



To Points of Contacts for the Espoo  
Convention in  
Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and  
Russian Federation

Our ref 20 May 2019 No 7-12/18/7635-12

### **Notification of the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan**

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and to Article 7 of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Estonia hereby notifies the neighbouring countries on the Estonian maritime spatial planning (MSP) process. Please be informed that this notification is only sent by e-mail.

In Estonia, the responsible authority that arranges the preparation of MSP and its impact assessment is the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, the Ministry of the Environment has drawn up this letter in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance.

### **Background**

In a letter dated November 26, 2018 Estonia notified its neighbouring countries on the Estonian MSP process (i.e. informal notification). The purpose was to distribute relevant information at an early phase of the planning process and to streamline the process. Also the initial planning outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment (i.e. scoping documentation) was sent to the countries for making comments.

Sweden, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania have indicated their wish to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure of the Estonian MSP. Therefore, this notification is sent to the aforementioned countries.

Denmark, Germany and Poland have indicated their wish not to participate. However, Poland was interested in receiving the Estonian documentation in working mode, as a valuable material that can support the respective planning process in Poland. Therefore, this letter is sent to the aforementioned countries for information.

Response was not received from the Russian Federation, thereby an additional informative e-mail was sent in March 2019. This notification is also sent to the Russian Federation.

The answers of the Ministry of Finance of Estonia and of the consultants to the comments made by the countries concerning the initial planning outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment are enclosed (Annex 1).



## **Overview of the Estonian MSP**

The maritime spatial plan's planning process and impact assessment, including SEA, was initiated on May 25, 2017 by the Government of the Republic. The impact assessment is integrated into the MSP process. The purpose of MSP is to agree upon the principles for the use of Estonian marine area in the long term, in order to promote the maritime economy and contribute to the achievement and maintenance of the good environmental status. In the future, the adopted MSP serves as a basis for decision-making processes for ministries and other authorities to allow different uses of the marine area. It will also serve as a guide for the activities of businesses, investors, local authorities and coastal communities. The Estonian MSP will be composed for the entire marine area (including the Exclusive Economic Zone), except Hiiu and Pärnu marine areas. These plans will remain valid after the introduction of Estonian MSP, which means that those planning solutions shall continue serving as the basis for decisions regulating the use of marine areas in those regions.

The authority organizing the preparation of MSP is the Ministry of Finance (Spatial Planning Department). The consultant for preparing the MSP and impact assessment is Hendrikson & Ko Ltd. MSP is adopted by order of the Government of the Republic. The indicative time schedule for the preparation of MSP and additional information regarding the Estonian MSP can be found on the dedicated webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html> .

## **The proposed draft of Estonian MSP and SEA report**

Stage 1 of the Estonian MSP process, i.e. the initial planning outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment, has ended. Necessary amendments have been made and the final documentation can be found on the webpage [http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/dokumendid/L%C3%A4hteseisukohad/Estonian\\_MSP\\_Initial\\_Outline\\_ENG.pdf](http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/dokumendid/L%C3%A4hteseisukohad/Estonian_MSP_Initial_Outline_ENG.pdf) .

Now stage 2 of the Estonian MSP process, i.e. the draft Estonian MSP, has started. The draft plan reflects the combined use of the Estonian marine area, including the future trends, vision and spatial development principles of the marine area. In the preparation of the draft plan, environmental considerations have been taken into account (the draft plan has a separate chapter about this). The input of the Impact Assessment Task Group, which consists of different experts (e.g. specialist on marine environment and economic impacts), to the draft plan is presented by areas of activities where the most important associated impacts are brought out. Associated impacts are analysed more thoroughly within the framework of the main planning solution with a separate SEA report created.

Therefore, in stage 2 participating countries can examine and make comments to the draft plan and the most important associated impacts. A separate SEA report will be conducted and distributed to the countries in stage 3.

The draft plan includes different schemes that are not translated into English. Please be noted that a webmap and all the layers of the draft plan in English are available on the webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/eskiislahendus-en.html> . The schemes in the draft plan are reflecting the same layers that are available on the aforementioned webpage. Please contact the Ministry of Finance contact point if you would like to receive the map layers by shapefile.

The proposed draft Estonian MSP in English is attached (Annex 2) and it is also available on the webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/draft.html> . In addition, following the agreed approaches of the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Finland and the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Latvia, the draft Estonian MSP is also available in Finnish and in Latvian on the aforementioned webpage.

For your information, with the purpose to introduce the draft Estonian MSP the Ministry of Finance of Estonia is arranging a transboundary consultation meeting on May 29, 2019 at 13.00-16.00. The meeting will be held in Tallinn in the Ministry of Finance (Suur-Ameerika 1) and the language of the meeting will be English. We kindly request to register via this link [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyOe8YCNof8AyWFoU8W33G-RvQ-U1eQx1Jc\\_twKkI5pdZARQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyOe8YCNof8AyWFoU8W33G-RvQ-U1eQx1Jc_twKkI5pdZARQ/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Stage 3 of the Estonian MSP process, i.e. the dissemination of the Estonian MSP and SEA report, will presumably take place in spring 2020. In this stage the public can examine the finalized plan before the adoption and make their suggestions to the plan. The adoption of the Estonian MSP is expected to take place in the end of 2020.

### **Answering to the notification and submitting comments**

Taking into account the feedback from the neighbouring countries, the proposed timeframe for organizing public participation and submission of comments concerning the proposed draft of Estonian MSP is nine weeks.

Estonia kindly asks the neighbouring countries to respond by **22.07.2019** at the latest and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure of the Estonian MSP;
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the proposed draft of Estonian MSP.

Kindly send your answer preferably by e-mail to the Ministry of the Environment ([keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee](mailto:keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee)), with a copy to the Ministry of Finance ([info@rahandusministeerium.ee](mailto:info@rahandusministeerium.ee)). Alternatively by post to: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia.

For more information regarding the Estonian MSP and SEA, please contact Ms. Triin Lepland (Ministry of Finance of Estonia, Spatial Planning Department, Adviser, [triin.lepland@fin.ee](mailto:triin.lepland@fin.ee)).

Sincerely Yours,



Kaupo Heinma  
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosures:

Annex 1 – answers to the comments made in stage 1

Annex 2 – draft Estonian MSP in English



## List of recipients

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