



# Greetings from Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, Helsinki Commission – HELCOM

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Professional Secretary

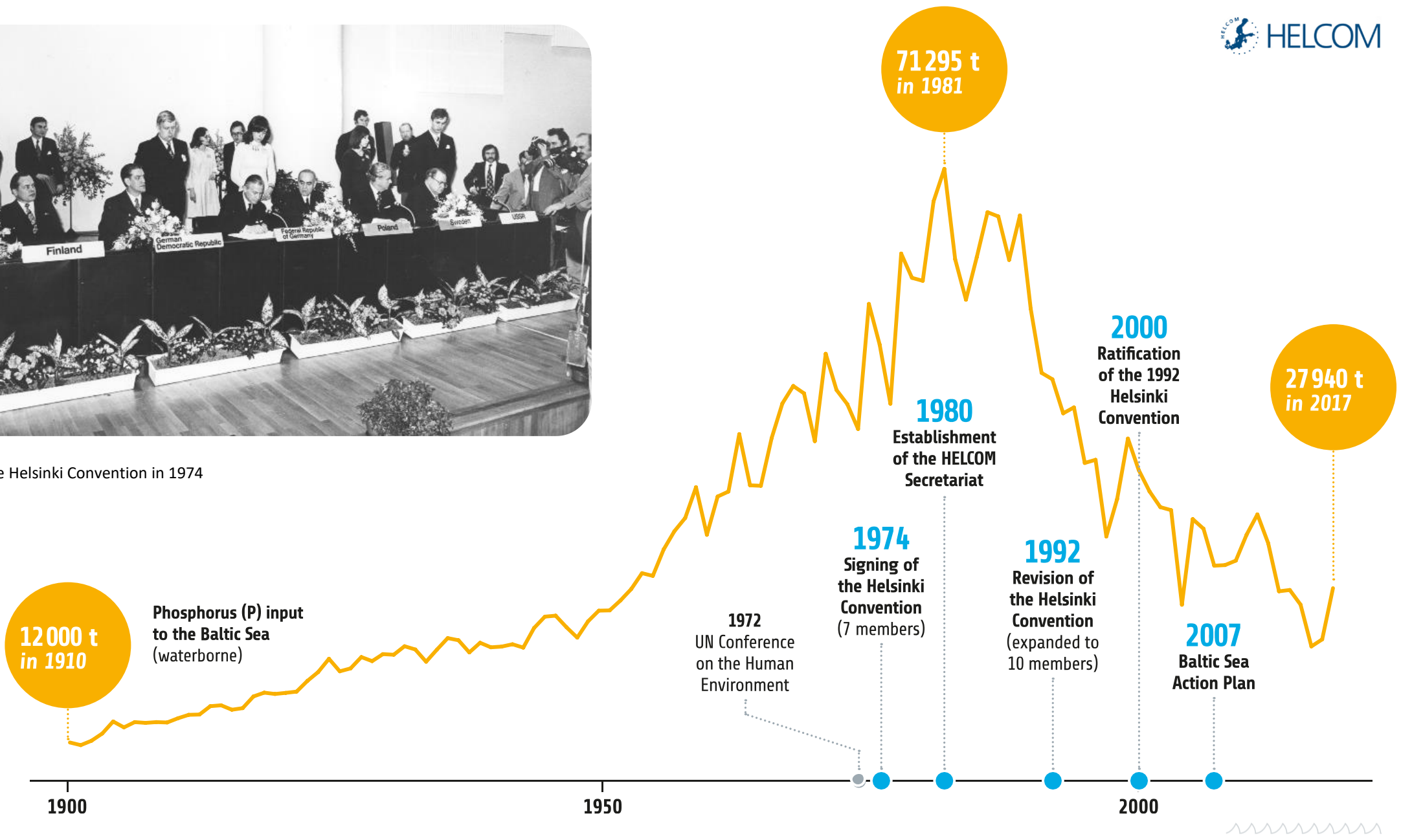
PLATFORM  
BSR WATER

 **Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region





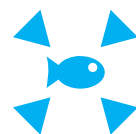
▲ Signing of the Helsinki Convention in 1974



## HELCOM is...



an **environmental policy maker**  
*e.g. Baltic Sea Action Plan, BSAP*



an **environmental focal point**  
*e.g. Holistic Assessments, HOLAS*



a **body for developing recommendations**  
*e.g. HELCOM Recommendations*



a **supervisory body**  
*e.g. country allocated reduction targets, CART*

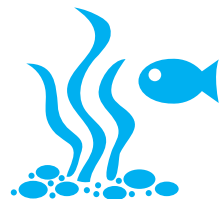


a **coordinating body**  
*e.g. HELCOM Response & BALEX DELTA marine accident response exercises*



# The HELCOM vision

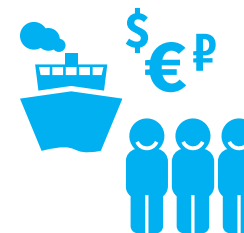
***For a healthy Baltic Sea environment...***



*... with diverse  
biological components  
functioning in balance,*



*... resulting in a good  
ecological status,*



*...and supporting a  
wide range of  
sustainable economic  
and social activities.*



# HELCOM structure

The Contracting Parties have signed the first Helsinki Convention in 1974 and updated it in 1992. The current Convention was ratified in 2000.

