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Send to Espoo Points of Contact in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation

Information on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft updated German Programme of Measures 2022–2027 implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC)

Germany wishes to inform you about the public consultation on the draft updated MSFD Programme of Measures 2022–2027 for the protection of the German parts of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea and the related Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The public consultation will end on 31 December 2021. The programme will be finalised in spring 2022 through German federal and coastal Länder government decisions, taking into account the comments received through consultations.

It is expected that your country is not affected by the Programme of Measures to such an extent that would require a transboundary consultation under Article 10 of the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention. Such a consultation process has been initiated in relation to Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom based on the view that the adjacent waters and shared sub-basins may be significantly affected by the implementation of the proposed Programme.

The updated draft Programme 2022–2027 suggests 29 additional measures specifically devised for achieving the MSFD objective of a good environmental status of marine waters. The additional measures target among others



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pollution with nutrients, contaminants and cargoes from ships, nitrogen air pollution from land-based sources, riverine pollution loads including (micro)litter, habitat restoration, refuge and resting areas, biofouling, non-indigenous species early warning system, and waste-related measures in commercial and recreational shipping.

From the first Programme 2016–2021, ten measures were modified and two measures on micro-litter combined in and replaced by a new measure. 19 measures of the Programme continue unchanged.

The Strategic Environment Assessment is part of the Programme of Measures report. The Programme of Measures is of a programmatic nature. Therefore, the environmental impact is described at a general level. The Strategic Environmental Assessment concludes that the Programme is expected to yield mainly positive effects on the environment and human health. It is expected that the Programme has no negative transboundary effects. The degree of the positive effects on adjacent waters depends on the subsequent substantiation of the measures to prepare their implementation by end of 2022.

Should your country, contrary to our assessment, wish to participate in the Espoo consultation process, we kindly ask you **to inform us by 19 November 2021**. Any comments on the attached document should be received **no later than 31 December 2021**.

Germany wishes to provide the attached English summary of the Programme of Measures and the Strategic Environment Assessment report to the other Parties. The English summary and the full consultation documentation in German are available until 31 December 2021 on the consultation website: www.meeresschutz.info/oeffentlichkeitsbeteiligung.html

We wish also to highlight that during the preparation of the programme of measures, international cooperation and coordination has taken place under HELCOM and OSPAR. Cooperation included the sharing of information with HELCOM and OSPAR Contracting Parties on the national measures and the identification of opportunities for regional measures or joint actions, including the updating for 2021–2030 of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy. Germany will continue to seek coordination with HELCOM and OSPAR Contracting Parties on the programme of measures and its implementation as part of the regional coordination process in the marine Regions of the Baltic Sea and the North-East Atlantic.



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Yours sincerely,

For the Ministry

Heike Imhoff

Enclosure

English summary of the draft updated German Programme of Measures
2022–2027 and the incorporate environmental report