



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

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LBV-SH, Betriebsstz, Plan Approval Authority
z.H. Ms Gerhardt
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Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the EIA Directive 2011/91/EU for the fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt between Germany and Denmark

In a letter dated 21 June 2010, Germany notified Finland according to the Espoo Convention and the EIA Directive of the project to construct and operate a fixed link across the Fehmarnbelt 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 Fehmarnbelt 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.

Finland received the results of the EIA from Germany in a letter dated 4 April 2014 stating that the EIA documentation is based on a same technical project description and on the same background information as Denmark had sent already on 28 June 2013. For both occasions a possibility for the authorities and the public to comment on the material was arranged.

For the first hearing with Denmark 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.

For the hearing of the German material no additional comments from authorities or the public were received. As the project is the same and basing on the same information the Ministry interprets the response from the earlier hearing to apply also to the German part of the project.

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 comments received also are of the view that the project will not cause significant transboundary impacts in Finland. The comments 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.

On behalf of Permanent Secretary,
Director General



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