member States on partnership agreements and Operational Programs.

2.7 The Meeting also noted that the European Commission is currently preparing for an evaluation of the added value of macro-regional strategies (Baltic Sea and Danube). The report will likely be presented to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions in June 2013.

2.8 The Meeting noted further that the 2013 Annual Forum for the EUSBSR will be arranged in Vilnius, Lithuania on 11-12 November 2013 and it will focus on environmental issues.

2.9 The Meeting recalled that the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is the Steering Committee of the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning. The sixth meeting of the Working Group agreed on a procedure to be followed in order to issue support letters to be used for EUSBSR Seed Money Facility applications.

2.10 The Meeting noted the information by the HELCOM Secretariat on the planned workshop on ecosystem-based fisheries in the context of the broad-scale MSP to be organized by HELCOM in cooperation with the PartiSEApate project. The HELCOM FISH/ENV FORUM 9/2013 suggested that it would be important to involve relevant DGs of the EU in the workshop to present the proposed directive on MSP and ICM. HELCOM has received funding for organizing the workshop as well as for drafting work on the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap (document 3/1) from the EUSBSR technical assistance funds to support the work under the HA Spatial Planning.

2.11 The Meeting noted the information by the VASAB Secretariat on a new leaflet on MSP cooperation in the Baltic Sea as well as on a workshop on new spatial planning initiatives to be organised in Latvia in November 2013, both funded by EUSBSR technical assistance funds.

2.12 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the progress within the PartiSEApate (Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region) by the Lead Partner Poland (document 2/1, **Presentation 2**). HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 5/2012 agreed on granting the flagship project status to the project under the HA Spatial Planning and to function as a Project Advisory Group for the project.

2.13 A number of seminars with Stakeholders on various topics will be organized by the PartiSEApate project in April-November 2013. The latest seminar was held on marine aquaculture on 15-16 April. Presentations from the seminar are available on the PartiSEApate web page ([www.partiseapate.eu](http://www.partiseapate.eu)). Poland encouraged the other Contracting Parties/Member States to involve relevant stakeholders in the seminars.

2.14 Poland pointed out that there are synergies with the Handbook for multilevel transnational MSP consultation on good practices under development and the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap (document 3/1).

2.15 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland that short factual information on state of art of MSP for each Baltic Sea Region country will be produced (document 2/2/INF). Country fiches for Denmark, Finland and Russia are still missing and the fiches for Estonian and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are under preparation.

2.16 The Meeting appreciated the work being done within the PartiSEApate project.

2.17 The Meeting took note of the information by Ms. Anita Mäkinen on the progress made with preparing the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 (GOF2014) initiative and the preparation for a MSP pilot project in the Gulf of Finland. The city of Helsinki is planning to arrange a opening ceremony on 23 January 2014 for the GOF2014. In total 70 different events are in the pipeline for the GOF2014 arranged only by the cities.

2.18 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia on the outcome of the MSP workshop, which was held 19 March 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russia, back to back with Baltic Sea Day 2013. The workshop was held within the framework of GOF2014 and was part of the MSP Work Package on organizing workshops for harmonization of terminology, methods and practice on MSP, led by Russia. The workshop was attended by planners and international consultants.

2.19 The Meeting discussed the project idea of a larger MSP project, building on the work within finalised and presently running projects (e.g. Plan Bothnia, BaltSeaPlan, PartiSEApate) and the GOF2014 initiative and covering a number of pilot areas and topics as outlined by the Drafting Group in document 2/3.

2.20 The Meeting noted the interest from VASAB Secretariat, EUCC and Russia in participating in the initiative and invited all interested institutions to take contact with Finland ([anita.makinen@trafi.fi](mailto:anita.makinen@trafi.fi)) for further work on the project idea.

2.21 The Meeting took note of the information on the Baltic Sea Summit, which was arranged on 5-6 April 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Summit was visited by Heads of Government and ministers of the Baltic Sea countries as well as Norway, Iceland and the Commissioner of DG Regio. On the 5 April the Prime ministers and ministers delivered a statement which has given broad support to the implementation to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) as well as the upcoming HELCOM Ministerial Meeting raising the expectation that this Ministerial Meeting will evaluate in detail the progress as well as address any gaps in the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP. On 6 April roundtables were held including one on MSP, which was co-moderated by Ms. Anita Mäkinen and the Deputy Minister of Transport in Russia Federation, Mr. Viktor Olerskiy. The outcome of the meeting was ten recommendations on MSP. Ms. Mäkinen further noted that both Mr. Sergey Donskoy, Minister of natural resources and the environment, and the Prime Minister Mr. Dimitry Medvedev mentioned that MSP is an important development in Russia and that it is now time for Russia to start develop national legislation on MSP.

