

**Statement by the German Chairmanship of HELCOM on behalf of the
European Union and the Contracting Parties to HELCOM that are Member
States of the European Union**

The European Union and the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention, HELCOM) that are Member States of the European Union reiterate their condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, as expressed in the [statement by the German Chairmanship of HELCOM of March 2nd, 2022](#). In light of this ongoing violation by the Russian Federation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the aforementioned Contracting Parties to HELCOM unanimously agree that they cannot currently engage in business as usual with the Russian Federation in the context of HELCOM.

The present Chairmanship of HELCOM, Germany, in agreement with the European Union and Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that are Member States of the European Union, therefore suspends all meetings of HELCOM bodies and meetings of project groups with Russian involvement under the HELCOM umbrella with immediate effect and through April 1st, 2022. This concerns in particular all HELCOM Working Groups, Expert Groups and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission. The meetings concerned will be indicated on the HELCOM website. Moreover, the HELCOM Secretariat is instructed to postpone the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference scheduled for 9-10 March 2022. Since the participation of HELCOM representatives at the Baltic Sea Day event scheduled to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, and online on 22 and 23 March 2022 would implicitly constitute a representation of the Contracting Parties to HELCOM and the aforementioned Contracting Parties consider this inappropriate, the Chairmanship instructs the HELCOM Secretariat to refrain from participating in that event, noting also that the Baltic Sea Day 2022 can no longer be considered an event carried out in cooperation with HELCOM.

The European Union and the Contracting Parties to HELCOM that are Member States of the European Union will review their position with regard to the meetings of HELCOM bodies against the background of future developments and to the situation in Ukraine and will

communicate their position in due course. The aforementioned Contracting Parties reaffirm their wish and intention to continue the work of HELCOM for the benefit of the entire Baltic Sea Region.

Dessau, March 4th, 2022



Dr. Lilian Busse

Chair, Helsinki Commission