



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

To the Points of Contact for the Espoo
Convention in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania
and Sweden

Our ref 02.05.2024 6-3/24/1892-2

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context concerning the offshore
wind farm project „ELWIND (Estonia)“

As the Party of origin, Estonia hereby sends a notification in accordance with Article 3 of the
Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) of the
offshore wind farm project „ELWIND (Estonia)“.

Description of the project

The ELWIND is a joint Estonian-Latvian state-run cross-border hybrid offshore wind farm project
in the Baltic Sea¹. The administrative procedures (including environmental impact assessments)
will be carried out separately according to the regulations of each country. Latvia notified the
potential affected countries on 12 July 2023 (letter No. 5-05/873/2023).

In Estonia, the ELWIND wind farm is planned to be developed in west of Saaremaa island in the
area defined in the national maritime spatial plan as suitable for the development of wind energy.
The planned total installed capacity of the wind farm is 400–1000 MW with 20–100 wind turbines
depending on capacity of each turbine (10–25 MW). The maximum height of the turbines is 330 m
with a rotor diameter of up to 300 m. The area of the „ELWIND (Estonia)“ is *ca* 200,44 km².

The owner of the project is the Ministry of Climate of Estonia, the practical project implementation
and leading the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure has been entrusted to the
Environmental Investment Centre. The state is organising full scope of technical and EIA studies,
i.e. pre-development activities. However, the state is not planning to build the offshore wind farm,
but shall organize an auction where the relevant permit (giving the right to use the offshore area
for offshore wind energy production) is awarded to the successful tenderer, according to the
Building Code.

The proposed activity potentially results in significant environmental impact which may be
transboundary, such as impacts on the aquatic environment, seals and other marine mammals,
birds, bats, fish and fisheries, maritime traffic, nature conservation areas. Therefore, the decision-

¹ Additional information in English can be found on the project's webpage <https://elwindoffshore.eu/>.

maker (i.e. issuer of development consent) – the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – has asked the Ministry of Climate to notify the potential affected countries.

Schematic maps illustrating the overall ELWIND project concept and the location of the ELWIND (Estonia) are enclosed (Annexes 1–3).

EIA procedure

On 20 March 2023, the developer submitted an application for superficies licence to the decision-maker, the application has also been supplemented (the main document of the application is enclosed in Annex 4). Pursuant to the Building Code, superficies licence is the right to encumber, for a specified period of time, a delimited part of a public water body with a construction work that is permanently connected to the bottom of the water body but does not have a permanent connection to the shore. The developer is applying for the superficies licence for 40 years.

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (hereinafter *the Act*), the decision-maker will make a decision to initiate or refuse to initiate EIA on the basis of an application for development consent. The Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority initiated the procedure for superficies licences, together with an EIA, by its decision No. 1-7/24-102 of 28 March 2024 (enclosed in Annex 5).

According to the Act, after the initiation of EIA the leading expert or, an expert group under the supervision of the leading expert, will, jointly with the developer, prepare an EIA programme (scoping document). The decision-maker must ask for an opinion on the content of the EIA programme from all the authorities concerned and will organize the publication of the EIA programme (i.e. public display and public hearing). After the publication stage and taking account of results of the publication, the developer submits the EIA programme to the decision-maker for verification of its compliance with the requirements.

On the basis of the EIA programme that has been declared compliant, the EIA report is prepared. The EIA report stage includes similar proceedings as described as regards the EIA programme stage.

Upon making a decision to grant or refuse to grant development consent, the decision-maker must take into account of the results of EIA and the environmental measures contained in the EIA report. This also includes, where relevant, the results of transboundary consultations.

If the affected Party intends to participate in the EIA procedure, the draft EIA programme and EIA report will be forwarded to the affected country. Consultations are commenced concerning environmental impact resulting from the proposed activity and environmental measures to be taken.

Answer to the notification

Kindly send the answer to this notification to the Ministry of Climate (info@kliimaministerium.ee) by 3 July 2024 at the latest and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure of the „ELWIND (Estonia)“;
- provide possible comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the „ELWIND (Estonia)“ affecting your country;
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country.

Bilateral Agreement between Estonia and Finland

In relation to the Agreement between Estonia and Finland on environmental impact assessment in a Transboundary Context, we would like to draw Finland's attention to the 13th meeting of the joint Commission on EIA. Inter alia, the Commission discussed the EIA notification practice between the countries and in the current situation proposed to follow the present practice. However, in justified cases Finland has the possibility to make the decision on participating in the particular EIA procedure at the EIA programme stage.

Contacts information

Developer: Environmental Investment Centre – Mr. Tõnn Tuvikene, tonn.tuvikene@kik.ee.

Decision-maker: Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – Ms. Hanna-Liis Heinla, hannaliis.heinla@ttja.ee.

Transboundary EIA procedure: Ministry of Climate – Mr. Rainer Persidski, rainer.persidski@kliimaministeerium.ee.

Sincerely Yours,

(signed electronically)

Birgit Parmas

Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosures:

Annex 1–3 – maps

Annex 4 – superficies licence application

Annex 5 – EIA initiation decision

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

Finland: Finnish Environment Institute, transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi, kirjaamo@syke.fi

Latvia: Environment State Bureau of Latvia, pasts@vpvb.gov.lv

Lithuania: Ministry of Environment, vitalijus.auglys@am.lt, beata.vilimaite@am.lt

Sweden: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, richard.kristoffersson@swedishepa.se

For information:

Environmental Investment Centre, info@kik.ee

Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority, info@ttja.ee

Rainer Persidski, +372 626 2973

rainer.persidski@kliimaministeerium.ee