2.22 The Meeting requested the Secretariats to distribute to the Working Group the statement from 5 April as well as the recommendations from the roundtable.

**Agenda Item 3****Towards the Ministerial Conferences**

Documents: 3/1, 3/1/Rev, 3/1/Rev2, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/6/Rev, 3/7, 3/8, 3/8/Rev, 3/9/INF

3.1 The Meeting took note of the timetable for drafting the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration as follows:

- Contracting Parties, both Heads of Delegations (HODs) and participants of HELCOM groups, are to comment on the second draft of the Declaration by 17 May 2013, at the latest;
- Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 7/2013 will be fed into this round of national consultations;
- Third draft of the Declaration will be submitted by the Secretariat to HELCOM HOD by the end of May;
- The third draft of the Declaration will be considered by the HELCOM HOD 41/2013 on 17-18 June 2013.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the information by VASAB Secretariat on the preparations for the VASAB Ministerial Meeting in autumn 2014 in Estonia and that a initial draft of the Declaration will likely be available in autumn 2013.

3.3 The Meeting considered the outline for a Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Report 2010-2013 to be submitted to the Ministerial Meetings as a background document (document 3/6) and agreed that such a compiled technical report would be a good way to present to the Ministers the achievements of the Working Group during the period 2010-2013.

3.4 The Meeting agreed that the report would need a summary but that it should be as short as possible, avoiding value statements, in order to enable a timely submission to the HELCOM HOD 41/2013 meeting on 3 June 2013.

3.5 The Meeting agreed on the outline for the report as included in document 3/6/Rev and mandated the Secretariats in consultation with the Co-chairs to write the summary and introduction and to complete the report according to the following timetable:

- 13 May, first draft of the report to be circulated to the Working Group;
- 20 May, deadline for comments to the first draft;
- 22 May, second draft of the report to be circulated to the Working Group;
- 29 May, deadline for comments to the second draft;
- 3 June, organization of a tele-meeting to agree on the final version of report to be submitted to HELCOM HOD

3.6 The Meeting considered the Draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap (document 3/1) presented by Mr. Tuomas Kuokkanen, University of Eastern Finland.

3.7 The Meeting thanked Mr. Kuokkanen for the work on drafting the roadmap and commented it as follows:

- European Commission noted that the deadlines related to the proposed MSP Directive are currently emerging and any eventual corresponding deadlines in the Roadmap should preferably be revised in line with deadlines eventually agreed as part of the draft Directive.
  - WWF noted that currently there is a lack of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and HELCOM good environmental status targets in the Roadmap
  - Sweden noted that MSFD targets and process should be taken into account in the Roadmap.
-

- Denmark is not in the position to make any statements regarding the roadmap but will come back with comments at HELCOM HOD 41/2013 in June.
- Poland noted that Poland and European Commission will provide comments to the draft by 22 May 2013.

3.8 The Meeting noted that the 2020 goal of the EUSBSR, included in the draft roadmap, should be included as a decision point in the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting declaration itself. The deadlines of the roadmap should then follow from this goal by calculating backwards.

3.9 The Meeting concluded that a MSP roadmap like this has added regional value but that it should be concise; it should be pragmatic and it should highlight intermediate milestones needed to reach the overall goal.

3.10 The Meeting amended and approved the revised roadmap (document 3/1/Rev 2) to be adopted during the upcoming Ministerial Conferences, including the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting noted that European Commission, Germany and Poland will still provide comments **by 22 May 2013**.

3.11 The Meeting took note of document 3/5 on the ecosystem approach in drafting a spatial plan for a sea area presented by Finland.

3.12 The Meeting noted the comment by Germany that there would be a need for additional national consultation on the document due to the late submission date.

3.13 The Meeting noted that the European Commission will provide editorial input to the document to Finland, Germany and the HELCOM Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi).

3.14 The Meeting agreed that Finland with the help of the Secretariat and in cooperation with Germany should lead the work to finalise the document and that a teleconference will be held on 3 June 2013 before submitting it to HELCOM HOD 41/2013 as part of the joint Working Group report. The meeting agreed that the Working Group members will be kept up to date on the correspondence.

3.15 The Meeting recalled the input by Germany to the sixth meeting of the Working Group which includes reflection on the difference between “ecosystem based MSP” and “MSP implementing the ecosystem approach” and noted that the issue can be further clarified to the Working Group members at the telemeeting on 3 June 2013.

