



Document title	Matters arising from other HELCOM groups and VASAB work
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Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
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Background

The document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020:

- Outcome of the 58th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020), online, 9-10 June 2020;
- Outcome of the First Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 1-2020), online, 18 June 2020;
- Outcome of the Second Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 2-2020), online, 11 September 2020;
- Outcome of the Intersessional Meeting of the Heads of Delegation on the socio-economics and financing segment of the updated BSAP (HOD 58A-2020), online, 17 September 2020;
- Outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME 6-2020), online, 22 September 2020;
- Outcome of the Third Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 3-2020), online, 1 October 2020.

The document also contains information on matters arising from VASAB work.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to

- take note of the information on the matters arising from other HELCOM Groups (extracts from recent Outcomes of the HELCOM events relevant to the Working Group) and VASAB work since HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020.

Outcomes of the HELCOM events relevant to the work of the Working Group

HOD 58-2020

Agenda Item 2 Outgoing and incoming chairmanship of HELCOM

2.1 The Meeting recalled that the Finnish chairmanship of HELCOM is coming to an end on 30 June 2020 and took note of the account by Finland on accomplishing its chairmanship priorities.

2.2 The Meeting recognized the accomplishments achieved under the Finnish chairmanship, particularly on advancing the BSAP update process, the reduction of nutrient inputs through the implementation of the regional nutrient reduction scheme and BSAP actions, work on understanding the effects of climate change, and the synergetic links between HELCOM and the UN Agenda 2030, especially the integration of SDG 14 in HELCOM processes.

2.3 The Meeting thanked Finland and the outgoing Chair, Ms. Saara Bäck, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, for the successful chairmanship.

2.5 The Meeting further took note of the introduction of the German chairmanship team by Ms. Heike Imhoff, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and welcomed the incoming German chairmanship team consisting of Ms. Lilian Busse, Chair of HELCOM, German Environment Agency (UBA); Mr. Johannes Oelerich, Vice-Chair of HELCOM 2020-2021, Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization (Schleswig-Holstein); and Mr. Andreas Röpke, Vice-Chair of HELCOM 2021-2022, Ministry for Agriculture and Environment (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern).

Agenda Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

3.2 The Meeting discussed the timing of the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021, tentatively set for October 2021, and took note that Germany, the upcoming Chair of HELCOM for 2020-2022, is planning to hold the meeting in October 2021 and will inform HELCOM of the exact date and venue as soon as such information becomes available.

Agenda Item 4 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

4.7 The Meeting agreed on the year 2030 as the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the Meeting further agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.

4.8 The Meeting reiterated that the updated BSAP should be short and concise, the information easily accessible and the content written in clear, simple language, while ensuring that the Plan retains political interest. The Meeting highlighted that the lowest suggested number of pages for each section as proposed in document 4-11 should not be exceeded.

4.9 The Meeting considered the view by Sweden that the updated BSAP would benefit from the inclusion of environmental targets for the new topics (e.g. marine litter), and the possibility to use the outcomes of the SOM analysis as a contribution to the process of identifying targets. The Meeting acknowledged that this needs to be considered in more detail when the results of the SOM analysis and the associated background information are available. In this context, the Meeting noted that the setting of environmental targets is typically a demanding political process.

4.10 The Meeting encouraged the Chairs of the HELCOM Working Groups to take part in the work of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP).

4.11 The Meeting invited the DG BSAP to reflect on the level of detail to be included in, and the format of, the operative sections of the updated BSAP.

4.12 The Meeting supported the inclusion of an additional segment focusing on horizontal actions in the updated BSAP, to be divided by subheadings representing the various identified horizontal topics (including actions on socio-economics and financing, climate change etc.) and invited the DG BSAP to develop a proposed structure for the segment.

- 4.13 The Meeting invited Mr. Rüdiger Strempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary, to chair the DG BSAP.
- 4.18 The Meeting took note of the comments by CCB and WWF as presented in document 4-12 on the Shadow Plan, proposed actions with references to related synopses and thanked CCB and WWF for the document.
- 4.20 The Meeting took note of the proposal of rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP (document 4-9, Presentation 2).
- 4.21 The Meeting agreed that all proposed action-specific target years in document 4-9 should be considered as provisional. The Meeting further agreed that once all proposed target years are in place the overall division and distribution of target years will be reviewed and, where needed, target years might be amended to better distribute upcoming work and ensure that work is planned to take place in a logical order.
- 4.22 The Meeting acknowledged that the final formulation of actions may need to be modified to account for overlap or links to new actions. The final approval of formulations will take place when all actions are in place.
- 4.27 The Meeting noted views that provisions of Minamata Convention should not be repeated in the operational part of the updated BSAP but that some regionally specific measures strengthening prevention of contamination of the Baltic Sea marine environment by mercury could be proposed. The Meeting took note that Russia is not a Party to the Minamata Convention, being a signatory, and thus considers it premature to include the implementation of the Convention as a measure in the updated BSAP. Views by Contracting Parties presented at the Meeting will be taken into account in the further development of measures for the related segment of the BSAP.

