

Authority services

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Environmental Protection Agency
Ministry of the Environment
espoo@mst.dk

Reference: 2023-34021

Finland's response to the notification regarding the planned project for the establishment of energy cluster "Viborg Go Green" in Denmark

The Finnish Environment Institute hereby acknowledges that Finland has received the notification, dated 28 September 2023, and the consultation documents from Denmark in accordance with Article 7 of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, amended by 2014/52/EU (hereinafter "EIA Directive"), regarding an environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure of the planned project for the establishment of energy cluster "Viborg Go Green" in the Municipality of Viborg, Denmark. The notification is also based on the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). BioCirc ApS has prepared a project proposal to establish a land-based energy island for the production of green energy. The purpose of the project is to develop a full bioeconomic cluster which consists of a number of energy producing facilities.

Consultation in Finland

According to the 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. The Environmental Protection Agency requested an indication whether Finland intends to participate in the EIA procedure and to provide comments on the transboundary environmental impacts. Finland requested a consultation document in Finnish which was provided, and Denmark extended upon request the deadline for Finland to submit its response. The public and authorities were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation documents from 7 to 22 November 2023. The consultation documents were available, and statements were asked on the website of Finland's environmental administration and on the website of electronic public consultation.

Participation in the EIA procedure

Based on the received statements and reflecting its own views, the Finnish Environment Institute considers that the project is unlikely to have significant transboundary environmental



impacts on Finland, and therefore informs that Finland does not intend to participate in the EIA procedure.

Remarks received during the consultation

The Finnish Environment Institute has prepared a summary of the received statements in Finland. The original statements which are enclosed to this letter should be taken into account in the EIA.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has no comments on the matter.

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Lapland (ELY Centre of Lapland) does not consider it necessary to participate in the EIA procedure, as the provided information indicates that the project will not have critical impacts on the bean geese that nest in Lapland. However, it is considered important that the impacts on the bean geese and the Natura sites are properly assessed and that the EIA procedure also seeks alternative siting solutions for the project which can be used in a situation if the impacts on the bean geese and the Nature sites show to be 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

For information Ministry for the Foreign Affairs of Finland
 Ministry of the Environment
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 ELY Centre of Lapland