

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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REGARDING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA INCLUDING ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF AND EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE BALTIC SEA

In our previous letter we invited you to participate in the consultation regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that has been carried out for the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania, including its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea (LRCP). With this letter we would like to inform you about the planning process of the LRCP and the SEA and to provide additional clarification, regarding the territorial document planning process.

According to the provisions of the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania (Law), the planning process of a state-level territorial planning documents consists of three main stages: preparatory, preparation and final stages. Accordingly, the LRCP is currently in the preparation stage, at which we have developed the LRCP concept – the strategic directions of spatial development of the territory of the State and functional priorities of the use of territories.

The concept is prepared where alternative solutions of territorial planning documents are envisaged and at this phase the SEA is carried out in accordance with the procedure established by the Government, if a decision on the carrying out of such assessment is adopted during the preparatory stage.

At the concept phase we prepared two strategic alternatives for Lithuanian territory development until the 2050. According to the Law, the SEA has been carried out to compare and evaluate the two alternative solutions and their possible environmental impacts, in order to make an informed decision. The SEA is currently being given for evaluation to authorities and institutions as well as for comments to the public.

Since there are no exact provisions listed at this stage of the process as well as given the data and information that we currently withhold, we are confident to suggest, that we do not observe or identify any significant impact to the neighbouring states countries.

Despite our evaluation, we are more than keen to hear from you and discuss any concerns or questions you might possess, based on your evaluation of these documents. We are looking forward to receive any additional comments by the 29th of November, 2019.

Please find the LRCP conception via: http://www.bendrasisplanas.lt/2019/06/03/en/; and the SEA summary via: http://www.bendrasisplanas.lt/2019/10/02/strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/

Any additional information could be found via link: www.bendrasisplanas.lt

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