## The 10 Contracting Parties (CPs)



Each Contracting Party designates its own Head of Delegation as well as members of the Working Groups and of the Expert Groups and Networks



## Helsinki Convention

The set of guiding principles and obligations signed by the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea



## HELCOM Secretariat

Coordinates the work and meetings of the Helsinki Commission and ensures CPs meet their obligations under the Helsinki Convention



## Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM chairmanship rotates every two years between the Contracting Parties (CPs)



### Heads of Delegation

Permanently represent the CPs and are decision-makers



### HELCOM Working Groups

Develop recommendations, policies & strategies



### Expert Groups & Networks

Provide scientific and technical underpinnings



## Decision making in HELCOM



The highest decision-making body in HELCOM is the Ministerial Meeting (the meeting of the HELCOM line ministers of each CP) that takes place every three years.



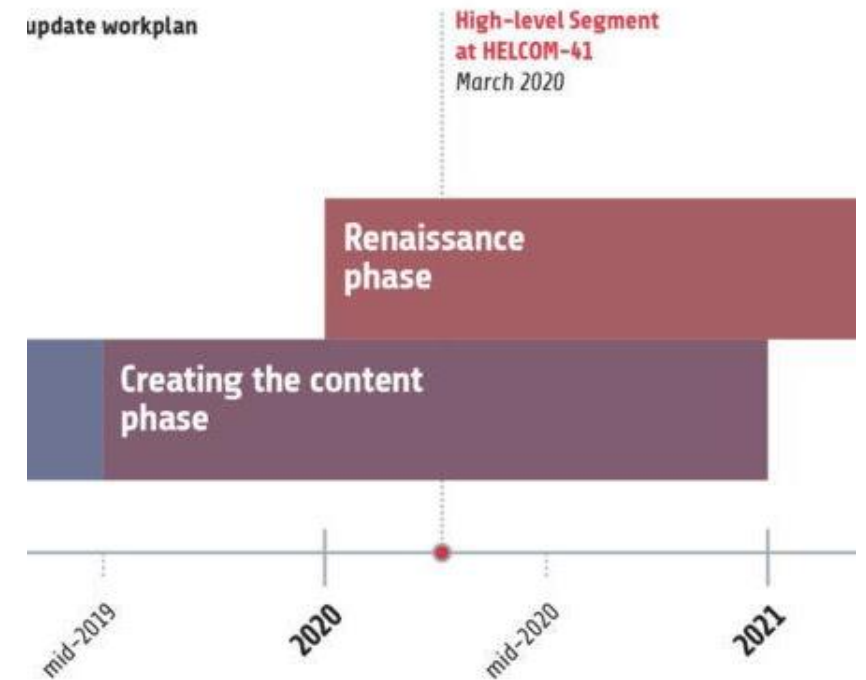
The Helsinki Commission meets annually (except when a Ministerial Meeting takes place) and is also entitled to make decisions. Its participants are designated by the CPs.



