

HELCOM Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration

[31 August 2010]

Introduction

Finland and the Re-survey Monitoring Working Group (MWG) have prepared draft proposal to the HELCOM Moscow Ministerial meeting on 20 May 2010 dealing with fostering re-surveys and ECDIS training. The preparations of the hydrographic parts of this Declaration are done with the help of the HELCOM secretariat and the Head of delegations. The issues were presented and discussed at the HELCOM MARITIME and Commission meetings.

The Ministerial meeting agreed on the HELCOM Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration. This can be downloaded on HELCOM web sites, www.helcom.fi. The supporting document (Annex 2) can be found under the documents of the Moscow Ministerial meeting. An extract of the Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration dealing with hydrographic issues is in [Annex 1](#).

Hydrographic re-surveys

The BSHC 14th Conference agreed a new Vision 2 for re-surveys covering the whole Baltic Sea area. Based on this Vision, a revision of the HELCOM Copenhagen 2001 Declaration was proposed to the Moscow ministerial meeting.

The Moscow 2010 Declaration requests:

- *to extend the scope of the 2001 HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration to cover all routes and other areas used for navigation according to the revised Baltic re-survey scheme to be developed based on the 2009 Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Vision for the resurvey as contained in **Annex 2**;*
- *to present their national re-survey plans preferably by 2013, but not later than 2015, including time schedule estimations;*
- *to undertake necessary measures to ensure that sufficient funding, including external funding, will be available for re-surveys;*

The part dealing with hydrographic surveys in this Declaration is in accordance of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This includes a flagship project: *"**Speed up re-surveying for major shipping and ports**", as agreed in HELCOM, in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information. (Lead: HELCOM in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organisation; Deadline for progress review: to be determined)."*

ECDIS training

This ECDIS training issue was proposed by the BSHC 14th Conference and prepared together with the re-surveys.

The Moscow 2010 Declaration requests Member states to "*undertake measures to improve mariners' abilities to assess and interpret hydrographic content in nautical charts and publications either in printed or digital form, especially in the Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)*".

The Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region includes also a flagship project: "*Create a network of centres of excellence for maritime training*". It may be feasible if the national training actions are in line with or in corporation with this project.

For implementing these requirements Finland has plans to take the following actions:

- to translate the *IHO Publication Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements (S-66)* into Finnish language in co-operation with the Finnish Maritime Safety Administration (*TraFi*).
- to arrange a user forum about charts for mariners in co-operation with the Finnish Maritime Safety Administration (*TraFi*) (in 2011).

The other BSHC members are invited to report on their national actions and plans.

It is also proposed that the BSHC 15th Conference decide on appropriate measures to follow-up the national actions for ECDIS training.

Actions for the BSHC 15th Conference:

The BSHC 15th Conference is requested to

- take note on this Report
- agree on appropriate follow up actions for ECDIS training

Annex: 1. Extract from HELCOM Moscow 2010 Declaration

Annex 1. **Extract from HELCOM Moscow 2010 Declaration**
[Dealing with hydrographic issues]

HELCOM Ministerial Declaration
on the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
20 May 2010, Moscow

We the Ministers of the Environment of the Baltic Coastal Countries and the High Level EU Representative

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II.d Maritime activities

CONCERNED

- that even though there have been no major accidental spills of oil or hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea during recent years, the remarkable growth of maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea results in increasing risks of such potential major pollution accidents;
- that even though a maritime transport is an environmentally friendly means of transportation, the maritime activities in the Baltic Sea have negative impacts on the marine environment, and also contribute to eutrophication, chemical pollution and unfavourable status of Baltic biodiversity, as shown in the latest HELCOM assessments;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- the role of the International Maritime Organization in regulating global shipping.

Navigation safety

STRESS

- the need of jointly developing and implementing further measures to increase safety of navigation in the Baltic Sea, and to this end;

AGREE

- to seek for cooperation in the field of information exchange between HELCOM and the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control;
- while recognizing the need for the exchange of technical expertise in the field of maritime safety, especially in risk assessment to avoid shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea, and taking into account the work of the IMO, to identify the possible areas for strengthening regional cooperation in maritime safety in the framework of the HELCOM Maritime Group and consider the appropriate forms for this cooperation;
- to extend the scope of the 2001 HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration to cover all routes and other areas used for navigation according to the revised Baltic re-survey scheme to be developed based on the 2009 Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Vision for the resurvey as contained in **Annex 2**;
- to present their national re-survey plans preferably by 2013, but not later than 2015, including time schedule estimations;
- to undertake necessary measures to ensure that sufficient funding, including external funding, will be available for re-surveys;
- to undertake measures to improve mariners' abilities to assess and interpret hydrographic content in nautical charts and publications either in printed or digital form, especially in the Electronic Chart Display and Information System;

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