



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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25. June 2015 No. 11-2/15/ 5029-3

Mr Egon Enocksson
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Ms Sandija Balka
Ministry of the Environment of Latvia
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Notification in accordance with the Article 10
of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context (SEA protocol)

Hereby we would like to notify You about initiation of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status of Estonian marine area (Programme of measures).

The SEA of Programme of measures was initiated in 08 of April 2015 by the decision of Estonian Minister of Environment. An authority responsible for the preparation of Programme of measures is Estonian Ministry of the Environment and it will be adopted by the Government of Estonia.

The purpose of Programme of Measures is to determine the measures that must be used to achieve and maintain good environmental status of Estonian maritime area and the National Development Plan „Estonian Marine Policy 2012-2020“, to assess consensus between the Marine Policy and Programme of Measures. The subject of the SEA are the new measures put together when drawing up the draft of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme.

The SEA procedure in Estonia:

SEA is regulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. A SEA shall be carried out during the preparation of a strategic planning document.

An authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document shall initiate and be responsible for carrying out the strategic environmental assessment and cover the expenses. After initiation of SEA, an expert on SEA shall, in cooperation with the person preparing a strategic planning document, prepare a SEA programme. The programme consists of information on the proposed activity and the content of SEA.

The SEA programme is published and everyone has the right to access the SEA programme and other documents on the environmental impact resulting from implementation of the strategic planning document at the time of the public display and the public consultation regarding the programme, to submit proposals, objections and questions regarding the programme and obtain responses. A person who prepared a strategic planning document shall, in cooperation with the expert, make the necessary amendments to the SEA programme on the basis of the proposals and objections submitted at the time of the public display and the public consultation. Taking account of the proposals and objections shall be described and refusals shall be justified in the amended programme or an annex. Written questions shall be responded to by sending an unregistered or a registered letter. After the publication the programme and the consultation with the affected parties a supervisor of SEA shall decide to approve or refuse approval of a SEA programme.

Environmental impact of the proposed activity is analysed and the SEA report is composed on the basis of the SEA programme. The SEA report is also published and approved or refused by the supervisor.

According to the SEA protocol where the party of origin considers that the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have significant transboundary environmental, including health, effects or where a party likely to be significantly affected so requests, the party of origin shall as early as possible before the adoption of the plan or programme notify the affected party.

The affected party shall, within the time specified in the notification, indicate to the party of origin whether it wishes to enter into consultations before the adoption of the plan or programme and, if it so indicates, the parties concerned shall enter into consultations. The affected party will have the opportunity to make comments on the SEA programme and report.

Answer to the notification:

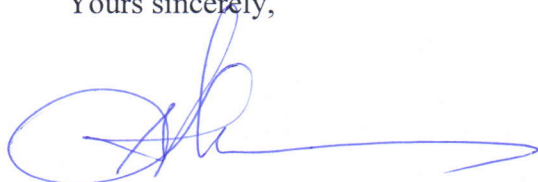
Referring to the Article 10.3 of SEA protocol, we kindly ask you to respond to this notification within two month of the receipt of this notification and to:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the SEA procedure;
- submit any comments concerning the SEA programme.

Kindly send the answer to this notification to:

Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn
ESTONIA
keskkonnaministeerium [at] envir.ee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long, horizontal stroke that tapers to a point on the right.

Ado Lõhmus
Deputy Secretary General
Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Estonia

Annex: SEA programme of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status of Estonian marine area

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