3.16 The Meeting considered document 3/2 on transboundary consultations on MSP in the Baltic Sea region as presented by Mr. Kuokkanen and thanked him for his work with drafting the document.

3.17 The Meeting noted the comment by Poland that similar discussions as those raised in document 3/2 have taken place under the PartiSEApate project where the participants have concluded that the Espoo Convention, and for EU Member States the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive, are the key legislative frameworks for international consultations but that these are not enough for a proper transboundary consultation on MSP.

3.18 The Meeting noted that even if planning is a national issue, MSP plans do have effects across the border and extensive cooperation is needed. The Meeting recalled that the VASAB Long Term Perspective 2030 lists a number of key issues requiring transboundary discussions.

3.19 The Meeting highlighted that the Espoo and Århus Conventions provide a framework for transboundary consultations but that such consultations cannot substitute open transboundary dialogue, such as that carried out within HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

3.20 The Meeting noted that a list of official national MSP contact points in the Baltic Sea region countries would further help such regional dialogue.

3.21 The Meeting agreed that a regional guidance document on these matters would be helpful and is a way to reach a regional agreement on what is the proper way to behave regarding transboundary cooperation and consultation in the MSP context.

3.22 The Meeting noted further the following comments by the Contracting Parties/Member States and observers regarding a regional guidance document on transboundary cooperation and consultation:

- WWF noted that cumulative effects of different projects should be taken into account;
- EUCC commented that the consultation articles of Helsinki Convention could be mentioned in the document;
- Poland highlighted the importance of cultivating a culture of collaboration among MSP planners in the region;
- Germany commented that there is a need to draft such guidelines and that the region has experience on i.a. the NordStream gas pipeline project;
- European Commission highlighted that other Europe countries, i.a. Scotland, England, Belgium and the Netherlands, have recently made a lot of work on SEAs in the context of MSP processes.

3.23 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Poland to submit a first draft of such guidelines to the next meeting of the Working Group in 2014.

3.24 The Meeting considered the comment by Finland on page 2 of document 3/8 containing an overview of the legislative basis for MSP and approved the text as included in document 3/8/Rev, pending study reservation by the European Commission.

3.25 The Meeting agreed that the European Commission should notify the Secretariats **by 15 May 2013** whether it can lift the study reservation.

3.26 The Meeting agreed that in case the reservation by the European Commission is lifted the document is considered adopted and will be reported to the Ministerial Meetings, at the first instance to the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, as part of the Working Group report 2010-2013.

3.27 The Meeting noted that if the European Commission cannot lift its study reservation without amendments, the amended file will be circulated to the Working Group members with a view of completing the consultation in due time to enable submission to HELCOM HOD 41/2013 by 3 June 2013.

3.28 The Meeting considered the final draft of the HELCOM Recommendation on safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea (document 3/7) and the revised background report on potential conflicts between bird conservation and wind power production in the Baltic Sea (document 3/9).

3.29 The Meeting provided comments as included in **Annex 2** and mandated the Secretariat to submit the draft Recommendation to the HELCOM HABITAT 15/2013.

3.30 The Meeting noted that the European Commission will provide further comments to the draft Recommendation to the HELCOM Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) at the latest **by 13 May 2013**.

3.31 The Meeting noted that Germany will provide further comments to the draft Recommendation through the German contacts of the HELCOM Habitat Group.

3.32 The Meeting considered the MSP related parts of second draft of the HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Declaration (pp. 17-18, document 3/3) and the proposal by the VASAB Secretariat on amendments to the text (document 3/4).

3.33 The Meeting agreed on the revised text for the MSP related parts of the Declaration as included in **Annex 3**.

3.34 The Meeting noted the reservations by Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden on Annex 3 and requested the European Commission, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden to come back with comments **by 17 May 2013** and Denmark as soon as feasible.

#### **Agenda Item 4 Any other business**

Documents: None

4.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the plans for a joint Nordic/UNEP/HELCOM workshop together with Sweden on the economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services (**Presentation 3**). The workshop is preliminary planned for late October or beginning of November 2013 in Stockholm at the Stockholm Resilience Center. The focus will be on the Baltic marine region but global and European knowledge will also be reflected. The draft agenda for the workshop will be ready by HELCOM HOD 41/2013 in mid-June 2013.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on preparations for a workshop on MSP in the North Atlantic Sea areas in Iceland in September 2013 to be arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). The workshop is a follow up to the workshop which was arranged by the NCM 15-16 November 2011 at the Faroe Islands.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the information by the European Commission (DG MARE) on a conference which will be organized together with Baltic Development Forum, potentially back to back with the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013. A Baltic study has been launched with the overall aim to report on maritime policy and blue growth implementation in the Baltic Sea region. The final results should be available by the conference in October. The Commission will keep the Working Group updated on the progress.

