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Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
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Background

The 18th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019) will be held in Hamburg, Germany, on 27-28 March 2019, upon invitation by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) and upon the joint invitation by HELCOM and VASAB.

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 will be opened on **Wednesday, 27 March 2019 at 09:00** in the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78, Hamburg) and is expected to end on **Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 16:00**.

The Meeting will be focussed on the follow-up of MSP implementation by the Baltic Sea countries, outcomes of the workshops on green infrastructure and essential fish habitats and minimum requirements to ensure coherence of MSP in the region as well as other tasks from the work plan of the working group.

The Meeting will include an interactive workshop on Assessment of Regional MSP framework implementation by the Baltic Sea countries (activity 1.1.4. of Pan Baltic Scope) coordinated by VASAB with support from the Baltic Environmental Forum. Workshop participants will be introduced with preliminary findings on the MSP Principles and Guidelines on transboundary consultation application, given the opportunity to provide feedback on the initial outcomes and suggestions for updating MSP Principles and shaping the upcoming MSP Roadmap for BSR.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the *restricted* meeting documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#). Participants of the Meeting are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **by 19 March 2019**.

The Meeting will be chaired jointly by the Working Group Co-Chairs Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Provisional Agenda (document 1-1) and Annotations to the Provisional Agenda (document 1-2) have been prepared on the basis of the Outcome of the Seventeenth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as well as consultations with the Co-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats. The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

Agenda Item 2 Building up future common regional MSP framework

The Meeting is invited to take part in the interactive workshop on Assessment of Regional MSP framework implementation by the Baltic Sea Countries. The workshop participants will be introduced with preliminary findings on the MSP Principles and Guidelines on transboundary consultation application, given the opportunity to provide feedback on the initial outcomes and suggestions for updating MSP Principles and shaping the upcoming MSP Roadmap for BSR. The workshop is part of the activity 1.1.4 of the project Pan Baltic Scope and will be coordinated by VASAB Secretariat with support from the Baltic Environmental Forum.

All Contracting Parties are invited to discuss the outcome of the Workshop and the potential links with the MSP Principles and Guidelines as well as its contribution to the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap and Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) update.

HELCOM MD2018 committed to strengthen the implementation of the current BSAP by 2021. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018 identified not yet accomplished MSP related actions of (Annex 2 to the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018), e.g. fisheries data (item 1 of Annex 2), establishing coherent MSPs and other issues. The Meeting will be invited to discuss further work to implement the commitment (some additional information might be submitted).

The HELCOM Secretariat will present a document on the identification of minimum requirements for preparing and implementing MSP in the Baltic Sea Region. The meeting is invited to discuss common understanding and goals for the coherence of the plans. Furthermore, the meeting is invited to discuss the document and give directions for further elaborations.

The HELCOM Secretariat will present the current status of the BSAP update; the establishment of an ad hoc HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform); and HELCOM ACTION project to evaluate and identify effective measures to reach Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted by the Secretariat). The Meeting is invited to take note of the on-going work to update the BSAP and further discuss contribution of the group on this work.

Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work

The Meeting will be informed on matters within HELCOM and VASAB of relevance to the Group, including past and upcoming meetings, especially, the outcome of the VASAB CPSD/BSR 80th meeting and HELCOM 40-2019 regarding the revised Recommendation 24/10 'Implementation of integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea Area' and adoption of the 'Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data structure in the Baltic Sea', as well as BSR MSP Data Expert sub-group activities (by Chair of Data group).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and take it into account in the group's work.

Agenda Item 4 Regional coordination and policy follow-up

The Countries will be invited to update new national MSP developments.

The Secretariat and all Contracting Parties are invited to share information on recent development of the regional MSP framework, meetings, workshops and other events (e.g. the MSP Global Opening Conference held in Paris on the 12 February 2019).

The Countries will be invited to check and update the list of national MSP focal points for transboundary consultation and joint planning in the Baltic Sea Region countries.

The countries will be invited to share information on spatial plans and projects with transnational impact (as mentioned in the Outcome of 15-2017, para 3.12).

Germany will present the main recommendations addressed to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as results from the Baltic LINes project. The meeting is invited to take note of the recommendations and discuss their application in the regional MSP work.

The Meeting will be informed of the results of the 5th Planning Forum of the Pan Baltic Scope project that was held in Hamburg on the 12 of February 2019 (information provided by lead partner). The meeting is invited to take note of the results.

Agenda Item 5 Ecosystem-based approach in MSP

The Meeting is invited to discuss the status and the implementation of the timetable for future cooperation on Green Infrastructure / Blue corridors in MSP and marine environmental management.

One of the steps to implement the timetable was a Pan Baltic Scope workshop on Green Infrastructure that was held on the 12-13 December 2018 in Riga. The workshop took place back-to-back with the workshop on essential fish habitats organized by the project in cooperation with HELCOM. The Meeting is invited to take note of outcomes of the workshops and to discuss the initial suggestions for “green” maps based on the outcomes. Project partners responsible for the organization of the workshop might wish to present information.

The HELCOM Secretariat will present the current work related to climate change. The Countries will be invited to share information on national experience on accounting climate change issues in MSP. The Meeting is invited to discuss the significance of climate change issues for MSP in the BSR.

Agenda Item 6 MSP-related projects and events

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on activities under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in relation to Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning for which HELCOM and VASAB act as the Horizontal Action Coordinators and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part.



The lead partner of Baltic LINes will present key points of the Conference “Connecting Sees” jointly organized by NorthSEE and Baltic LINes projects.

The VASAB Secretariat will present an update on the partnership and the status of the project platform application Capacity4MSP.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the HELCOM and VASAB members and Observers at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

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