



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Secretariat**


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### **Conference Services**

Please find attached the presentation by Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM, Finland delivered at the Plenary Session 2 – Maritime and inland waterways co-operation: the Northern European Experience: current status and the way ahead, First Preparatory Conference to the 16<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing Security and protecting the environment” held in Helsinki, 10 - 11 September 2007.



First Preparatory Conference to the  
Sixteenth OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Forum

## HELCOM and inter-regional cooperation

Monika Stankiewicz

Professional Secretary, Helsinki Commission

10-11 September 2007, Helsinki, Finland

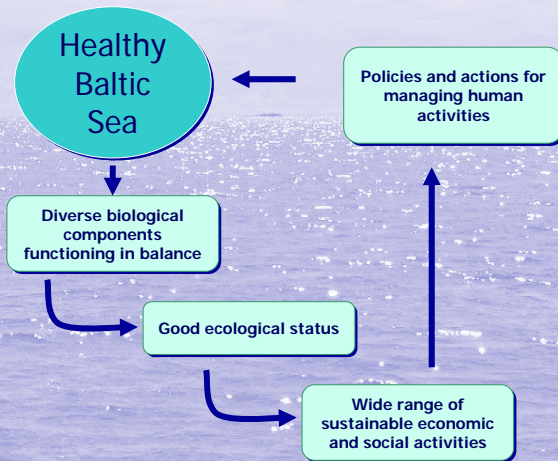


## HELCOM

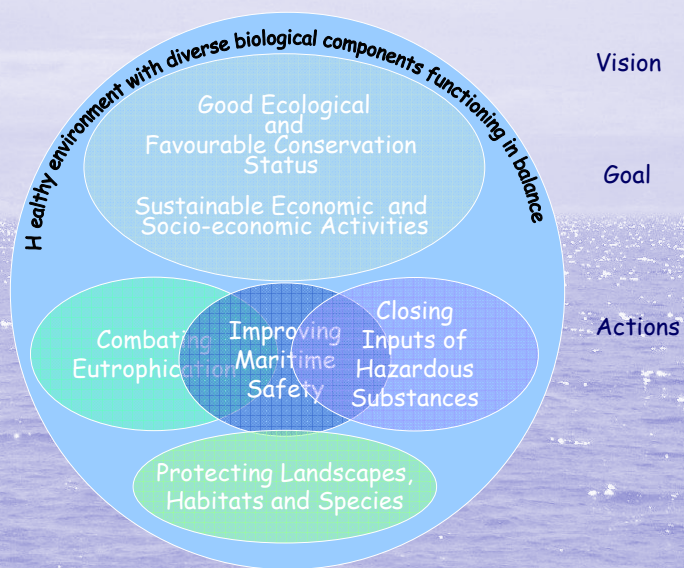
- Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
  - Governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area
  - Major body of the international environmental co-operation in the Baltic region
- Main task: to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution
- 10 Contracting Parties (9 Baltic Sea Coastal States and the European Community)
- International co-operation since 1974 (new Convention signed in 1992)



**HELCOM VISION: A healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities**



## HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan



## HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

- A showcase for other regional marine programmes
- The Plan will include actions to be taken in:
  - the HELCOM Contracting Parties
  - the countries in the catchment area
  - relevant international fora, including the EU
- Channelling Baltic environmental interests to other international fora

## HELCOM recommendation for OSCE

- (1) The ecosystem approach needs implementation at the regional level, which however constitutes a major challenge to many regional communities. The experience gained in one regional level should therefore be shared with other regions.

## HELCOM recommendation for OSCE

(2) The inter-regional cooperation projects should be based on similarities between the regions so best practices could be effectively replicated.

However, adjustments to the regional specificities are also needed.



## HELCOM recommendations for OSCE

(3) The benefits of inter-regional cooperation are manifold:

Sharing of experience between the regional networks strengthens identification of issues of common interest and of cross regional character and thus best practices and models from one region can be replicated to other regions, fostering even development of Europe.



## Sum up

- Different seas often require tailor made solutions
- Complementary Global, European and Regional policies
- Use of common regional knowledge and priorities in regional, EU and global policy making
- Inter-regional co-operation should be fostered to replicate best practices and models on large scale



## Thank you!

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