#### **Agenda Item 5 Future work and meetings**

Documents: 5/1

5.1 The Meeting considered the future work of the Working Group based on the draft Work Plan for the time period 2014-2016 (document 5/1) and agreed to further develop the Work Plan through correspondence under the lead of the Co-chairs in order to finalise a draft by November 2013 with view to forward it to HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD/BSR for adoption.

5.2 The Meeting considered the Mandate for the Working Group (Annex 1 of document 5/1), decided to apply for a prolongation of the mandate by three years from HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD/BSR, agreed on a proposal for a revised mandate as included in (**Annex 4**), including a footnote requiring bilateral consultation between Poland and the European Commission to be clarified **by 27 May 2013**.

5.3 The Meeting decided to arrange its next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 8/2014) in Riga, Latvia, on 28-29 January 2014.

5.4 The Meeting preliminary decided that the ninth meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will be arranged in early May 2014.

#### **Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: None

6.1 The Meeting adopted the outcome of the Meeting.

6.2 The final 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**

<b>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</b>		
<b>CO-CHAIRS</b>		
Mr. Andrzej Cieslak	Maritime Office in Gdynia Ul. Chrzanowskiego 10 PL-81 338 Gdynia	Dir.Phone: +48 583553435, Mobile: +48 601997965 Fax: +48 586616697 Email: cieslak@umgdy.gov.pl
Ms. Anita Mäkinen	Finnish Transport Safety Agency (TraFi) International relations and co-operation P.O. Box 320 FI-00520 Helsinki	Dir.Phone: +358 401624592 Fax: Email: anita.makinen@trafi.fi
<b>DENMARK</b>		
Ms. Annette Klynsner	Ministry of Environment Nature Agency Spatial Planning Department Haraldsgade 53 DK-2100 Copenhagen O	Dir.Phone: +45 72544535 Fax: Email: ankly@nst.dk
<b>ESTONIA</b>		
Mr. Tavo Kikas	Ministry of the Interior Planning Department Pikk 61 EE-150651 Tallinn	Dir.Phone: +372 6125177 Fax: +372 6125183 Email: tavo.kikas@siseministeerium.ee
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>		
Ms. Izolda Bulvinaite	European Commission DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Rue Joseph II, 79 B-1000 Brussels	Dir.Phone: +32 22960864 Fax: Email: Izolda.BULVINAITE@ec.europa.eu
Mr. Jeroen Casaer	European Commission DG Environment Unit D2: Marine Environment and Water Industry BU9 04/115 B-1049 Brussels	Dir.Phone: +32 22921392 Fax: Email: Jeroen.CASAER@ec.europa.eu
Mr. Axel Rod	European Commission DG for Regional and Urban Policy Avenue de Beaulieu 1 BU1- 2/181 B-1160 Auderghem	Dir.Phone: +32 22994533 Fax: Email: axel.rod@ec.europa.eu
<b>FINLAND</b>		
Ms. Penina Blankett	Ministry of the Environment P.O. Box 35 FI-00023 Government	Dir.Phone: +358 504638196 Fax: +358 916039318 Email: penina.blankett@ymparisto.fi
Ms. Tiina Tihlman	Ministry of the Environment Department of the Built Environment Kasarmikatu 25 P.O. Box 35 FI-00023 Government	Dir.Phone: +358 503041548 Fax: +358 916039365 Email: tiina.tihlman@ymparisto.fi

