

Authority Services

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Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania  
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**Reference:** The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania's letter concerning transboundary consultations of the offshore wind farm in the marine territory of Lithuania in the Baltic Sea

## Finland's response to Lithuania in accordance with Article 4(2) of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the planned offshore wind farm in the marine territory of Lithuania

The Finnish Environment Institute acknowledges that Finland has received the letter on 5 April 2023 from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania concerning transboundary consultations for the planned offshore wind farm project with an installed capacity of approximately 700 MW (hereinafter "**the Project**") in the marine territory of Lithuania in the Baltic Sea.

Lithuania notified Finland on 9 December 2021 in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), and the Ministry of the Environment of Finland stated on 25 February 2022 that Finland will participate in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure of the Project. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania submitted in accordance with Article 4(2) of the Espoo Convention the environmental impact assessment documentation (hereinafter "**the EIA Report**") in English and the summary of the EIA Report in Finnish (hereinafter "**the Finnish Summary**").

### Consultation in Finland

According to the amended Finnish Act on Environmental Impact Assessment (252/2017), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority and responsible for information and consultation tasks under the Espoo Convention. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania requested comments and proposals, including from the public, on the EIA Report concerning the likely environmental impacts of the Project on the environment of Finland.



The Finnish Environment Institute recognised terminological errors in the Finnish Summary. Due to the terminological errors, the Finnish Environment Institute requested the Finnish Summary to be revised for the consultation, and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania provided the revised version of the Finnish Summary. At the Finnish Environment Institute's request, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania granted an extension of time limit to submit comments and proposals.

The public and the authorities in Finland were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation documents from 5 May to 5 June 2023. The consultation documents were available, and statements were asked on the joint website of Finland's environmental administration and on the website of electronic public consultation. The following authorities and agencies submitted their statements: the Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency (Väylävirasto), the Regional Council of Southwest Finland, the Government of Åland, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom), and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI).

## Remarks received during the consultation

The Finnish Environment Institute has made a summary of the received statements in Finland. The original statements are enclosed in full to this letter.

**The Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency (Väylävirasto)** states that the Project is located in an area which is not relevant concerning maritime traffic to Finland or has no impact on operational aspects of winter navigation.

**The Regional Council of Southwest Finland** has no remarks, as the Project does not conflict with its regional land use planning or other planning.

**The Government of Åland** has no remarks. When Finland's participation in the EIA procedure was decided, it was not considered necessary for Åland.

**The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom)** has no remarks.

**The Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)** states that the EIA includes assessment of the direct effects of wind turbine piles on the oceanic and atmospheric flows, but assessment of the secondary effect of reduced atmospheric wind speeds on ocean mixing is lacking. FMI pointed out that the operator could, for example, optimize the wind farm design so that the overall wind wake and the upwelling-downwelling dipole are minimized. FMI has no comments concerning the weather radar network. Please see FMI's statement for further information.

## Conclusion

Finland notes that planning of offshore wind farms has increased in the Baltic Sea and wishes that the remarks concerning the EIA Report are taken into consideration for further planning of the Project. Finland considers it as a high priority to examine and assess cumulative impacts to the extent as possible. Finland notes again that contributing factors must be known, and their impacts assessed, in order to ensure that the decision on the implementation of the Project is based on solid knowledge of its impacts and on the best possible solution. Although impact can be minor or ecologically nonsignificant for an individual wind farm, cumulative impacts of several wind farms in the region can be ecologically significant.



Head of Authority Services

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*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

**Distribution**

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Beata Vilimaite  
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**For information**

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland  
Ministry of the Environment  
Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency (Väylävirasto)  
Regional Council of Southwest Finland  
Government of Åland  
Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom)  
Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)