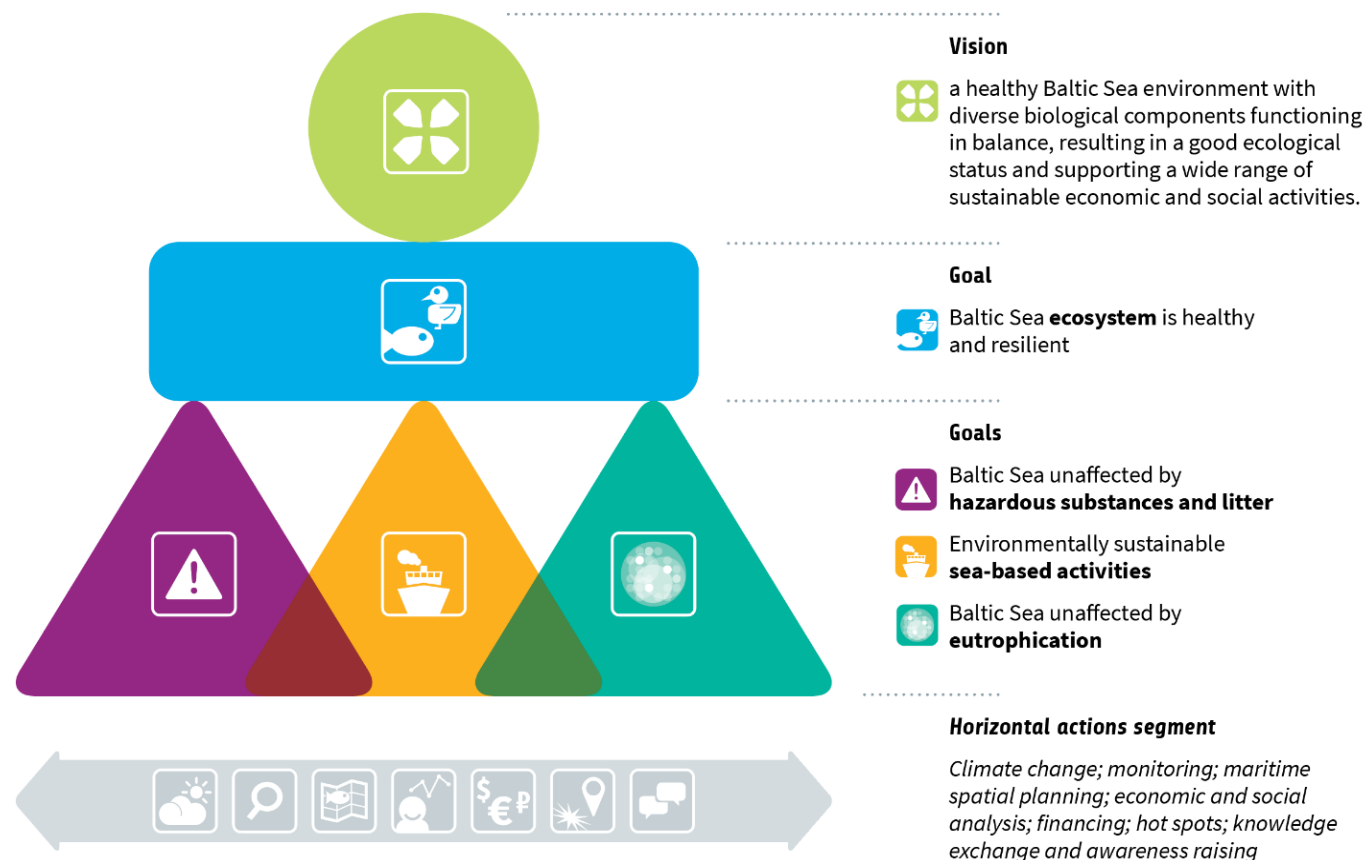
The Heads of Delegation meet twice per year and are also authorised to make decisions on behalf of the CPs.

# Baltic Sea Action Plan and its update process

- The overall objective of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP, 2007) is to reach good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021
- This will most likely not be reached, but promising results towards improving the state of the sea
- The mandate for an update by the HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Declaration (March 2018)
- The BSAP update seeks to become a fit-for-purpose and effective tool, addressing the shortcomings of the current plan and taking into account emerging issues
- **Finalising phases – to be adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in Lübeck, Germany on 20 October 2021**



# Baltic Sea Action Plan update



# Baltic Sea Action Plan update, themes relevant for BSR WATER

- Eutrophication segment
  - Nutrient recycling
- Hazardous substances and litter segment
  - Management of hazardous substances, micropollutants



## Recommendations

- Management of stormwaters



# BSR WATER platform supporting regional policy work (WP4)

- The project platform work has included many direct links to support regional policy work in HELCOM
- Update process of the BSAP
  - Development of a regional policy document on hazardous substances
  - Report and policy briefs on micropollutants in WWTP effluents and sludges
- Associated action documents to the draft updated BSAP
  - Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

# BSR WATER platform supporting regional policy work

## Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

- Vision: Nutrients are managed sustainably in all HELCOM countries, securing the productivity of agriculture and minimizing nutrient loss to the Baltic Sea environment through efficient use of nutrients and cost-effective nutrient recycling
- Objectives:
  1. Baltic Sea region as a model area for nutrient recycling
  2. Reducing environmental impacts
  3. Safe nutrient recycling
  4. Knowledge exchange and awareness raising
  5. Creating business opportunities
  6. Improving policy coherence

# BSR WATER platform supporting regional policy work

- Individual measures in the draft updated BSAP, e.g.
  - E23. Strengthen the HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment by 2027
  - E30-E36. related to nutrient recycling and implementation of the regional strategy
  - HL1. Develop a regional strategic approach and, on the basis of that approach, an action plan for HELCOM work on hazardous substances by 2024
  - HL5. Decrease the emissions of hazardous substances from small scale emitters in urban areas (municipal entities, businesses and private households) by chemical-smart purchasing strategies, substitution and awareness raising campaigns



# BSR WATER platform supporting regional policy work

- Revision of HELCOM Recommendation (23/5-Rev.1) on reduction of discharges from urban areas by proper management of storm waters
  - Incorporating climate change point of view, storm water quality, green infrastructure and integrated storm water management concept
  - **Adopted in the Heads of Delegation meeting in June 2021**
  - Unique situation to have updated Recommendation adopted already within the project lifetime
  - **BSR WATER supported the multi-stakeholder regional dialogue organized in the frame and with the assistance of the project platform, involving e.g. scientists, policy makers, practitioners and municipalities**



HELCOM  
mm2021



HELCOM Ministerial Meeting  
**Lübeck, Germany • 20 October 2021**  
Updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Thank you!

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