



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

Our ref 14 February 2022 No: 16-3/22/619-3

Notification of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures
2022-2027

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SEA protocol) for the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027, Estonia hereby notifies its neighbouring countries about of the SEA of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 (Programme of Measures).

Background

The SEA of Programme of Measures was initiated in 15th of September 2021 by the decision of Estonian Minister of the Environment. An authority responsible for the preparation of Programme of Measures is Estonian Ministry of the Environment and it will be adopted by Estonian Minister of the Environment.

The purpose of the Programme of Measures is to update the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status of Estonian marine area adopted by the Government of Estonia in 2017 in order to ensure the fulfilment of established environmental targets and thereby achieve or maintain the good environmental status of the Estonian marine area.

The subject of the SEA are the new measures put together when drawing up the draft of Estonian Programme of Measures 2022-2027.

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 the initiation of SEA, the leading expert or an expert group under the supervision of the leading expert will, jointly with the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document, prepare a SEA programme. SEA programme is a document, where the planned actions of the strategic document, the subject and content are described, the extent of the SEA is determined and the methods, activities and timetable of the SEA are given. The SEA programme is the source document for conducting the SEA process and drawing up the SEA report.

Before the publication of the SEA programme, the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document must ask for an opinion on the content of the programme from all the authorities concerned. After the publication of the SEA programme (public display and public hearing), the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document has to verify of compliance of SEA report with the requirements.

On the basis of the SEA programme, that has been declared compliant, a SEA report will be prepared. The SEA report stages include similar proceedings as the SEA programme stage: asking for opinion from the authorities concerned and publication. As part of verification of compliance of the SEA report with the requirements, the report will also be sent to the authorities concerned for approval.

The authority who prepares the strategic planning document has to take into account the results of SEA and the results of transboundary consultations, where relevant.

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.

Request for an answer to this notification

Referring to the Article 10.3 of SEA protocol, we kindly ask you to respond to this notification to the Ministry of the Environment (keskkonnaministerium@envir.ee) by **31 March 2022** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the SEA procedure of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027;
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the proposed draft of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 SEA programme.

Sincerely Yours,



Kaupo Heinma
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosures: SEA programme of Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

Finland: Mr Lasse Tallskog, lasse.tallskog@ym.fi

Latvia: Ms Sandija Balka, sandija.balka@varam.gov.lv

Sweden: Mr Egon Enocksson, egon.enocksson@swedishepa.se

Russian Federation: MS Ekaterina Veselova, veselovaev@mnr.gov.ru

Kristy Käärid, +372 626 0742

kristy.kaarid@envir.ee