

## **HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 23/2 \*)**

Adopted 6 March 2002  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### **CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND RUSSIA IN THE FIELD OF COMBATting MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

#### **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),

**RECALLING ALSO** HELCOM Recommendation 14/10 on cooperation and assistance to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the field of combatting marine pollution, adopted 14 February 1993,

**BEING AWARE** that the protection of the marine environment requires that an ability, to respond timely to marine pollution incidents and to conduct regular aerial surveillance, is established and maintained in all parts of the Baltic Sea and that a close cooperation between the Contracting Parties is accomplished,

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the national ability of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania has been developed essentially during the 1990's but being aware that further improvements are still needed,

**BEING AWARE ALSO** that the changes in the oil transportation patterns, and especially the increasing oil transportation in the north-eastern part of the Baltic Sea, calls for improvements to the national combatting ability of the Contracting Parties concerned,

**MINDFUL** that the updated and strengthened Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), 1998, identified the increased regional oil transport as one of the emerging challenges that needs to be addressed through establishment and/or strengthening of emergency management plans,

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC) and the 1992 International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (FC),

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\*) Superseding HELCOM Recommendation 14/10)

**RECOMMENDS** that the Governments of the other Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention assist Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, where appropriate, to further develop their national ability to combat pollution incidents and to conduct aerial surveillance in accordance with the following:

- (i) Implementation of the national contingency plans especially in the field of combatting pollution incidents caused by harmful substances as well as in the field of aerial surveillance;
- (ii) Education and training of administrative personnel, on-scene commanders, staff operators, field and maintenance personnel;
- (iii) Research and development in the field of, *inter alia*, risk assessment, modelling and environmental mapping, combatting and aerial surveillance techniques and equipment,

**REQUESTS** the Group responsible for the prevention of and response to sea-based pollution to report to the 28th meeting of the Commission in 2007 to what extent special arrangements will still be needed and to propose the revision of this Recommendation, as appropriate.