



## Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (EG AIS)

Approved by the HELCOM Heads of Delegation via correspondence in January 2023

### Purpose

With a view of ensuring the full implementation of relevant provisions in Article 8 and Annex IV of the Helsinki Convention as well as supporting and contributing to global processes within IMO, IALA and ITU and, for those countries for whom this is relevant, joint European endeavours to ensure Europe-wide data exchange standard compatibility;

### Duties

Acting on the principle that existing standards and the set of agreed information items specified by IMO and, if applicable, developed by the European Community, are observed;

The task of the group consisting of representatives of competent technical authorities of Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden is to:

- Uphold, maintain and further develop the HELCOM AIS System by
  - ensuring that each national AIS monitoring system can be linked to the HELCOM information center
  - agreeing on the type of information to be recorded
  - agreeing on how to supply the statistical material to the HELCOM Secretariat
- Facilitate the availability of data to support the implementation of environmental regulation of shipping applicable in the Baltic Sea
- Regulate access to AIS information according to HELCOM Recommendation 33/1, as amended, by
  - considering the legal framework and find solutions for the handling and use of AIS-data exchanged between the participating states, including delivery to other users than national administrations.
- Harmonise the operation and development of national AIS networks as appropriate by
  - ensuring mutual support, technical harmonisation and exchange of experience in connection with the operation and development of national AIS monitoring systems (e.g. FATDMA planning and service area definitions)
  - continuing the development of AIS Application Specific Messages and promoting their use especially in the Baltic Sea Area
  - monitoring the international AIS-development (e.g. VDES) and preparing changes of the HELCOM AIS-system as appropriate as well as providing feedback to the international forums, such as IMO, IALA and EMSA, with regard to testing and implementation of new solutions and regulations e.g. use of additional messages
- Follow the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 on e-navigation by
  - ensuring mutual support, technical harmonisation and exchange of experience in connection with the establishment, operation and development of national infrastructure related to e-navigation services

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- monitoring the international development on e-navigation infrastructure and recommending technical standards to be used in the Baltic Sea Area and by the participating States
  - considering and finding solutions on how to exchange e-navigation related data between the participating States
  - Follow the implementation of other HELCOM Recommendations within the mandate of the Expert Group.
  - Contribute to the implementation of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) within the remits of the Expert Group and, in particular, to action S4 on further work with regard to the regional HELCOM Automatic Information System (AIS) and also new systems such as VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) and other e-navigation services by 2027 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits.

### Organization of work

EG AIS reports to HELCOM Maritime Working Group and follows the HELCOM Rules of Procedure.