



## **Concerning the environmental impact assessment for the offshore wind farm off Klaipeda in Lithuania**

Thank you for the submitted material concerning environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the construction and operation of the offshore windfarms off Klaipeda in Lithuania.

It appears from the delimitation of the project, that the project's impact on birds, marine mammals and bats are to be examined by various methods during a period of two years. Regarding birds, data on species composition, abundance of migrating, resting and feeding birds will be collected during the monitoring period, in order to assess i.a. site avoidance and loss of feeding grounds, barrier effect for migrating birds and direct collision and death caused by the wind turbines. Among species mentioned are velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), razorbill (*Alca torda*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*).

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency note, that other projects, including offshore wind turbine projects must be taken into account when assessing cumulative impact as part of the EIA. We find that with an increasing number of projects, there is an increased need for a thorough and adequate survey and quantification of the cumulative impacts, including in relation to collision and gradual displacement of birds using habitats where planning for offshore wind farms.

We are particularly interested in the effects on e.g. long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), the cumulative effects and otherwise impact on the Baltic Sea population of porpoise.

Based on the above, we would like to continue to be part of the the environmental assessment of the project. Based on the submitted material we believe that that you will include the aspects, including species and assessments, that are relevant to the protected species and habitats of Danish Natura 2000 areas.

Yours sincerely

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