



To the Point of Contact of
the Espoo Convention in Denmark according to the
mailing list

Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Danish project to construct and operate a fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt between Germany and Denmark

In a letter dated 21 June 2010, Denmark notified Finland according to the Espoo Convention of the Danish project to construct and operate a fixed link across the Fehmarn Belt between Germany and Denmark, and Finland indicated a wish to participate in the EIA procedure. At that phase the alternatives for the project were a bridge or an underwater tunnel.

In its answer, the Ministry of the Environment stated that Finland will participate in the EIA of Denmark and Germany with regard to the Fehmarn Belt fixed link project. Finland stressed the importance of assessing the impacts of the fixed link on the water exchange and salinity of the Baltic Sea, and assessing possible cumulative impacts of the Great Belt Bridge and the planned fixed link, and the possibility of significant adverse transboundary impacts on Finland.

Denmark has sent Finland the results of the EIA in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention in a letter dated 28 June 2013. The Ministry of the Environment has distributed the consultation material to several authorities and environmental NGOs. The period for collecting comments was arranged from 21 August to 30 September 2013. The public also has had the opportunity to comment on the material. An underwater tunnel is the only option left in the EIA documentation. According to the documentation, the assessment of the fixed link project concludes that there will be no significant transboundary impacts outside German and Danish territories.

The Ministry of the Environment received statements from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Transport Agency, the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa, Southwest Finland and Southeast Finland. The comments received indicate that the project will not cause significant transboundary impacts in Finland. The statements are in Finnish and can be provided by request.

Finland regrets that it was not possible to arrange a simultaneous Espoo Convention consultation for the whole project concerning Denmark and Germany. It is not meaningful to arrange two separate hearings for authorities and the public for the same project. This kind of arrangement is also quite arduous for the affected Party.

Based on the EIA documentation, the comments received, and reflecting its own views, the Ministry of the Environment is of the view that the transboundary environmental impacts of the project will not be significant in Finland and therefore the Ministry does not have any more comments.

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