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Swedish answers to the notification in accordance with Articles 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the offshore windfarm project outside of Klaipeda.

Sweden received a notification from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania to participate in consultation under Article 3 of the Espoo Convention in relation to the planned offshore windfarm project outside of Klaipeda in Lithuanian EEZ.

Lithuania has fulfilled their responsibility following from article 3 of the Espoo Convention by providing the Swedish environmental protection agency (EPA) with a notification regarding the project.

The Swedish EPA has in turn invited Swedish government agencies, organizations and other parties to give consultation comments on the planned project.

Consultation in Sweden

The notification and the attached documents have been circulated for consideration to central-government agencies, county administrative board, non-governmental environmental organizations during the period from 13th of December 2021 to 25th of January.

The Swedish EPA is the authority responsible for fulfilling the obligations following from, inter alia. Article 3 of the Espoo Convention. However, the Swedish EPA has no responsibility to evaluate the consultations received in the context of the Swedish national consultation procedure with a view to presenting an overall

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Swedish position. For a comprehensive view of the consultations, we refer to the enclosed statements received.

Consultations comments received

A brief summary of the statements is included below, please note that the summary is written on behalf of the Swedish EPA and not the body to which a proposal is referred for consideration:

Replies were received from Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, County Administrative Board of Skåne, County Administrative Board of Blekinge, Swedish Armed Forces, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI), Swedish Transport Administration, Swedish Transport Agency, Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU), BirLife Sweden and Swedish Pelagic federation PO.

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, County Administrative Board of Blekinge, Swedish Armed Forces, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Transport Agency, SGU and SGI replied that they had no further comments.

County Administrative Board of Skåne assessment is that Sweden does not need to participate in an Espoo-consultation regarding the project due to the limited nature of the transboundary effects. However, Länsstyrelsen Skåne leaves feedback on identifiable possible transboundary effects. For full statement, please see attached.

Swedish Pelagic Federation highlights the projects potential negative impact on fish-stocks caught by Swedish fishermen through underwater noise, vibrations, changing currents or electromagnetic fields around cables. *For full statement, please see attached.*

BirLife Sweden highlights the projects potential impact on migrating birds and proposes assessment activities and protective measures that should be considered when preparing the environmental impact assessment. For full statement, please see attached.

The Swedish Transport Administration wants to stress the importance of accessibility in the sea traffic routes between Sweden and Lithuania.

As the decision has been made electronically there is no need for signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Karolina Ardesjö-Lundén Head of Unit

> Richard Kristoffersson Point of contact for the Espoo Convention

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Attachments

Comments from County Administrative Board of Skåne Comments from Swedish Pelagic Federation Comments from BirdLife Sweden Comments from Swedish Transport Administration

<u>Cc</u>

The Ministry of Environment in Sweden, Emma Sjöberg