



## HELCOM STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE 9 MARCH 2016 • HELSINKI

### Tackling the Challenge of Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea

Pushing into action the thirty agreed regional tasks is the key focus of the [HELCOM Stakeholder Conference](#) which will be organized on 9 March 2016 in Helsinki, Finland. HELCOM has the pleasure of inviting a wide array of stakeholders to announce - or reiterate - their commitment to combating marine litter in the Baltic Sea, as stated in the recently adopted [HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter](#).

While the battle against litter is already ongoing, the task can be successfully pursued only through active and wide involvement. Therefore HELCOM is calling for the broadest possible participation representing businesses, governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and private citizens to search for solutions and leadership to tackle the litter problem.

All regions are expected to step up to the challenge. The involvement of G7, United Nations, European Union and HELCOM sister entities such as OSPAR and Mediterranean Action Plan, among others, are indispensable for the success in reducing marine litter. It is very important to understand and focus attention on the severity of the problem and to build ownership for implementing the agreed actions, for a cleaner and safer Baltic Sea.

### Tentative Programme

9.00 – 10.00 Registration and coffee (breakfast served). Opportunity to visit the exhibition

10.00 – 12.00 Introduction to the litter problem and solutions in the Baltic Sea

10.00 – 10.15 **WELCOMING WORDS** and setting the scene

10.15 – 11.15 **ROUND TRIP** with specialists explaining the selected issues at stake based on the public vote

11.15 – 12.00 **EXPERT PANEL** to expand further on the issue of marine litter, sharing views on the best future-orientated actions against litter and the cross-sectoral dedication needed to succeed

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch. Opportunity to visit the exhibition

13.30 – 16.00	<b>The Baltic Sea region steps in to tackle the litter challenge</b>
13:30-14:30	<b>HIGH-LEVEL SESSION</b> to lift up the marine litter issue and announce how individual organizations and initiatives can anchor it in their agendas and join the combat against litter
14.30 – 15.00	Coffee break. Opportunity to visit the exhibition
15.00 – 16.00	<b>CONVINCING OTHERS TO FOLLOW</b> - Since many successful initiatives have already started, it is time to showcase best practices. Engagement will continue, encouraged by selected examples from i.a. municipalities, non-governmental organizations, projects and the private sector
16.00 – 16.30	<b>Wrapping up the Conference</b>