



To Points of Contact of the Espoo Convention in
the Russian Federation,
Sweden,
Denmark and
Germany

Answer to the notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Nord Stream Extension

Finland has received notification from the Russian Federation, Sweden, Denmark and Germany concerning environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Nord Stream Extension, a project to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, linking Russia and Germany and crossing the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Finland, Sweden and Denmark. The notification was made in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Included with the notification were a description of the project and an intended assessment of transboundary and environmental impacts (Nord Stream, Project Information Document, March 2013).

Finland can be regarded as a Party of Origin as well as an Affected Party according to the Espoo Convention. Because Finland is also a Party of Origin, a national EIA concerning the Finnish EEZ is needed for the project. During the public comment period from 8 April 2013 to 6 June 2013, there was an opportunity for the public and the authorities to comment on the Project Information Document and, at the same time, they were able to comment on the scope of the national EIA programme. Five public meetings were held to introduce the project and present the intended impact assessment for the Finnish EEZ as well as for the whole project.

Altogether about 30 comments concerning the environmental impact assessment were made by:

- Authorities and research institutes: Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Transport and Communications; Finnish Transport Agency; Ministry of Defence; The Finnish Border Guard; The Defence Command/Logistics Division; Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE); Finnish Meteorological Institute; Finnish National Board of Antiquities; Metsähallitus; Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute; Southern Finland Regional State Administrative Agency/Unit for environmental health
- Municipalities: Hamina, Inkoo, Kotka, Lemland, Porvoo, Pyhtää, Raasepori, Salo, Sauvo, Sipoo, Siuntio
- Regional councils responsible for regional planning: Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Regional Council of Kymenlaakso.
- Nongovernmental organisations: Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Professional fishing organisations (Finnish Professional Fishing Association, Finnish Archipelago Professional Fishing Association, Gulf of Finland Professional Fishing Association)

Based on the comments received, and reflecting its own views, the Ministry of the Environment would like to state that Finland will participate in the EIA of the Russian Federation, Sweden, Denmark and Germany with regard to the Nord Stream Extension project.

Finland will make comments on the Project Information Document with an additional statement to the Parties of Origin and the Russian Federation by 12 July 2013 at the latest. In that letter Finland will make reference to the statement by the Finnish competent authority on EIA (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa) on the adequacy of the intended assessment in the Finnish EEZ. This addendum will also include a summary of all statements and opinions given.

Permanent Secretary



Hannele Pokka

Environment Counsellor



Saara Bäck