



SWEDISH  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY

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### **Sweden's response to the notification from Estonia pursuant Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context [Espoo Convention] regarding the planned offshore wind farm "Elwind (Estonia)"**

On April 30, 2024, the Ministry of Climate of Estonia invited Sweden to consultations regarding the EIA-report for the joint Estonian Latvian, cross-border hybrid offshore windfarm (OWF), called "Elwind (Estonia)". The planned project is set to be located within the economic zone of Estonia in the Baltic Sea, west of the island *Saaremaa*. The Ministry of Climate of Estonia acts as the owner of the project, spanning across an area of 200,44 km<sup>2</sup>. OWF *Elwind* (Estonia) is set to consist of 20 – 100 wind turbines with a maximum, combined capacity of 400 – 1 000 MW contingent of the capacity of each individual wind turbine.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is the responsible authority for submitting and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context [Espoo Convention] in Sweden, according to the Environmental Assessment Regulation (2017:966).

The SEPA hereby acknowledges having received the notification and based on statements made by the Swedish respondents, hereby express the wish for Sweden to participate in the upcoming Espoo-process.

#### **Consultation in Sweden**

OWF *Elwind* is a joint wind energy project with Latvia, from whom Sweden was notified on July 12, 2023, about the planned project and responded that the country wished to participate in the ongoing process. The two joint projects are,

however, undergoing separate environmental assessment processes due to the regulations of each country.

The notification and the consultation documents have been circulated for consideration by the SEPA to 13 relevant central and local government bodies, marine- and environmental organizations as well as effected interest organizations. The consultation lasted from May 5, 2024, to June 27, 2024. The consultation documents have also been available for the public and other potential interested parties on the SEPA's website.

### **Remarks received during the consultation**

The County Administrative Board of Kalmar, the County Administrative Board of Gotland, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Geological Survey of Sweden and the Swedish Transport Agency abstained from commenting on the case. The SEPA received comments from BirdLife Sweden, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Maritime Administration, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and the Swedish Pelagic Federation Producer Organization.

All statements were made in Swedish and English and are enclosed in full.

*BirdLife Sweden* notes the risk for significant environmental impact to arise, raising the need for studies on both nocturnal and diurnal species, and that the impact on these must be assessed cumulatively with other wind farms in the Baltic Sea.

Based on their respective areas of responsibility, the *Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management* (HaV) and the *Swedish Maritime Administration* assesses that the planned project will not result in any significant transboundary environmental impact for Sweden, for which the authorities are of the opinion that there is no need for the country to participate in the continued process.

The *Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute* (SMHI) remarks that many wind farms are currently under consideration in the Baltic Sea - both in Swedish, Estonian, Latvian and other countries' marine areas. Although the impact of each individual wind farm on the marine environment could be considered small, the cumulative impact from all these projects may be significant. The SMHI, there stresses the need for Sweden to continue to participate in the environmental impact assessment.

The *Swedish Pelagic Federation Producer Organization* (SPF) states that the planned project could have a negative effect on fish stocks but that present knowledge about influencing factors and their effects is lacking, calling for investigations on the cumulative effects on the underwater fauna.

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*This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures*

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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**CC**

The Swedish Ministry for Climate and Enterprise, Bastian Ljunggren and Eleonora Rönström

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Nanna Wikholm, Richard Kristoffersson, Egon Enocksson and Åsa Blomster

**Enclosed, statement made in Swedish and English**

BirdLife Sweden

County Administrative Board of Gotland

County Administrative Board of Kalmar

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

The Swedish Maritime Administration

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

The Swedish Pelagic Federation Producer Organization