

Authority Services

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Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Finland's response to the supplementary consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the planned offshore windfarm "Bothnia Offshore Sigma" in Sweden's exclusive economic zone

The Finnish Environment Institute acknowledges that Finland has received the supplementary consultation request from Sweden on 3 December 2025, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention regarding the environmental impact assessment report (EIA) for the offshore windfarm "Bothnia Offshore Sigma".

Previously, the Finnish Environment Institute received the consultation request from Sweden on 2 June 2025, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention to submit comments on the environmental impact assessment report (EIA) for the offshore windfarm "Bothnia Offshore Sigma". Finland replied with comments received from authorities and organizations on 13 August 2025.

Sweden notified Finland of the EIA programme for the offshore windfarm "Bothnia Offshore Sigma" in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention on 10 November 2023. As a response to the notification, the Finnish Environment Institute replied on 17 January 2024 in accordance with Article 3, Paragraph 3 of the Espoo Convention that Finland intends to participate in the EIA procedure of the planned project.

Consultation in Finland

According to the Finnish Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority and responsible for consultation tasks under the Espoo Convention.

In its letter on 3 December Sweden invited the authorities and the organizations in Finland that contributed with comments in prior consultation on the environmental impact assessment report (EIA) for the offshore windfarm "Bothnia Offshore Sigma" to review developer's replies, and if needed, present further comments based on the documentation to be handled in the permit application process.



The authorities and organizations were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation documents from 8 December 2025 to 13 January 2026.

Remarks received during the consultation

The Finnish Environment Institute received seven (7) statements. The Finnish Environment Institute has prepared a summary of the original statements in English below. However, the original statements in Finnish or Swedish, which are enclosed to this letter, include important and detailed remarks which need to be examined and taken into consideration in their entirety.

Please note that from 1 January 2026 the reform of regional state administration consolidated the licensing, guidance, and supervisory tasks into a new Finnish Supervisory Agency and established 10 regional Economic Development Centres based on the former Centres for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY Centres).

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom welcomes the updates to the terms and conditions of the offshore wind farm project proposed by the project developer, which consider, among other things, ensuring the functionality of wireless communication networks for maritime transport and the impact on maritime navigation.

However, Traficom considers it appropriate to raise the issue of the offshore wind power area plans for Finland's exclusive economic zone and the reform of legislation concerning Finland's exclusive economic zone, as the project developer's response concerning the offshore wind power areas in Finland's exclusive economic zone refers to the Finnish maritime spatial plan approved in 2020 and the offshore wind power area designated for the Bothnian Sea in the maritime spatial plan. In this regard, it should also be noted that the updating of Finland's maritime spatial plan is currently underway.

With the entry into force in 2025 of Finland's Act on Offshore Wind Power in the Exclusive Economic Zone (937/2024), it would have been justified to review the offshore wind power area plans drawn up based on the legislative amendment. In its draft decision on offshore wind power areas in the exclusive economic zone, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has proposed that the Government decides on the designation of four areas in Finland's exclusive economic zone for wind energy use. One of these areas, "Selkämeri länsi" (Bothnian Sea West), is located only about three nautical miles from the planned Bothnia Offshore Sigma offshore wind farm project area.

Traficom considers that offshore wind power area plans located on the outer edge of the economic zone should be coordinated between Finland and Sweden in a controlled manner using up-to-date information, at a sufficiently high official level and through high-level strategic plans. This would ensure that the overall use of the areas and coordination can be managed in a uniform manner with a broad perspective across project and national borders. It is not possible to carry out uniform and controlled coordination work on both sides of the border in parallel with the permit and investigation processes for individual projects.

Government of Åland

The Government of Åland has no further comments to make regarding the responses to their previous statement. The Government of Åland would like to express its appreciation for the clarifications provided regarding the effects of the wind farm on current velocity, depth, and salinity.



The Finnish Heritage Agency

The Finnish Heritage Agency has no comment on the matter other than to say that, from the perspective of protecting the underwater cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea, it is positive that a marine archaeological survey was conducted in connection with the preparation of the project (section 4.6 of the response).

Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland - Fisheries Authority (previously the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment for Southwest Finland) and **Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council** informed that they will not issue a statement on the matter.

Natural Resources Institute Finland and **Ministry of Defense** did not have any comment on the matter.

Conclusions

The Finnish Environment Institute would like to express its gratitude for the responses provided. Furthermore, the Finnish Environment Institute respectfully requests that the issued statements are be given due consideration in the forthcoming permitting process.

Head of Services

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 Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention

Hanne Rajanen

This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Appendices

Received statements in Finland

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
 Ministry of the Environment
 Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland - Fisheries Authority
 Finnish Heritage Agency
 Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom
 Government of Åland
 Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
 Ministry of Defense
 Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

