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Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the offshore wind farms project in the coastal waters of North-West Estonia

In a letter dated 15 February 2007 Estonia notified Finland and Sweden in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention of the initiation of environmental impact assessment (EIA) of construction of offshore wind farms near North-West coast of Estonia. Estonia received your response by 11 May 2007 where you indicated your wish to participate in the EIA procedure, also comments on the EIA programme were included.

The Ministry of the Environment of Estonia interrupted the proceedings of the EIA programme in October 2007, since there was no legal basis enacting the construction of structures on the sea floor. The necessary amendments for issuing of permits for the construction of structures in marine areas entered into force in February 2010. Pursuant to this the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia re-opened the proceedings of the EIA in 2010 and the EIA programme was approved in June 2010. The Developer, OÜ Nelja Energia, has now prepared the EIA report.

As the Party of Origin, Estonia is hereby sending the EIA documentation of the offshore wind farms project in the coastal waters of North-West Estonia to give you the opportunity for consultations and public participation. The summary of the EIA and additional explanations due regard the Espoo Convention in English are enclosed. Supplementary material concerning the EIA, including the EIA report in Estonian (file name "*L-Eesti tuulikute KMH aruanne, aprill 11*") can be found in the following website: <http://www.envir.ee/1169853>.

Estonia kindly asks you to submit your comments no later than 5 September 2011. We would also like you to indicate preferably already before 5 September 2011 your position on the need for consultations under Article 5 of the Espoo Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Olavi Tammemäe
Deputy Secretary General

Enclosures:

1. Assessment of environmental impacts arising from foundation of offshore wind farms in the coastal waters of North-West Estonia – summary
2. Hiiumaa Offshore Wind Park EIA: additional explanations due regard the Espoo Convention

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