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Estonian Ministry of the Environment
Paldiski mnt 96
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
keskkonnaministerium@envir.ee

Response to the notification for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027

With reference to your letter dated 14 February 2022 concerning the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027. Finland has the possibility to participate in the assessment procedures in accordance with article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Along with the notification letter Finland has received a SEA Programme of the Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures.

The Ministry of the Environment of Finland presents its compliments to the Estonian Ministry of Environment, and has the honour to provide the following information.

SEA Programme gives a good overview of the possible content of the Estonian Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027. The set of new measures have similarities to many of the new measures in Finland's Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027. The SEA Programme does not refer to the articles 14 or 15 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive that deals with exceptions. Whether or not this means that Estonia does not have any exceptions, remains unclear. Regarding the SEA it is mentioned that the SEA covers the impact assessment of the new measures developed in the Programme of Measures and that transboundary environmental impacts may result.

The Ministry of the Environment would like to inform Estonia that Finland does wish to participate in the SEA procedure for the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027.

The Ministry of the Environment shares the view that the assessment should be targeted especially at assessing the impacts of new measures. However, we



consider it also important that the overall impact of the Programme of Measures is assessed.

In order to ensure that in accordance with Article 10 (4) of the SEA Protocol the public and the authorities in Finland are informed and given an opportunity to forward their opinion on the draft programme and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame, Finland requests that the relevant materials will be provided in Finnish.

Yours sincerely,

Permanent Secretary

Juhani Damski

Ministerial Adviser

Lasse Tallskog

For information

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland