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State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia

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Rīgā

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**To the points of contact of Espoo Convention as
per the enclosed send list**

Notification in accordance with the Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) concerning amendments to the Maritime Spatial Plan of the Republic of Latvia

The State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Service), acting as a Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the Espo Protocol) of Latvia and the competent authority on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (hereinafter – the SEA) in Latvia, hereby notifies potentially affected countries of the commencement of amendments to the *Maritime Spatial Plan for the Marine Inland Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Waters of the Republic of Latvia* (hereinafter – the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan). It has been identified that Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden may be directly affected by the implementation of the amendments. In addition, Latvia is informing the other Baltic Sea countries as a matter of good practice and regional cooperation.

Description of proposed amendments to the Latvian maritime spatial plan

The terms of reference for the development of amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 232 of May 21 2019 “On the Maritime Spatial Plan for the Marine Inland Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Waters of the Republic of Latvia until 2030”¹ were approved on January 13, 2026 by the minister of the Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. In accordance with national legislation², a

¹ Available in Latvian <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/306969>

² According to Cabinet Regulation No. 157 of 23 March 2004 “Procedures for Carrying Out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment”, Paragraphs 2.1 and 3.

notification of this decision has been submitted to the competent authority, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been initiated.

The amendments to the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan involve updating all four parts of the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan – the Explanatory Note, the Strategic Part, the Marine Space Use Part and the Graphic Part.

The update of the Maritime Spatial Plan through the proposed amendments will support a balanced approach between economic development and environmental protection. It will provide clearer guidance on the spatial development of activities such as offshore wind energy, aquaculture, tourism, and other marine uses. At the same time, it will contribute to strengthening the protection of marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources in the long term.³

The preparation of the first edition of the amendments to the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan is expected to be completed in the second half of 2027 and will subsequently be submitted for public consultation.

Countries that express their wish to participate in the consultation process will be informed about the progress of the SEA and invited to provide comments and suggestions.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and possible transboundary effects

The amendments to the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan are subject to a SEA in accordance with national legislation. Given the geographical location of Latvia and the interconnected nature of the Baltic Sea marine environment, the amendments may potentially result in transboundary environmental effects. A detailed assessment of potential significant environmental effects, including transboundary impacts, will be carried out within the SEA process, and an Environmental report will be prepared.

Invitation to participate in the consultation process

Latvia kindly requests the notified countries:

- to acknowledge receipt of this notification;
- to indicate whether they wish to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure;
- to provide information on any potentially significant transboundary environmental effects that should be considered;
- to submit any relevant planning information or data that may contribute to the assessment;
- to submit any comments, you might receive from the public in your country;
- inform about any technical details regarding the documentation form, requests for additional languages for the translation of the nontechnical summary or other information as well as requirements regarding public participation procedures.

Please send your response to pasts@vvd.gov.lv no later than 25 May 2026.

The current version of the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan (in Latvian) is available at: <https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/juras-planojums>.

Latvia looks forward to continued constructive cooperation in ensuring sustainable and coordinated maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region.

³ <https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/uzsakta-juras-planojuma-2030-grozijumu-izstrade>

Enclosure: Information prepared by the Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia on the commencement of the preparation of amendments to the Latvian Maritime Spatial Plan (file: *Information.pdf*).

Sincerely yours,
director

D. Kaleja

THIS DOCUMENT IS SIGNED WITH SECURE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND
CONTAINS TIME- STAMP

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