

DRAFT HELCOM GUIDANCE ON  
CONDUCTING EIA  
*Seminar on EIA Convention in the  
Baltic Sea subregion  
Stockholm*

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# HELCOM

- Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
  - Governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area
  - Environmental focal point 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)
- More than 100 Recommendations



# Main environmental problems

- Eutrophication
- Hazardous substances
- Environmental risks related to increasing maritime and offshore activities
- Decline of biodiversity and habitats



# EIA requirements in HELCOM

- Article 7 of the Convention
- Recommendation 17/3 Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations
- Offshore activities
  - Recommendation 17/3
  - Annex VI of the Convention
- Recommendation 19/1 on Marine sediment extraction



# Other requirements in the region

- Espoo Convention
- EU Council Directive EIA
- UNECE Convention on Transboundary watercourses and international lakes



# HELCOM Guidance on EIA

- Identification of relevant activities and notification
- Conduction of the EIA procedure/Consultations
- Final decision
- Information exchange



# Aim of HELCOM Guidance on EIA

- Compile relevant requirements in HELCOM
- Transparent, trustworthy, harmonized way for conducting EIAs in HELCOM countries
- Avoid contradictions with other requirements
- Better coordination
  - within the Contracting Parties
  - between different instruments



# How are we here?

- Different opinions on implementation of requirements
- Ad Hoc Working Group met in September 2004
- Task
  - analyze existing requirements
  - propose unified interpretations and clear procedures for harmonized implementation
- HOD meeting in June could not agree
  - another check by experts needed





# HELCOM expectations for the Baltic EIA seminar

- To check whether it covers all major issues
- To check inconsistencies with other existing EIA guidance
- To explore ways of better coordination

