



To the points of contact for Espoo Convention in:
Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania,
Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden
as per the enclosed list

Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline

In a letter dated 8 April 2013 Finland notified your country, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention, of the project by Nord Stream AG, at the moment Nord Stream 2 AG, to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea linking Russia and Germany and crossing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Finland, Sweden and Denmark and the territorial waters of Denmark.

The letter stated that the gas pipeline project could be found as item 8 (large-diameter oil and gas pipe-lines) on the list of activities in Appendix I to the Espoo Convention that are likely to cause significant adverse transboundary impact. Thus, an environmental impact assessment procedure had to be performed according to the Convention. The project can be found also on the list of activities in the Agreement between Finland and Estonia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; thus this agreement shall be applied to the project as well.

In this procedure, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland considered themselves as Parties of Origin under the Convention. The Russian Federation is a signatory, but not a Party, to the Espoo Convention. However, Russia has acted and will continue to act as a Party of Origin in so far as it is possible according to its legislation. All nine Baltic Sea states, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, were regarded as Affected Parties under the Espoo Convention.

In the letter your country was kindly asked to indicate whether you intended to participate in the EIA procedure, provide comments concerning the scope of the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your EEZ and territory, and submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

Finland received your response where you indicated your wish to participate in the EIA procedure. The comments given by the Parties during the notification phase have been forwarded to Finland's competent authority on EIA, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa, which has requested the developer to take them into account in the EIA.

The developer, Nord Stream 2 AG, has now prepared an environmental impact assessment in two binders: "Espoo Report and Espoo Atlas. Nord Stream 2." As indicated in the letter of 8 April 2013, Finland hereby – in accordance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention – sends the assessment documentation to you in order to give you the opportunity for consultations and public participation (Articles 4 and 5). Additionally, the Finnish EIA report which focuses on impacts within Finland will be at your disposal.

Referring to Article 4.2, Germany, Sweden, Finland and The Russian Federation have decided on a common starting point for the public participation and consultation. These Parties of Origin would like to draw your attention to the obligation of the concerned parties to arrange for distribution of the documentation to the authorities and the public in the areas likely to be affected.

For your information, the general public, NGOs and the authorities are entitled to comment on the EIA documentation from 7 April until 5 June 2017 in Finland. Public information meetings with the participation of the Finnish authorities and developer will take place in the following places, on the dates indicated: Kotka, 3 May; Helsinki, 9 May and Hanko, 10 May. According to the Finnish legislation, the competent authority's statement on the EIA must be given within two months after the public commenting period, i.e. by 4 August 2017 at the latest.

Finland kindly asks you to submit your comments **no later than 30 June 2017** and to

- provide comments concerning the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and the authorities in your country, and
- indicate preferably already before 30 June if you see a need for additional consultations.

Please send your comments to

Ministry of the Environment
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Finland
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Yours sincerely,

Permanent Secretary


Hannele Pokka

Ministerial Adviser


Lasse Tallskog

Enclosures

1. Espoo Report and Espoo Atlas. Nord Stream 2. April 2017. The EIA documentation can be downloaded from the website <https://www.nord-stream2.com/permitting-espoo/> and the documentation is also enclosed on a memory stick (USB). You will also receive the EIA documentation directly from Nord Stream 2 AG. The documents will be in English and your national language.

2. Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Finland. Nord Stream 2. A natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. 3.4.2017.
The Finnish, Swedish and English version of the report can be downloaded from 7 April from the website: www.ymparisto.fi/nordstream2YVA

For more information about the project and the EIA

Developer

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EIA competent authority in Finland

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