



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

Our ref 6 October 2022 No: 6-3/22/ 4462

**Notification of the Strategic Environmental
Assessment of Estonian Marine's Strategy
Programme of Measures 2022–2027
implementing the EU Marine Strategy
Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC)**

In a letter dated February 14, 2022 Estonia notified, in accordance with article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), its neighboring countries concerning the initiation of Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the draft updated Estonian Programme of Measures 2022–2027 implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC). Finland, Latvia and Sweden indicated their wish to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure of the Programme, based on the view that the adjacent waters and shared sub-basins may be significantly affected by the implementation of the proposed Programme. With this letter Estonia wishes to notify Finland, Latvia and Sweden about the SEA report.

Background

The purpose of the Programme is to update Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of measures approved by the Government of the Republic in 2017, in order to ensure the fulfilment of the established environmental targets and thereby achieve or maintain the good environmental status of the Estonian maritime area. The updated draft Programme 2022–2027 suggests 21 additional measures specifically devised for achieving the MSFD objective of a good environmental status of marine waters.

We wish also to highlight that during the preparation of the Programme of measures, international cooperation and coordination has taken place under HELCOM. Cooperation included the sharing of information with HELCOM Contracting Parties on the national measures and the identification of opportunities for regional measures or joint actions, ensuring that HELCOM decisions and recommendations, including the updating of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, will be taken into account in the drafting of the national Programmes of measures. Estonia will continue to seek coordination with HELCOM Contracting Parties on the Programme of measures and its implementation as part of the regional coordination process in the marine Regions of the Baltic Sea.

The SEA report

The scope of SEA report includes identifying, describing and assessing the significant strategic environmental impact that the implementation of the measures planned in the programme of measures may have and, if necessary, proposing measures to mitigate and/or prevent negative environmental impact or enhancing the positive impact; giving an assessment of the internal consistency of the measures developed in the programme of measures and its relations to national and international environmental goals.

According to the agreement between Estonia, Finland and Latvia, we attach the SEA report extended summary in the respective languages.

We hereby send you the respective documentation:

1. Strategic Environmental Assessment report for the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English.
2. Summary of the draft updated Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English.
3. Responses to the first notification and proposals for the process and contents of the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English.
4. The SEA report extended summary in Finnish.
5. The SEA report extended summary in Latvian.

The summary and the full documentation of the Programme in Estonian are available on the website of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment:

<https://envir.ee/keskkonnakasutus/merestrategie#iii-etapp-mereala-m>

Responding to the notification and submitting comments

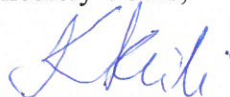
Referring to the Article 10 paragraph 3 of the SEA Protocol, we kindly ask you to respond to this notification within seven weeks of the receipt of this notification.

Estonia kindly asks the neighbouring countries to report by **9.12.2022** at the latest, and to

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure of the 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 summary of the SEA report.

Please send your answer preferably by e-mail to the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee.

Sincerely Yours,



Kerli Kiili
Head of Department of International Affairs
acting Deputy Secretary General

Enclosures:

Annex 1 – Strategic Environmental Assessment report for the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English

Annex 2 – Summary of the draft updated Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English

Annex 3 – Responses to the first notification and proposals for the process and contents of the Estonian Marine Strategy's Programme of Measures 2022-2027 in English

Annex 4 – The SEA report extended summary in Finnish

Annex 5 – The SEA report extended summary in Latvian

List of recipients (Points of Contact)

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