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<b>Document title</b>	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-2
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	11.10.2021
<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021) will be opened on **Tuesday 16 November 2021** at **10:00 EET** (09:00 CET) and is expected to end **Wednesday 17 November 2021** at **16:00 EET** (15:00 CET).

In accordance with the agreement by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6-2013 (Outcome, paragraph 1.2), the Contracting Parties/Member Countries as well as Observers are requested to submit substantial documents requiring a decision or action to the Secretariats ([lotta.ruokanen@helcom.fi](mailto:lotta.ruokanen@helcom.fi), [florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) and [info@vasab.org](mailto:info@vasab.org)) by **18 October 2021** and information documents by **1 November 2021**. The [document template](#) to submit a meeting document is available on the [HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 Meeting Site](#).

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please note that you need to be a registered user 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 Thursday 11 November 2021**. As the Meeting will be held online, technical information will be only communicated to the registered participants at a later stage.

## 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 by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats based on the [Outcome](#) of the Twenty Second Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2020) as well as consultations with the co-Chairs and vice-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Agenda.

### **Agenda item 2                      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 outcomes of the HELCOM 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Delegation and the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021, as well as VASAB CSPD/BSR 85<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> meetings (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information and take it into account in the Working Group's work.

### **Agenda item 3                      Development of the regional MSP framework**

#### **Status of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group's mandate**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the approval of the mandate for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG until 2030 by HOD 60-2021 and VASAB CSPD/BSR 85<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Status of the new MSP Roadmap and planning of the implementation interim assessment**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the status of the new MSP Roadmap, based on the Outcome of the HELCOM 2021 Ministerial Meeting and VASAB CSPD/BSR 85<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the implementation of the interim assessment based on a presentation given by the Secretariats.

#### **Status of the update of the HELCOM Baltic Action Plan (BSAP)**

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 to be held on 20 October in Lübeck, Germany, will adopt the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan and a number of associated action documents and supporting documents relevant for the work of the Working Group.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan and the associated action documents and supporting documents as appropriate in planning the future work of the group (document to be submitted).

#### **Information of the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP)**

In the beginning of 2021, the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) launched the update of its Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. The update (supported by Spatial Foresight GmbH together with Nordregio) will take place till the end of 2022 and is intended to be participatory and co-creative process with various workshops, where

stakeholders jointly with VASAB CSPD/BSR will define the perspective for the coherent territorial development of the Baltic Sea region in 2040.

By 8<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> internal and 1<sup>st</sup> external co-creation workshop has been held online. The online stakeholder survey will be open from 12 – 30 October 2021 in order to collect relevant inputs from wider stakeholder fora. The update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective has been also promoted in other European and pan-Baltic events. The next external co-creation workshop is planned on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (morning). Additionally, with support of Capacity4MSP project platform a workshop on 're-thinking vision' will be organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in order to discuss the views and inputs for the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective regards the MSP. More information available: <https://vasab.org/ltp-update-2021-2022/>.

After the co-creative drafting phase draft updated Long-Term Perspective will be given to wider stakeholder consultations in spring 2022. Draft updated Long-Term Perspective is expected to be adopted by the end of 2022 / beginning of 2023.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information.

### **Update and discussions of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan (2022-2024?)**

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the work plan of the WG. Based on the [document 8-1](#) submitted to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021, the Secretariats will prepare a draft of the work plan. The Meeting will be invited to discuss the draft work plan and the implementation timeframe (document to be submitted). If possible, the Meeting will be invited to discuss the new work plan and take action if necessary.

### **Follow-up and further work on the Regional MSP coherence report**

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 agreed to return to the consideration of Regional MSP coherence report during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 and to agree on the testing period for the document. The Meeting will be invited to consider the new draft and to agree on the next steps to test the approach (document to be submitted). The work on this report is supported by the Capacity4MSP project platform.

### **Status of the work on the mechanism for a regular follow-up of MSP on the regional level**

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 exchanged views on the sufficiency of such mechanism to provide comprehensive information on the achieved progress of regional framework for MSP and proposed also to include evaluation of national progress ('state of play') on MSP as the fifth item in the follow-up mechanism. The Meeting will be invited to consider the proposal for such a mechanism and to discuss the current format proposed by the HELCOM Secretariat (document to be submitted). The work on this topic is supported by the Capacity4MSP project platform.

### **Third HELCOM Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea Environment (HOLAS III)**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the planning and process of the upcoming HELCOM Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea Environment (HOLAS III) (presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat).

### **Agenda item 4 Information and data for MSP**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the last developments from the BSR MSP Data ESG based on the decisions of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held on 14-15 October 2021 (document to be submitted by the Chair of Data ESG). The long-term needs for BASEMAPS developments and the status on the work on output data using BASEMAPS are among the topics.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the last developments of the EU Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Data for MSP, such as the publication of the Proposal for making harmonized MSP plan data available across Europe (document to be submitted). The Meeting will also be invited to take note of the information that the TEG will continue to work on identified topics such as further work on data harmonization, mapping MSP

data framework and exchanging knowledge between domain specific data collection initiatives e.g. related to MSFD and other frameworks. The next meeting of the TEG will take place on 23 November 2021.