<b>GERMANY</b>		
Mr. Kai Trümpler	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 78 D-20359 Hamburg	Dir.Phone: +49 4031903520 Fax: +49 4031905000 Email: kai.truempler@bsh.de
<b>LATVIA</b>		
Ms. Kristine Rasina	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Spatial Planning Department Peldu street 25 LV-1494 Riga	Dir.Phone: +371 66016559 Fax: +371 67820442 Email: kristine.rasina@varam.gov.lv
<b>LITHUANIA</b>		
Mr. Aleksandras Gordevičius	Ministry of Environment Territorial Planning Urban Development and Architecture Department A. J akšto Str. 4/9 LT-01105 Vilnius	Dir.Phone: +370 52663609 Fax: +370 52663667 Email: a.gordevicius@am.lt
<b>POLAND</b>		
Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda	Ministry Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy Maritime Transport & Shipping Safety Department 4/6 Chalubinskiego Str. PL-00928 Warsaw	Dir.Phone: +48 226301984 Fax: +48 226301497 Email: kkrzywda@transport.gov.pl
Mr. Jacek Zaucha	Maritime Institute in Gdansk Dlugi Targ 41-42 PL-80-830 Gdańsk	Dir.Phone: +48 583018724 Fax: +48 583013513 Email: jacek.zaucha@im.gda.pl
<b>RUSSIA</b>		
Mr. Andrey D. Lappo	Research and Design Institute of Urban development (NIIPGradostroitelstva) Torjkovskaya 5 RU-197342 St. Petersburg	Dir.Phone: +7 8124965041 Fax: +7 8124965051 Email: a.lappo@mail.ru
<b>SWEDEN</b>		
Mr. Tomas Andersson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management Bow 119 30 SE-404 39 Göteborg	Dir.Phone: +46 106986029 Fax: Email: tomas.andersson@havochvatten.se
Mr. Sten Jerdenius	Ministry of the Environment SE-10333 Stockholm	Dir.Phone: +46 84053910 Fax: +46 8219170 Email: sten.jerdenius@gov.se
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>		
Mr. Lars Emmelin	Baltic University Programme The Swedish School of Planning Blekinge Institute of Technology SE-37179 Karlskrona	Dir.Phone: +46 706390220 Fax: Email: lars.emmelin@bth.se
Mr. Tuomas Kuokkanen	University of Eastern Finland P.O. Box 11 FI-80101 Joensuu	Dir.Phone: +358 503790429 Fax: Email: tuomas.kuokkanen@uef.fi
Mr. Niko Soininen	University of Eastern Finland P.O. Box 11 FI-80101 Joensuu	Dir.Phone: +358 504323054 Fax: Email: niko.soininen@uef.fi

<b>OBSERVERS</b>		
Mr. Holger Janßen	The Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) Seestrasse 15 DE-18119 Rostock-Warnemuende	Dir.Phone: +49 3815197469 Fax: +49 3815197211 Email: holger.janssen@eucc-d.de
Ms. Vanessa Ryan	WWF Finland Lintulahdenkatu 10 FI-00500 Helsinki	Dir.Phone: +358 407630000 Fax: Email: vanessa.ryan@wwf.fi
<b>VASAB SECRETARIAT</b>		
Mr. Talis Linkaits Head of Secretariat	VASAB Secretariat Elizabetes street 19 LV-1010 Riga	Dir.Phone: +371 67350630 Fax: +371 67350626 Email: talis.linkaits@vasab.org
Ms. Alda Nikodemusa Deputy Head of Secretariat	VASAB Secretariat Elizabetes street 19 LV- 1010, Riga	Dir.Phone: +371 67350627 Fax: +371 67350626 Email: alda.nikodemusa@vasab.org
<b>HELCOM SECRETARIAT</b>		
Mr. Hermanni Backer Professional Secretary	Helsinki Commission Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki	Dir.Phone: +358 468509199 Fax: +358 207412645 Email: hermanni.backer@helcom.fi
Ms. Laura Meski Assisting Professional Secretary	Helsinki Commission Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki	Dir.Phone: +358 401622053 Fax: +358 207412645 Email: laura.meski@helcom.fi
Ms. Marta Plichta Project Researcher	Helsinki Commission Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki	Dir.Phone: +358 406693090 Fax: Email: marta.plichta@helcom.fi

## ANNEX 2

### HELCOM RECOMMENDATION xx/x

Adopted x xx 20xx

having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### **SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA**

#### **THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Article 15 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to individually and jointly take all appropriate measures with respect to the Baltic Sea Area and its coastal ecosystems influenced by the Baltic Sea to conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes and that to this end, the Contracting Parties shall aim at adopting subsequent instruments containing appropriate guidelines and criteria,

**NOTING** the ongoing and planned extensive development of facilities for wind energy production in the Baltic Sea, **RECOGNIZING** that renewable energy, including wind and wave energy brings environmental benefits over traditional fossil fuels and have an important role in achieving global and EU CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets, however **BEING CONCERNED** of increasing demand to locate wind energy facilities in shallow coastal or off-shore areas of high value for wintering and staging birds as well as inside migration routes of birds,

**BEING FURTHER CONCERNED** of the additional pressure that these facilities put on the marine environment, which is already burdened by numerous pressures from other human activities,

**EMPHASIZING** the importance of the early planning of the use of the marine space in the Baltic-wide context for development of installations, such as wind and wave energy facilities, in order to minimize the harmful effects on birds,

