

Authority services

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Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
Division O/O33 (Order of the Sea)
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Reference: 080001-5442/003

Response to the early notification concerning the amendment and updating of Germany's Site Development Plan in the exclusive economic zone of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, including its Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Finnish Environment Institute hereby acknowledges that it has received the early notification letter, dated 28 February 2024, regarding Germany's Site Development Plan in the exclusive economic zone of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, including its Strategic Environmental Assessment.

According to the amended Finnish Act on the Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Plans and Programmes of Authorities (200/2005, amendments 912/2022), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority for consultation tasks related to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Finland as of 1 January 2023.

Finland has the possibility to participate in the assessment procedures in accordance with article 10 of the Protocol on SEA to the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

In its notification, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency informed the Finnish Environment Institute that due to the early stage of the procedure, no elaborated drafts of the plan and the environmental report are available yet. Furthermore, the planning of offshore wind farms takes place in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in a multi-stage procedure. Based on maritime spatial planning, the sectoral planning of the Site Development Plan determines, among other things, sites for offshore wind energy, as well as their grid connection and temporal development. A strategic environmental assessment will be carried out as part of maritime spatial planning, site development planning and the suitability assessment of a site.

Response to the early notification of the Site Development Plan in the exclusive economic zone of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, including its Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Finnish Environment Institute would like to confirm that Finland wishes to participate in the transboundary consultations in the further procedure for amending and updating Site Development Plan in Germany's exclusive economic zone of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, including its strategic environmental assessment.



Furthermore, to ensure that in accordance with article 10(4) of the Protocol on SEA the public and the authorities in Finland are informed and given an opportunity to forward their opinion on the draft plan and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame, the Finnish Environment Institute requests the translation of the relevant consultation documents into Finnish.

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For Information Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
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