



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

To the Point of Contact for the Espoo
Convention in Latvia
Environment State Bureau of the
Republic of Latvia
pasts@vpvb.gov.lv

Our ref 07.07.2023 Nb 7-15/23/2751-2

Regarding the municipal designated spatial plan and
strategic environmental assessment for the Tõrva
Municipality

On 22 May 2023 Estonia informed Latvia concerning the municipal designated spatial plan and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in Tõrva Municipality near the Estonian-Latvian border area.

Hereby Estonia would like to inform Latvia that the initial positions for pre-selecting a location for the spatial plan and its SEA programme has been prepared and translated into Latvian (enclosed to this letter). Tõrva Municipality Government is arranging public display of the documents from 10 July to 11 August 2023 in Tõrva Municipality Government (Kevade Street 1, Tõrva city; phone +372 766 5310), in Mulgi Experience Centre (Sooglemäe, Ala village, Tõrva Municipality; phone +372 567 171 50) and on the website <https://kov.torva.ee/eriplaneering> (in Estonian).

Public discussions of the spatial plan will take place on 19 September 2023 at 18:00 in Mulgi Experience Centre (Sooglemäe, Ala village, Tõrva municipality) and on 20 September at 18:00 in Tõrva Culture House (Männiku Street 5, Tõrva city).

Estonia kindly asks Latvia to respond by 11 September 2023 at the latest (e-mail: info@kliimaministeerium.ee) and:

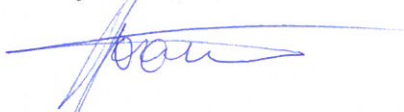
- indicate whether Latvia intends to participate in the SEA procedure of the spatial plan;
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the spatial plan on your territory;
- submit the comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the initial positions and SEA programme.

On 25 October 2022, Tõrva Municipality Government initiated municipal designated spatial plan for wind farms and its SEA. The purpose of the spatial plan is to find the most suitable location for building wind farms and the necessary infrastructure for their operation. The planning area is situated in the south-western part on Tõrva municipality and covers an area approximately 115 km². The planning area also borders the territory of the Republic of Latvia and one of the potentially suitable development area for wind farm is adjacent to the national border. It is likely that the implementation of the spatial plan may cause transboundary significant environmental impact.

Simultaneously with the preparation of the spatial plan a SEA of the planned activity is carried out. SEA programme gives an overview of the existing environment and the scope, methodology and studies of the impact assessment. SEA programme is the scoping documentation that serves as guidelines for the further preparation of the SEA report. Initial positions means a document that is created as part of spatial planning proceedings and in which the need for and the purpose of creation of the plan is described and the tasks the plan aims to fulfil, proposes a preliminary timetable for creation of the plan and provides an overview of the surveys required for and of the persons to be invited to participate in creation of the plan.

The authority arranging the creation of the municipal designated spatial plan is Tõrva Municipality Government (Mrs Terje Tomson, terje.tomson@torva.ee) and the consultant of the spatial plan is AB Artes Terrae OÜ (heiki@artes.ee). Approving resolution on pre-selecting a location for the municipal designated spatial plan and the report concerning the first stage of SEA is made by Tõrva Municipal Council.

Sincerely Yours,



Sigrid Soomlais

Head of the Environmental Management Department in tasks of the Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: Initial positions for pre-selecting a location for the spatial plan and SEA programme (in Latvian)

For information: Tõrva Municipality Government, torva@torva.ee