**RECALLING** that with the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan the Contracting Parties have adopted four strategic goals, reflecting the jointly identified major environmental problems in the Baltic Sea and describing the desired state of the marine environment, namely a "Baltic sea unaffected by eutrophication", "Baltic Sea life undisturbed by hazardous substances", "Maritime activities carried out in an environmentally friendly way", all of which will enable reaching "Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity",

**RECALLING FURTHER** that the ministers and high-level representatives of the Contracting Parties agreed in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan that the Baltic Sea should become a model of good management of human activities and be in a good environmental status by 2021,

**RECALLING ALSO** that the HELCOM Moscow 2010 Ministerial Meeting agreed that Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) should be developed for the different Baltic Sea areas in close transboundary cooperation aiming at long-term sustainable use and planning for the whole Baltic Sea,

**EMPHASISING** the ecosystem approach principle of the Baltic Sea broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles jointly adopted by HELCOM and VASAB in 2010,

**RECALLING ALSO** the obligations under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive relevant to those Contracting Parties being also EU member states, especially related to the

aim to reach or maintain a good environmental status of the marine environment in which the introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment,

**RECALLING FURTHER** the obligations under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives relevant to those Contracting Parties being also EU member states and **APPRECIATING** that in 2011 the European Commission has developed a guidance document “Wind energy developments and Natura 2000” referring also to marine environment,

**RECOGNISING** that birds are an integral part of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and food web, and that many bird populations in the Baltic Sea are in serious decline and that the cause of the decline is unclear,

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that off-shore banks and shallow coastal areas are important habitats for many wintering and staging bird species, such as long-tailed duck, common eider and velvet scoter, and that these habitats are limited in range and extension,

**BEING CONCERNED** that the long-tailed duck, velvet scoter, common eider and other birds are examples of declining species that winter on off-shore banks,

**NOTING** indications that certain bird species like long-tailed duck may not return to the original wintering habitat after the habitat has been used for wind energy facilities, and thus **BEING CONCERNED** that the loss of wintering and staging habitats will have a negative impact on the population status of birds that are dependent on these habitats,

**RECOGNISING** that birds use different areas during different seasons, **CONCERNED** that the increasing number of wind energy installations at sea and their accumulation in certain areas can result in a cumulative impact on staging areas and migration routes of birds,

**NOTING** that new technical solutions are available to monitor bird migration movements and **HIGHLIGHTING** the importance of making the relevant data on sea birds and their wintering and staging habitats and migratory routes available for maritime spatial planning processes,

**RECOMMENDS** the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention to map migration routes and staging areas (i.e. wintering, feeding, moulting and resting) of birds in the Baltic Sea Area and to enhance research and monitoring in order to improve the understanding of the impacts of wind energy facilities, both during and after construction, on birds in the Baltic Sea,

**ALSO RECOMMENDS** the Governments to apply the precautionary principle by undertaking measures to avoid or minimize negative effects of wind energy facilities on birds in the Baltic Sea, such as disturbance during and after construction, including barrier effects and hampering of migration, habitat modification or loss, and collisions with turbines, through the application of ecosystem approach in<sup>1</sup> strategic planning for wind energy facility developments in the Baltic Sea,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** to:

- a) continuously compile and exchange information on existing, on-going as well as planned developments for wind energy facilities and wave energy installations in the Baltic Sea Area and well as on migration routes and staging areas of birds in the Baltic Sea Area
- b) jointly assess cumulative impacts of wind energy facilities and wave energy installations in the Baltic Sea Area on birds, including risks of collisions and adverse effects to migration routes,
- c) enable appropriate planning of the use of marine space that incorporates conservation need of seabirds in the Baltic-wide context thus contributing to reaching their favourable conservation status;
- d) <sup>2</sup> Intensify the research on direct and indirect effect of underwater noise on birds.

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<sup>1</sup> EU study reservation on changing “ecosystem based approach” to “application of ecosystem approach”

<sup>2</sup> FI and EU retain study reservations on the deletion of the first part of the paragraph

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- e) avoid that wind energy facilities and wave energy installations, if likely to be harmful<sup>3</sup> are sited in areas important for birds, and that the loss of off-shore staging habitats will be halted;<sup>4</sup> avoid that wind energy facilities are situated within major migrating routes of birds,
- f) ensure that plans for offshore wind energy development and individual wind energy facilities will be established only following strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment, respectively, where cumulative regional Baltic Sea scale and sub-basin scale impacts and benefits of the different development options to birds have been thoroughly assessed;

include into construction and operating permissions the obligation for the operator to carry out adequate monitoring of impacts on birds at least for five years during the operation phase.<sup>5</sup> **RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the action taken by the Contracting Parties in accordance with this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission on request.

