



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

Our ref J July 2020 No 7-12/20/2555-2

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a  
Transboundary Context concerning the Saare Wind  
Energy OÜ offshore windfarm project in the west coast of  
Saare county

As the Party of origin, Estonia is hereby sending a notification in accordance with Article 3 of the  
Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) of the project plan by  
the developer, Saare Wind Energy OÜ, to construct an offshore windfarm in the west coast of Saare county.

#### Description of the project

The developer plans to construct an offshore windfarm consisting of 100 wind turbines with a total capacity  
600 MW. The project includes an offshore substation and cables connected to the substation and an  
electricity transmission system up to the land-based connection point. The planned area of the windfarm is  
154,4 km<sup>2</sup>. The developer is also considering the possibility of co-operation on the connection of the  
windfarm with an additional electricity connection between Estonia and Latvia. A schematic map  
illustrating the location of the project can be found in Annex 1 to this letter.

The proposed activity potentially results in significant environmental impact which may be transboundary.  
Therefore, the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority has asked the Ministry of the  
Environment to notify the potential affected Parties.

#### EIA procedure

The decision-maker (i.e. issuer of development consent) is the Government of the Republic of Estonia. On  
April 9, 2015 the developer submitted an application for superficies licence (see Annex 2) to the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs and Communications (i.e. authority carrying out the proceedings regarding the  
application). After an amendment in the respective legislation, proceedings regarding this application have  
been transferred to the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority. Pursuant to the  
Water Act, superficies licence is the right to encumber a delimited part of a public water body with  
construction works that are permanently connected to the bottom of the water body and are not permanently  
connected to the shore, for a specified term. The developer is applying for the superficies licence for  
50 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 environmental  
impact assessment (EIA) on the basis of an application for development consent. The Government of the  
Republic of Estonia initiated EIA of the project on May 28, 2020, order no 183 (see Annex 3).

In this particular case, a specification stipulated in the Act must be followed. Therefore, in terms of the EIA  
procedure of the project, the version of the Act that was in force at the time of submission of the application

for development consent must be applied. Please be informed that compared to the present EIA procedure some important differences exist in the former redaction of the Act.

According to respective former redaction of the Act, after the initiation of EIA the expert or, an expert group under the supervision of the expert, will, jointly with the developer, prepare an EIA programme (scoping document). The decision-maker 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 programme to the supervisor of EIA for making the decision to approve or refuse approval of the EIA programme.

On the basis of the approved EIA programme, 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 will take account of the results of EIA and the environmental requirements appended to the 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 report are forwarded to the affected state. 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 the Environment ([keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee](mailto:keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee)) by September 7, 2020 and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the transboundary EIA procedure;
- provide possible comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country.

#### Contacts information

Developer: Saare Wind Energy OÜ – Mr Kuido Kartau, [info@swe.ee](mailto:info@swe.ee).

Decision-maker: Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (i.e. authority carrying out the proceedings regarding the application) – Mrs Liis Piper, [liis.piper@ttja.ee](mailto:liis.piper@ttja.ee).

Supervisor of EIA and transboundary EIA procedure: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia – Mr Rainer Persidski, [rainer.persidski@envir.ee](mailto:rainer.persidski@envir.ee).

Sincerely Yours,



Kaupo Heinma  
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

#### Enclosures:

- Annex 1 – map of the location of the proposed project
- Annex 2 – application of the developer
- Annex 3 – EIA initiation decision (unofficial translation)

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

Finland: Ms Seija Rantakallio, [seija.rantakallio@ym.fi](mailto:seija.rantakallio@ym.fi)

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