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Response to notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention and Article 7 of Directive 2011/92/EU2, regarding construction of the offshore wind farm Baltica 1, for which an environmental impact assessment is proceeded in the Republic of Poland

BirdLife Sweden has been offered to comment on the necessity of further Swedish involvement in the Espoo Convention process regarding the proposed wind farm establishment in the south-western part of the Baltic Sea in the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), but also in the immediate vicinity of the Swedish EEZ.

We can conclude that millions of birds use the Baltic Sea during migration, and as a stop-over and wintering site, regardless of national borders. Hence, the potential effects on birds are indeed transboundary, and Sweden should definitely participate in the environmental impact assessment procedures as a potentially affected country.

Less than two weeks ago, BirdLife Sweden responded to the proposed plans to build an offshore windfarm on the Swedish side of the EEZ border. We state that the project would be an obvious breach against the Birds Directive, including the Natura 2000 network legislation. Our opinion is the same regarding Baltyk 1.

The main reason is that offshore windfarms placed on, or in direct proximity to, Södra Midsjöbanken will undoubtedly affect the Eurasian Long-tailed Duck population wintering in the area. This is one of the foundations for the Natura 2000 site Hoburgs bank och Midsjöbankarna. Looking at a map over the area makes it easy to understand that the Natura 2000 site should cover also the area for Baltyk 1. Possibility to go ahead with the plans for Baltyk 1 gets even smaller when considering the cumulative impacts from e.g. other windfarms, sand extraction, fishery, and shipping.

BirdLife Sweden is strongly opposing Baltyk 1, as well as other windfarm plans affecting the Natura 2000 system in an evidently harmful way. We will assume that the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency will do the same.



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