



## HELCOM Recommendation 12/7-Rev.1

Adopted 20 February 1991 and  
amended 7 August 2022,  
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### **SPECIAL COOPERATION IN CASE OF A CHEMICAL TANKER ACCIDENT IN THE BALTIC SEA**

#### **THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Article 14 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992, (Helsinki Convention), concerning cooperation in combatting marine pollution which also covers cooperation in combatting hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) spillages,

**RECALLING ALSO** the provision of Regulation 10.1 of Annex VII to the Convention, which establishes an information network between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties,

**RECALLING FURTHER** that HELCOM Recommendation 31/1 concerning the development of national ability to respond to spillages of oil and other harmful substances establishes common requirements for national ability to combat HNS spillages,

**RECOGNIZING** that in combatting HNS spillages, special expertise on several fields is needed, and all necessary experts may not be available in each of the Contracting Parties, especially if the accident occurs off the coast of a Contracting Party where the chemical concerned is not used on a large scale,

**RECOGNIZING ALSO** that disposal of HNS wastes originated from the combatting operation may cause overwhelming difficulties to the third Parties not using that chemical,

**RECOGNIZING ALSO** need for HNS specific training and exercises on a regular basis. Basic information of HNS behaviour and response possibilities should cover organisations' personnel in required level. HNS knowledge on deeper level should be part of the training for those participating on response operations. These capabilities should be trained and tested both on national and transnational level.

**RECOMMENDS** that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- a) develop operational guidelines based on the Marine HNS Response Manual and exercise these procedures regularly on international exercises;
- b) urge relevant national organisations to familiarise and implement the Marine HNS Response Manual content on required level to national guidelines and procedures;

c) nominate a contact point through which competent authorities of other Contracting Parties can, in emergency situations, without delay get information on the chemicals carried by a tanker from or to a harbour of a Party concerned;

d) by national measures create as soon as possible but not later than by the end of 2023 an information system which would, in case of a chemical spillage, facilitate access by the competent authorities to data concerning the chemicals carried by the tankers;

e) provide, in accordance with Regulation 8 of Annex VII to the Convention, and within their ability, other Parties with special assistance like experts to respond to chemical spillages, special protective clothing and equipment for combatting personnel, and special instruments for chemical analyses,

**RECOMMENDS ALSO** that the Governments of the Contracting Parties inform each other of their national facilities where HNS wastes emanating from combatting operations can be treated and disposed of and make all efforts to provide necessary waste treatment possibilities after an accident has occurred off the coast of another Contracting Party,

**URGES FURTHER** that action taken by the Contracting Parties to implement this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission and its Response Working Group for the first time before 30 May 2024.