MSP in BSAP and the new Regional MSP Roadmap

- 4.30 The Meeting considered the proposals by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG) to integrate MSP in the updated BSAP and on the new Regional MSP Roadmap (document 4-6) and in general supported the proposed way to reflect MSP in the updated BSAP, pointing out that the proposal should be further developed in line with overall drafting of the BSAP.
- 4.31 The Meeting welcomed the proposal to coordinate the development of the Regional MSP Roadmap and the BSAP update ensuring coherence and synergy between the documents. However, the Meeting stressed the need to strengthen integration and interlinkage between the documents, particularly, recognizing the ultimate goal of the BSAP to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea; HELCOM findings on the state of the Baltic Sea and cumulative environmental impact; the role of MPAs and other aspects of ecosystem-based management in the new Roadmap. The Meeting requested the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to submit a draft MSP Roadmap for consideration of relevant HELCOM Working Groups e.g. Gear Group.
- 4.32 The Meeting noted that MSP might be considered for inclusion as one of the topics under the segment of horizontal actions in the updated BSAP.

HELCOM Explorer

- 4.44 The Meeting also agreed that the implementation of the joint actions will be reported by the HELCOM Working Groups in their autumn 2020 meetings and that the concretized actions from the Ministerial Declaration 2018 under the Pressure Working Group, endorsed by HOD 57-2019, can be included in the updated HELCOM Explorer for assessment of accomplishment at PRESSURE 13-2020.
- 4.45 The Meeting further agreed that the actions in the current HELCOM Explorer that originate from HELCOM Recommendations can be replaced with the more detailed reporting done by countries in 2019.

HELCOM Science Agenda

4.46 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work on the HELCOM Science Agenda, thanked the Task Group Science Agenda for their work and considered the draft report as presented in document 4-8.

4.52 The Meeting took note that the next meeting of the Science Agenda TG will take place on 16 June 2020 and encouraged all Contracting Parties to take active part in the work of the Task Group.

Agenda Item 6 HELCOM institutional and organizational matters

6.1 The Meeting considered and approved the post description, vacancy announcement and the timetable for the recruitment of Professional Secretary for the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure), the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) and the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) (document 6-1) as well as advised the Executive Secretary on further actions.

DG BSAP 1-2020

2.2 The Meeting appointed Mr. Rüdiger Stempel as the Chair of DG BSAP.

Agenda Item 3 Planning the work of DG BSAP

3.6 The Meeting recalled that HOD 57-2019 had agreed that the supporting documents such as regional action plans will not be included in the updated BSAP but will be free-standing documents. The Meeting took note of the information that actions included in the documents currently labeled as supporting documents are not to be considered of lower relevance than those included in the BSAP, acknowledging that as free-standing documents these allow for a higher level of specificity and provide a more dynamic format for implementation, as they could, for instance, be updated more frequently than the BSAP. The Meeting highlighted the need to ensure that the supporting documents have an active link to the operative sections of the BSAP.

DG BSAP 2-2020**Agenda Item 4 Overarching preamble for the updated BSAP**

4.2 The Meeting took note of the first draft of the overarching preamble drafted by the Secretariat.

4.5 The Meeting agreed to keep the traditional preambular style for now but edit the text to make it more accessible for the reader.

Agenda Item 5 Horizontal actions segment

5.4 The Meeting agreed on the proposed overall structure of the horizontal actions segment, as presented in document 5-1, including a joint introduction to the segment followed by topic-wise sections.

5.5 The Meeting agreed that the order of topics should be climate change, monitoring, MSP, ESA and financing.

5.6 The Meeting invited the Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant HELCOM groups, to draft the introductory texts for topics of the horizontal actions segment.

HOD 58A-2020**Agenda Item 2 Socio-economics and financing in the updated BSAP**

2.1 The Meeting recalled that HOD 58-2020 supported the inclusion of an additional segment focusing on horizontal actions in the updated BSAP, to be divided by subheadings representing the various identified horizontal topics (including actions on socio-economics, financing, climate change etc.) and invited the DG BSAP to develop a proposed structure for the segment.

2.3 The Meeting discussed the possible outline for an update of the financing section as presented by Finland and Sweden (see page 2 of document 4-3).

2.4 The Meeting highlighted the importance of the different financing sources for the implementation of the updated BSAP and acknowledged that the financing section is thus an essential part of the BSAP.

EN CLIME 6-2020

Agenda Item 3 Finalization of key messages for the primary parameters

3.1 The Meeting welcomed presentations on key messages of the primary parameters by the team leads Mr. Christian Dieterich, Mr. Karol Kulinski, Mr. Jukka Käyhkö and Ms. Anna Rutgersson:

- the parameters under Team Sea Level and Wind Extremes, led by Mr. Christian Dieterich ([Presentation 1](#))
- the parameters under Team Carbon and Nutrient Cycles, led by Mr. Karol Kulinski ([Presentation 2](#))
- the parameters under Team Water Cycle, led by Mr. Jukka Käyhkö ([Presentation 3](#)).

