

Agenda Item 4.4

Priorities in the Implementation of the
Triennium Work Plan (2010-2012)
Review of New Information on the Extent of
Negative Effects of Sound

Document 4-14

**Draft Letter to the ASCOBANS and
ACCOBAMS Noise Working Groups**

Action Requested

- Take note
- Comment
- Provide guidance

Submitted by

Secretariat



NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

Secretariat's Note

Based on strong mandates from both the ACCOBAMS and the ASCOBANS Parties to cooperate, the chairs of the Noise Working Groups of both Agreements have made efforts to coordinate the work on this issue undertaken by both Agreements. Following discussions with Group members and the Secretariats, the chairs took the decision to propose a formal merging of the two working groups. To this effect, the draft letter contained in this document was prepared and is presented to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee for comments.

Draft Letter to the ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Noise Working Groups

Dear Members of the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Noise Working Groups,

We are pleased to announce that the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Noise Working Groups will in future operate as one common working group. When discussing the best way to proceed with the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary and the ASCOBANS Coordinator, we identified several advantages and we hope that this decision will strengthen our position.

The two working groups already had common objectives, such as the task to support the implementation of the existing guidelines (ACCOBAMS Res.4.17 and ASCOBANS Document AC17/Doc.4-08) by drafting documents that give information on how to apply them (best available practice, best available technology, etc.).

In a first step, and in line with ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2, we would like to suggest focusing on Renewable Energy. The draft send out by Karsten on 14 February is based on both documents mentioned above and makes specific recommendations how to apply sufficient mitigation measures. We believe the most promising way forward in order to produce advice that stakeholders of the renewable energy sector are willing and able to apply is to send the draft to them for consultation. In order to structure responses and understand to the highest degree possible how a fast implementation of mitigation measures can be ensured, we will use a questionnaire.

As soon as possible we would also like to approach stakeholders for other sources of anthropogenic noise pollution (seismic and military activities), with the goal of developing similar advice on the implementation of the guidelines adopted by ACCOBAMS Parties.

We would be happy to receive your thoughts and any feedback or recommendations on this strategy and are looking forward to working with the new Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group.

Best regards,

Yanis Souami

Chair of the ACCOBAMS Noise Working
Group

Karsten Brensing

Chair of the ASCOBANS Noise Working
Group

Marie-Christine Grillo-Compulsione

ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary

Heidrun Frisch

ASCOBANS Coordinator