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<sup>3</sup> FI study reservation on the inclusion proposed by DE

<sup>4</sup> LT alternative: alternatively it could be considered not operating wind energy facilities and wave energy installations during the periods of the year important for the birds, and that the loss of off-shore staging habitats will be halted;

<sup>5</sup> FI study reservation of the inclusion of "at least for five years"

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### ANNEX 3

#### **Maritime Spatial Planning applying the Ecosystem- approach<sup>6</sup>**

- 1 (MSP). WE NOTE that the Baltic Sea coastal states are entitled to establish a legal regime for Maritime Spatial Planning in their Internal Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone,
- 2 (MSP). WE AGREE to put in place national frameworks for coherent MSP in place by 2017 reflecting HELCOM-VASAB MSP principles, including the ecosystem approach, taking into account the relevant EU policy instruments for Baltic Sea countries being EU Member States,
- 3 (MSP). WE FURTHER AGREE that the ultimate goal is to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by [2020]<sup>7</sup> which are coherent across borders and applying the ecosystem approach,
- 4 (MSP). WE ADOPT the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 to achieve this ultimate goal,
- 5 (MSP). WE DECIDE to continue the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting guidelines on ecosystem approach, transboundary consultations and cooperation as well as public participation in the MSP framework according to the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020,
- 6 (MSP). WE WELCOME the progress made within the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG since 2010 [ref. report of joint WG] and SUPPORT the continuation of the HELCOM cooperation with VASAB and the role of the joint MSP WG to utilize the full potential of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and to serve transboundary and cross-sectorial cooperation and consultation,
- 7 (MSP). WE ENCOURAGE the development of effective and efficient exchange of experience and knowledge from all relevant disciplines taking into account results from Maritime Spatial Planning practices and projects.

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<sup>6</sup>DE, DK, EU, FI, LT, RU and SE participants of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 7/2013 retain study reservations on this text

<sup>7</sup> FI proposes to delete as unrealistic deadline

## ANNEX 4

### Mandate for the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

#### 1. The Rationale

The Baltic Sea is an important common resource for the Baltic Sea Region countries and further neighbouring countries. It represents an important economic potential and at the same time a vulnerable ecosystem. The current environmental status requires intensive efforts towards stabilisation and improvement. Many sea use conflicts call for a wise management and coordinated introduction of continuous Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). Development potential for future uses needs to be preserved.

#### 2. Political Context

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007) commits the HELCOM Contracting Parties to jointly develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, in cooperation with other relevant international bodies, broad-scale, cross-sectoral, MSP principles based on the Ecosystem Approach that reflect the specific conditions and needs in the Baltic Sea Region.

The VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (2009) has specified concrete activities towards developing the Baltic Sea Region into a European Model Region for MSP.

In its Green Paper on the future Maritime Policy (2006) and its Blue Book/Action Plan "An integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union" (2007), the European Commission has emphasised the need for MSP. In the Communication on a "Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving common principles in the EU" (2008), the European Commission has outlined relevant issues, steps and principles.<sup>8</sup> The European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD, 2008) promotes spatial measures as one of the means to reach Good Environmental Status of European Seas. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009) has attributed HELCOM and VASAB a prominent role in promoting maritime spatial planning in the region together with other stakeholders.

The "Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation to the year 2020" supports cooperation similar to MSP in fields like integrated management of sea resources, conflict resolution, future-oriented use of sea space, research, information, legislation and education.

#### 3. The Joint Working Group and its overall aims

In order to address these challenges the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) and Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) sets up a joint co-chaired Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning to ensure cooperation among the Baltic Sea Region countries for coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning processes. It will:

- Provide a forum for regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning -enabling a common approach
- Assist the CSPD/BSR and its member states in implementing the actions decided 2009 in VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region towards the next Ministerial Conference
- Assist HELCOM and its member states to implement the Maritime Spatial Planning relevant actions decided in HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan 2007 and its follow-up
- Provide Baltic Sea Region countries a platform to discuss the links between relevant International Agreements, EU legal instruments and policies, Baltic Sea Region and national policies,

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<sup>8</sup> EU and Poland will provide a suggestion by 27 May how to reflect the European Union proposal for a Directive on MSP and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) with aims to establish a common European framework for MSP and ICM in EU Member States.



