



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

Our ref February 2022 No 16-3/21/1696-5

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in  
a Transboundary Context concerning the Utilitas OÜ  
Saare-Liivi 5 offshore wind farm project in the Gulf  
of Riga

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 Utilitas OÜ to construct an offshore wind farm in the Gulf of Riga.

#### Description of the project

The proposed Saare-Liivi 5 offshore wind farm will consist of up to 299 wind turbines with an approximate distance of 1 km between the turbines and will have a total capacity of up to 5,980 megawatts. The structure will be used for the production of electricity and/or hydrogen through offshore wind farm facilities. The planned offshore wind farm will include wind turbines with a total height of up to 400 m above sea level, with an electric wind turbine tower height of up to 250 m and a rotor diameter of up to 300 m. The nominal capacity of a wind turbine of this size is up to 20 MW. The final total installed capacity of the wind farm and the number of wind turbines will depend on the choice of wind turbine manufacturer and the location of the wind turbines in the wind farm. A schematic map illustrating the location of the proposed project is enclosed in Annex 1.

The proposed activity potentially results in significant environmental impact which may be transboundary. Therefore, the decision-maker (i.e. issuer of development consent) – the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – has asked the Ministry of the Environment to notify the potential affected Parties.

#### Environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure

On 18 February 2021, the developer submitted an application for superficies licence to the decision-maker. The supplemented application for superficies licence was submitted on 5 July 2021. 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 a period of 50 years. Additional information regarding the

project and its potential impacts can be found in the main document of the supplemented application in English (unofficial translation) that is enclosed in Annex 2.

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 Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority initiated the procedure for superficies licences, together with an EIA, by its decision no. 1-7/21-521 of 23 December 2021. The extract of the main part of the decision and notice of the initiation of the procedure in English (unofficial translations) are enclosed respectively in Annex 3 and Annex 4. Inter alia, the decision includes the list of different surveys that have to be carried out as part of the EIA.

According to the Act, after the initiation of EIA the leading expert or, an expert group under the supervision of the leading expert, will, jointly with the developer, prepare an EIA programme (scoping document). The decision-maker must ask for an opinion on the content of the EIA programme from all the authorities concerned and 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 EIA programme to the decision-maker for verification of its compliance with the requirements.

On the basis of the EIA programme that has been declared compliant, 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 must take into account of the results of EIA and the environmental measures contained in the EIA 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 EIA report will be 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 25 March 2022 and:

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

#### Bilateral Agreement between Estonia and Finland

In relation to the Agreement between Estonia and Finland on environmental impact assessment in a Transboundary Context, we would like to draw Finland's attention to the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the joint Commission on EIA. Inter alia, the Commission discussed the EIA notification practice between the countries and in the current situation proposed to follow the present practice. However, in justified cases Finland has the possibility to make the decision on participating in the particular EIA procedure at the EIA programme stage.

Contacts information

Developer: Utilitas OÜ – Mr Rene Tammist, [rene.tammist@utilitas.ee](mailto:rene.tammist@utilitas.ee).

Decision-maker: Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – Ms Liina Roosimägi, [liina.roosimagi@ttja.ee](mailto:liina.roosimagi@ttja.ee).

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 – schematic map of the location of the proposed project
- Annex 2 – application of the developer
- Annex 3 – extract of the initiation decision
- Annex 4 – notice of the initiation of the procedure

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

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