

# Update of HELCOM Recommendations for Hazardous Substances in Industry

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## Executive summary of the project

The third HELCOM Assessment of the Baltic Sea concludes that the Baltic Sea does not achieve Good Environmental Status for hazardous substances assessment. Industrial releases of hazardous substances are one of many pressures to the Baltic Sea and by better controlling the releases from the industry, the harmful impacts of hazardous substances can be reduced, thus contributing to the HELCOM objective for Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances.

The project reviewed the current HELCOM recommendations concerning industrial releases and assessed different options how to address the management of hazardous substances in HELCOM Recommendations concerning industry in a better way taking into account the changes throughout the years in the changing regulatory environment in the Baltic Sea region. The main instrument on EU level to control releases from industry is the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and its Best Available Reference Documents (BREFs). The project developed a proposal for an updated HELCOM Recommendation for industrial releases of hazardous substances, that emphasis and focuses on Baltic Sea specific measures with additional value compared to EU measures already compulsory for EU Member States.

The proposed Recommendation highlights the HELCOM Priority Substances relevant for industry, their main sources and respective EU BREFs under the IED. The aim of the proposed Recommendation is to support national authorities and industrial operators on awareness of hazardous chemicals in different industrial sectors and in reducing the releases of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea. It calls for improved practises regarding hazardous substances by industrial operators by introducing requirements for chemicals management system and chemicals inventory. The proposed Recommendation gives guidance for improved monitoring practices by the means of recommendations to perform whole effluent analysis. It also aims to promote sustainable biocide use in industrial facilities. When accepted, the Recommendation also calls for improved knowledge exchange between HELCOM Contracting Parties and submission of information from HELCOM to relevant EU regulatory processes concerning Baltic Sea relevant hazardous substances, which in the long run would lead to more efficient management of hazardous substances also beyond Baltic Sea.