- Assist the Baltic region in profiling itself as a global and European forerunner in maritime spatial planning

#### **4. Anticipated Tasks**

In order to achieve these goals the Group will:

- Promote the development of maritime spatial planning in the region and follow up its implementation as outlined in VASAB Long Term Perspective as well as HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and relevant HELCOM Recommendations, including supporting the setting-up of governing structures, legislative basis, transboundary consultations as well as developing concepts for common Maritime Spatial Planning Principles.
- Propose to organize workshops and events as well as information material on maritime spatial planning.
- Follow and examine as well as make use of the outcomes and findings of regional project activities relevant to MSP.
- Promote the development of compatible datasets and information relevant to BSR maritime spatial planning and thus ensure keeping HELCOM GIS and other regional GIS data portals up to date with best available information.
- Prepare decision proposals on Maritime Spatial Planning in the BSR for the forthcoming VASAB Ministerial Conferences and HELCOM Ministerial meetings.

The Group will develop a Work Plan, for adoption by VASAB CSPD and HELCOM HOD.

#### **5. Membership**

Participation is open to representatives from relevant ministries or government agencies in all VASAB and HELCOM Member Countries/Contracting Parties as well as for experts delegated by them. The members should be nominated by the Member Countries/Contracting Parties. A representation of all VASAB and HELCOM countries with sea coast is envisaged.

VASAB and HELCOM observers can participate. Other guests, organisations and initiatives from around the Baltic Sea and from other parts of Europe with a substantial maritime spatial planning interest can be invited as observers.

#### **6. Organisation**

The Working Group will be jointly co-chaired by a VASAB CSD/BSR chair (nominated by group and adopted by VASAB CSD/BSR) and HELCOM chair (nominated by group and adopted by HELCOM HOD). The two chairs will, with the assistance of both HELCOM and VASAB secretariats, jointly prepare meetings and Agendas for the Working Group.

The Working Group will document its meetings. A concise outcome will be adopted before the end of each meeting. The outcome is agreed by consensus. All meeting documents and the outcome will be made freely available to the public shortly after the meeting through the HELCOM and VASAB websites.

Meetings will take place up to three times a year. The Group may change the frequency of meetings according to need. In addition to meetings, exchange of e-mails will be used for intersessional work. The Group will send its outcomes and progress reports for approval both to the CSPD-BSR and HELCOM, including proposals for creation of sub-groups. The working language is English.

#### **7. Timeframe**

The Mandate of the Group is valid for three years from 2014. The Group may request a prolongation jointly from the CSPD/BSR and HELCOM.

#### **8. Resources**

Costs for the participants including travel costs to meetings will be covered by the delegating institutions. Direct costs for meetings will be borne by the host country if not arranged within HELCOM or VASAB Secretariat premises. Staff support from the VASAB and HELCOM

Secretariats will be provided for technical support (e.g. preparation of meeting documents including minutes, registration of participants, etc.) and Secretariat attendance at meetings.

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<b>HELCOM - VASAB MSP WG 7/2013</b>	<b>Date dd.mm.yy</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
1/1	02.04.13	Provisional Annotated Agenda	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
2/1	29.04.13	Status report of the PartiSEApate project	VASAB Secretariat and Poland (Lead Partner)
2/2/INF	03.05.13	PartiSEApate project - country fiches on the current status in MSP	Poland (Lead Partner)
2/3	06.05.13	Outline for a pan-Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning project for the Baltic Sea	Drafting Group
3/1	12.04.13	Draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap	HELCOM Secretariat
3/1/Rev	06.05.13	Draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap	Drafting Group
3/1/Rev 2	07.05.13	Draft Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap	HELCOM Secretariat
3/2	12.04.13	Transboundary Consultations on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea region	HELCOM Secretariat
3/3	29.04.13	Second draft of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration	HELCOM Secretariat
3/4	29.04.13	Proposal to the section on MSP in the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration	VASAB Secretariat
3/5	30.04.13	The ecosystem approach in drafting a spatial plan for a sea area	Finland
3/6	30.04.13	Draft outline for a Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Report 2010-2013	HELCOM Secretariat
3/6/Rev	06.05.13	Revised draft outline for a Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Report 2010-2013	HELCOM Secretariat
3/7	03.05.13	Final draft: HELCOM Recommendation on safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea form negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea	Finland, Sweden and the HELCOM Secretariat
3/8	03.05.13	Overview of the legislative basis	HELCOM Secretariat
3/8/Rev	07.05.13	Overview of the legislative basis	HELCOM Secretariat
3/9/INF	06.05.13	Background report on the potential conflicts between bird conservation and wind power production in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM secretariat
5/1	05.06.13	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG draft Work Plan for 2014-2016	HELCOM Secretariat