#### **Agenda item 5 Intergovernmental cooperation and follow up progress in regional MSP**

The Countries will be invited to inform the Meeting on new national MSP developments. The countries will also be invited to share information on spatial plans and projects with transnational impact, as mentioned in the Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017 ( cf. para 3.12).

The Secretariats and all Contracting Parties are invited to share information on recent development of the regional MSP framework, meetings, workshops and other events to update the regional calendar of MSP-related processes and meetings, as well as update of MSP country fiches (document to be submitted).

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 (document to be shared among the contacts of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG prior to the Meeting).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the 4<sup>th</sup> Capacity4MSP Planners Forum that will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Meeting will be invited to discuss and consider the latest developments on the possible long-term mechanism of such event in the future (i.e. Terms of Reference) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the progress in HELCOM work on climate change on the Climate Change Fact Sheets (document to be submitted and Presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat). The Meeting will also be invited to share national experience on the accounting of climate change impacts in MSP and discuss perspectives for practical joint activities to contribute to increasing climate change resilience of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss, if needed, the further development of the green infrastructure concept.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the ClimeMarine project being conducted by Sweden (document to be submitted and presentation during the Meeting). The Meeting will be invited to share relevant information on current or future projects on climate change.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 discussed on the potential collaboration between the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and BEMIP Offshore Wind Working Group and agreed to nominate Joacim Johannesson and Kai Trumpler, Co-Chair and vice-Chair of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, to present the work of the WG during a meeting of BEMIP. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the latest updated on this topic.

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA 14-2020 Outcome, paras 4.13 & 4.14) discussed the importance of cooperation between countries with regard to the presented planning of wind farms in the direct vicinity of MPAs, and how to ensure that the needs of harbour porpoise are accounted for in planning. EG MAMA 14-2020 supported the suggestion to take up the issues in spatial conservation of harbour porpoises and the planning of windfarms with the HELCOM VASAB MSP WG. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information from EG MAMA and to discuss this topic (document to be submitted). The Meeting will be invited to share national experience on how the spatial aspect of the conservation of harbour porpoise is taken into account when planning offshore wind farms.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 took note of the presentation by invited guests Hauke Jöns and Mike Belasus (Leopoldina) on underwater heritage and underwater archaeology into MSP processes. The Meeting also invited colleagues from Leopoldina to consider the preparation of a document for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021, containing concrete proposals on how to address underwater heritage in MSP, including a policy and legal background which might become a basis document for the development of related regional guideline. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 also requested the HELCOM Secretariat to coordinate the proposals with BalticRIM project consortium. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the document (to be submitted) and to discuss the next steps, if needed, for the development of related regional guideline.

## **Agenda item 6                      Coordination of Policy area Spatial Planning, MSP related projects and events**

### **Coordination of Policy area Spatial Planning**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on recent developments and activities related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Action Plan and Policy area (PA) Spatial Planning (Document to be submitted).



### **MSP related projects and events**

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information (presented by VASAB Secretariat) on the status of the Capacity4MSP project and its contribution to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (i.e. Synthesis report with policy messages, Report on identified mechanisms for the implementation of MSP, 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum as final conference held online on 1-2 June 2021, aligning Planners' Forum meetings and workshops) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the latest developments within the eMSP NBSR project for North and Baltic Sea – 2021-2024 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting will be informed on the last developments of MSPglobal, an initiative co-financed by the European Commission's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information on the final Conference of the MSPglobal initiative to be held online on 5 October 2021. The Meeting is also invited to take note of the [new publications and policy briefs](#) from the MSPglobal initiative (e.g. Compendium of existing and emerging cross-border and transboundary MSP practices, Recommendations to promoted knowledge exchange and transfer on MSP, etc.) (document to be submitted).

## **Agenda item 7                      Any Other business**

The Meeting might wish to consider any other matters raised by the Contracting Parties to HELCOM, VASAB members as well as Observers at the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to check and update the list of contacts of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, based on the request sent by the HELCOM Secretariat prior to the Meeting (document to be submitted).

## **Agenda item 8                      Election of co-Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Working Group**

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 agreed to elect co-Chairs and vice-Chairs at HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021. The Meeting will be invited to consider the nominations and to elect the new co-Chairs and vice-Chairs.

## **Agenda item 9                      Future planning**

The Meeting will also be invited to discuss the potential dates for the next Working Group Meeting, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021. The Contracting Parties to HELCOM and VASAB Member States are invited to consider hosting the meeting in case travel restrictions have been lifted.

## **Agenda item 10                      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.