Agenda Item 4 Finalization of key messages for the secondary parameters

4.1 The Meeting welcomed presentations on key messages of the secondary parameters by the team Leads or Co-authors Mr. Örjan Östman, Mr. Arturas Razinkovas-Baziukas, Ms. Anna Rutgersson, Mr. Kari Hyytiäinen, Ms. Meri Kallasvuo, Mr. Martyn Futter, Ms. Bärbel Müller-Karulis, Mr. Jukka Kähkö, Ms. Antonia Sandman, Mr. Jens Olsson, Mr. Volker Dierschke, Mr. Mart Jüssi, Mr. Ari Laine and Mr. Markku Viitasalo.

- Nutrient concentrations and eutrophication ([Presentation 4](#))
- Flooding ([Presentation 5](#))
- Erosion, sedimentation and built structures ([Presentation 6](#))
- Benthic habitats ([Presentation 7](#))
- Waterbirds ([Presentation 8](#))

Agenda Item 5 Layout and content for the final report

5.1 The Meeting took note of the draft layout for the EN CLIME Climate Change Fact Sheet (document 5-2), as presented by the Secretariat.

5.7 The Meeting considered the suggested map view for the final report containing two maps illustrating different scenarios, as well as information submitted for the map view (document 5-1-Rev.1).

DG BSAP 3-2020

Agenda Item 4 Overarching preamble for the updated BSAP

4.2 The Meeting took note of the draft overarching preamble updated based on the comments of the DG (document 4-1).

4.5 The Meeting agreed that the text should be kept in the currently used traditional preambular style, but it should not be too technical, and it should include a stronger vision.

4.6 The Meeting agreed that the text should express a high level of ambition which clearly indicates the support and commitment of the Contracting Parties to the Action Plan and its implementation. The Meeting further agreed to include relevant paragraphs expressing agreement and that these paragraphs where the Commission "AGREES" should be placed towards the end.

4.7 The Meeting agreed that the reference to relevant legislation should be more general rather than including a long list of regulations. The Meeting took note that the EU and Russia will send a proposal on how to refer to relevant legislation.

4.9 The Meeting took note that as outlined in document 4-11 to HOD 58-2020, in addition to the overarching preamble, the BSAP will start with an introduction explaining, e.g. the structure and function of

the BSAP. The Meeting took note that topics such as the review and implementation of the BSAP could also be included in this section.

Matters arising from VASAB work:

- 1) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic VASAB is working and taking part in meetings remotely till further notifications from the governmental authorities.
- 2) Since July 2020 till 31 December 2021 VASAB is chaired by Lithuania. The main focus of the LT Chairmanship is on achievable, practical, and visible priorities contributing to sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region and continuation of the efforts made by the previous Chairmanships to update the VASAB Long-Term Perspective of the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region until 2030 (VASAB LTP). Considering the spatial planning to be one of most important tools (instruments) for sustainable development of the territories, the Lithuanian Chairmanship will emphasize the significance of the maritime and terrestrial spatial planning process as the integral planning process for sustainable development of Maritime States. The Lithuanian chairmanship intends to initiate discussions about the international relations promoting maritime tourism as an important sector in reviving regional economy, increasing region's visibility, giving employment opportunities to young people and reflection of those relations in the spatial planning of the Baltic Region countries.
- 3) Since previous HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting in April 2020 two online VASAB CSPD/BSR meetings were held on 16 June 2020 (concluding Danish Chairmanship) and 7 September 2020 (under Lithuanian Chairmanship).
- 4) VASAB has initiated series of webinars for sharing good practices from countries, presenting projects results and stimulating discussions on topics related to spatial planning approaches and challenges. These webinars have been organized as back to back events with VASAB CSPD/BSR meetings and are open for spatial planning experts and enthusiasts. In the first webinar (on 17 June 2020) among other topics also the Finnish Scenarios for Maritime Areas 2050 were presented. Second webinar (on 7 September 2020) was devoted to rural accessibility and augmented technologies for spatial planning.
- 5) VASAB CSPD/BSR has decided to update the VASAB LTP and thus agreed on Terms of Reference in September 2020. The aim is to update current VASAB LTP - vision document for territorial development of the BSR in order to address current and potential trends and challenges in the spatial development in the BSR towards territorial cohesion perspective of the BSR in 2040. The update is expected to be carried out during the 2021-2022. Considering that one of the VASAB LTP pillars is '**maritime spatial planning**', the engagement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group into update process is expected in the next two years. VASAB Secretariat will inform the Working Group about the LTP-update progress and expected engagement of the Working Group in forthcoming meetings.
- 6) VASAB Secretariat participated at EU MSEG MSP online meeting on 13 May 2020. The next EU MSEG MSP online meeting is scheduled on 19 November.
- 7) VASAB Secretariat participated in development of project proposal for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund MSP call EMFF-Maritime Spatial Planning-2020 (*project application to be submitted by 9th November*). VASAB Secretariat is planned to be a project partner responsible for project communication.
- 8) VASAB Secretariat took part in EUSBR 11th Annual forum, this time in online format. In the frame of the Forum, VASAB together with Spatial Foresight, Nordregio and Finnish Ministry of Environment organized an online workshop 'Where Land and Water Meets in the Baltic Sea Region 2050' to discuss the benefits and opportunities of spatial scenarios as a method in planning.