



To Points of Contact for the Espoo  
Convention

Our ref 26 November 2018 No. 7-12/18/7635-2

Notification of the Estonian  
Maritime Spatial Plan

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and to Article 7 of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Estonia hereby notifies its neighbouring countries of the Estonian maritime spatial planning (MSP) process. Please be informed that this notification is sent only by e-mail.

According to the aforementioned legislation, the formal notification shall contain the draft plan or programme and the environmental report. Estonia sends this notification at an early phase of the planning process (i.e. informal notification) with the purpose to distribute relevant information and to streamline the process. Therefore the initial outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment have been attached to this letter. Hence neighbouring countries are provided an early opportunity to comment the scope of SEA and other related transboundary MSP issues. The draft Estonian MSP and SEA report will presumably be sent to the neighbouring countries in spring 2019, depending on the development of the process.

In Estonia, the responsible authority that arranges the preparation of MSP and its impact assessment is the Ministry of Finance. Therefore the Ministry of the Environment has drawn up this letter in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance.

### **Overview of the Estonian MSP**

The maritime spatial plan's planning process and impact assessment, including SEA, was initiated in 25 May 2017 by the Government of the Republic with the order No. 157 "The initiation of the thematic national spatial plan of Estonian marine areas, its adjacent coastal areas and the economic zone, and its strategic environmental assessment". The impact assessment is integrated into the MSP process.

The purpose of MSP is to agree upon the principles for the use of Estonian marine area in the long term, in order to promote the maritime economy and contribute to the achievement and maintenance of the good environmental status. The plan determines where and under what conditions certain activities are carried out. During the preparation of MSP, synergy between the activities already happening in the marine area and the planned activities will be addressed. Also, the impact of these activities on the marine environment and economy as well as their socio-cultural impacts shall be assessed. In the future, the adopted MSP serves as a basis for decision-making processes for ministries and other authorities to allow different uses of the marine area. It will also serve as a guide for the activities of businesses, investors, local authorities and coastal

communities. MSP must be taken into account in the preparation of subsequent plans, in admission of permits for different uses and in composing of national and local government's strategic development documents, including comprehensive plans.

The Estonian MSP will be composed for the entire marine area (including the Exclusive Economic Zone), except Hiiu and Pärnu marine areas. Hiiu MSP was adopted in June 2016 (offshore wind energy theme in Hiiu MSP is abolished by the Supreme Court of Estonia on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018; all other themes in Hiiu MSP are still legally binding) and Pärnu MSP was adopted in April 2017. These plans will remain valid after the introduction of Estonian MSP, which means that those planning solutions shall continue serving as the basis for decisions regulating the use of marine areas in those regions. The preparation of Estonian MSP must take into account the already prepared Hiiu and Pärnu maritime spatial plans, including concerning the areas envisaged for various uses and their conditions of use.

The authority organizing the preparation of the Estonian MSP is the Ministry of Finance (Spatial Planning Department). The consultant for preparing the MSP and impact assessment is Hendrikson & Ko Ltd. MSP is adopted by order of the Government of the Republic.

Additional information in English regarding the Estonian MSP can be found on the dedicated webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html>.

### **Overview of the planning process and transboundary consultations procedure**

Transboundary consultations are divided into three main stages. In addition to formal notifications and commenting periods the informal cooperation may be organised with the help of various international forums, such as HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, whose member is also Russia, or international cooperation projects, e.g. Pan Baltic SCOPE, Plan4Blue, BalticLines, etc. Also bilateral meetings regarding cross-border issues will be held if needed.

#### **Stage 1 – the initial planning outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment**

The purpose of this ongoing stage is to create a common understanding between the authority that organizes the preparation of the plan and the participants (including the public) in the planning process on why the plan is prepared and how it is done (i.e. SEA scoping stage). The MSP and impact assessment will be based on the initial planning outline for the Estonian MSP and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment. The respective document in English is attached to this letter.

#### **Stage 2 – the proposed draft of Estonian MSP and SEA report**

The next stage is the preparation of the draft Estonian MSP and SEA report. The draft plan will include the preliminary planning solution and it is disseminated to the public. In this stage public can examine the draft plan and make their comments to the plan.

All neighbouring countries will be notified of the draft Estonian MSP. The exhaustive summaries of the proposed plan and SEA report in English will be sent to the countries. The timeframe for submitting comments will be eight weeks.

In addition, according to the agreed approaches of the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Finland and the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Latvia, also the compendious summaries of the aforementioned documentation will be provided (respectively in Finnish and in Latvian).



According to the proposed schedule of the planning process stage 2 is expected to take place in spring 2019.

### Stage 3 – dissemination of the Estonian MSP

When all amendments to the MSP are made and the results of the SEA report have been incorporated in the MSP, the plan is disseminated to the public. In this stage the public can examine the finalized plan before the adoption and make their comments to the plan. Usually only small adjustments to the plan are made.

In addition to stage 2 all neighbouring countries which participate in the SEA procedure of the Estonian MSP will be informed about the dissemination of the plan and the exhaustive summary of the plan in English will be sent to the countries. The timeframe for submitting comments will be eight weeks.

According to the proposed schedule of the planning process stage 3 is expected to take place in spring 2020.

### **Answering to the notification and submitting comments**

Estonia kindly asks neighbouring countries to respond by **28.12.2018** at the latest and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- if possible, already indicate whether your country intends to participate in the SEA procedure of the Estonian MSP;
- provide comments regarding the scope of SEA and related transboundary MSP issues (i.e. stage 1);
- confirm if the proposed timeframe of eight weeks will be sufficient for public participation and submission of comments in the proposed Estonian MSP and SEA report phase (i.e. stage 2).

Kindly send your answer preferably by e-mail to the Ministry of the Environment ([keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee](mailto:keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee)) together with a copy to the Ministry of Finance ([info@rahandusministeerium.ee](mailto:info@rahandusministeerium.ee)). Alternatively by mail to Ministry of the Environment, Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia.

### **Contacts information**

For more information regarding the Estonian MSP and SEA please contact:

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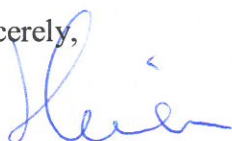
For more information regarding transboundary consultations procedure (Espoo Convention) please contact:

Mr. Rainer Persidski

Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Environmental Management Department, Adviser

[rainer.persidski@envir.ee](mailto:rainer.persidski@envir.ee)

Sincerely,



Kaupo Heinma

Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: The initial outline for the Estonian maritime spatial plan and the memorandum of intention to conduct impact assessment

**Send list**

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