

Terms of Reference for the Maritime Group

(approved by HELCOM HOD 9/2002)

The duties of the Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME) of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission are:

To advise the Commission in discharging its duties under Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention adopted at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Helsinki 9 April 1992, especially in respect of matters related to Articles 3 "Fundamental principles and obligations", 8 "Prevention of pollution from ships", 9 "Pleasure craft", 10 "Prohibition of incineration", 11 "Prevention of dumping", 12 "Exploration and exploitation of the seabed and its subsoil", 16 "Reporting and exchange of information" and 24 "Scientific and technological co-operation" as well as Annexes IV "Prevention of pollution from ships" and VI "Prevention of pollution from offshore activities" of the Convention, in relation to:

- I) Identification of current and emerging issues related to sea-based sources of pollution and proposals for actions to limit emissions and discharges, and in particular:
 - i) to consider ways and means to manage risks and potential threats from the increasing maritime transportation in the Baltic Sea area, including the introduction of non-native aquatic species and air pollution, especially NOx emissions;
 - ii) to follow-up the Baltic Strategy regarding Port Reception Facilities for Ship-generated Wastes and Associated Issues, including adequacy of port reception facilities, mandatory delivery and the "no-special-fee" system;
 - iii) to take measures to prevent pollution resulting from exploration or exploitation of the seabed or subsoil;
- II) Identification of current and emerging issues related to maritime safety and proposals to enhance the safety of navigation with a view to prevent pollution from ships, and in particular:
 - i) to consider ways and means to avoid accidents due to the increasing maritime transportation in the Baltic Sea area;
 - ii) to follow-up and assess the status of implementation of the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration
- III) Ensuring successful convictions of offenders of anti-pollution regulations
 - i) to take measures to increase the numbers of successful convictions of offenders;
 - ii) to enhance trans-national co-operation between competent authorities engaged in investigation/prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations;
- IV) Co-operating with other international organizations
 - i) to provide for the coordination of the efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Convention in the work of other international organizations, especially the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the European Community (EC);
- V) Monitoring and assessing the implementation by the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention and the HELCOM Recommendations in the maritime field, and in particular:
 - i) to co-ordinate the reporting.