



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr Vitalijus Auglys  
Ministry of Environment of Lithuania  
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Your ref 09.12.2021 (10)-D8(E)-7691

Our ref February 2022 No 6-3/21/6080-9

Answer to the notification regarding installation and operation of the offshore wind farm of up to 700 MW installed capacity in Lithuania's marine territory

Dear Mr Auglys,

On 9 December 2021, Lithuania notified Estonia in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding installation and operation of the offshore wind farm of up to 700 MW installed capacity in Lithuania's marine territory. The notification included the summary of the project's environmental impact assessment (EIA) programme in English. Estonia acknowledges the receipt of the notification.

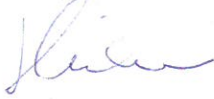
The Ministry of the Environment of Estonia organized a public display of the EIA programme, both the programme and its summary were made available. The documentation was disseminated to numerous authorities and non-governmental organizations. Notice of the public consultation procedure was given in the official publication *Ametlikud Teadaanded*. The public display took place from 20 December 2021 to 14 January 2022. Statements were received from the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Estonian Environmental Board, the Health Board and the Transport Administration.

Based on the statements received and reflecting its own views, the Ministry of the Environment informs that Estonia does not intend to participate in the EIA procedure regarding the offshore wind farm of up to 700 MW installed capacity in Lithuania's marine territory project.

However, we would like to bring out a comment made by the Estonian Environmental Board. The Estonian Environmental Board is interested in receiving the results of the EIA of the project, in particular in terms of birds and bats migration data. Therefore, we would kindly ask to send us the EIA report (in electronic format) for information. Such information would contribute in assessing cumulative impacts of different offshore wind farm projects, for instance in relation to the planned joint Estonian-Latvian ELWIND project. In this context, also the Ministry of the Environment would like to draw attention to the necessity to assess potential cumulative impacts of the project in question and other relevant proposed offshore wind farm projects.

In addition, the statement of the Ministry of Rural Affairs is enclosed for your information. The Ministry of Rural Affairs has emphasized that the project's impact on fisheries in the Baltic Sea should be assessed as part of EIA. In particular, a wide assessment of the impacts of the proposed offshore wind farm on fish stocks, spawning grounds and fish migration routes in the Baltic Sea open sea is necessary. Also impacts related to offshore wind farms (existing and planned) noise and vibration to fishing stocks, spawning grounds and fish migration routes should be analyzed. Adverse impacts on the Baltic Sea fish stocks (e.g. due to dredging) should be prevented and avoided.

Sincerely Yours,



Kaupo Heinma  
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: statement of the Ministry of Rural Affairs

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