



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045, Latvia, phone +371 67321173, e-mail [pasts@vpvb.gov.lv](mailto:pasts@vpvb.gov.lv), [www.vpvb.gov.lv](http://www.vpvb.gov.lv)

Riga

28.04.2023 No. 5-05/570/2023

Ref. to: 13.03.2023. Case number NV-02263-23 “*Skidbladner*”

**Swedish Environmental Protection Agency**  
[registrator@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:registrator@naturvardsverket.se)

**Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the planned offshore windfarm project “*Skidbladner*” in Sweden’s exclusive economic zone**

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the Espoo Convention) of Latvia and the competent authority on the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) in Latvia, thanks the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for information concerning the planned offshore windfarm project “*Skidbladner*” in Sweden’s exclusive economic zone (hereinafter – the Project) with reference to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau hereby acknowledges the receipt of the notification and prepared documentation.

Please be informed that the Bureau published received information regarding Project on Bureau`s webpage<sup>1</sup> on 14th of March 2023 and send information directly to the involved authorities. The Bureau received opinions and comments regarding the Project and its potential transboundary impacts within the scope of competence from the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of the Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Environmental Service, the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology and the Kurzeme planning region.

More detailed comments or additional information is provided by the State Environmental Service and the Nature Conservation Agency.

Having assessed the submitted information, the State Environmental Service concludes that area

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/atkrastes-veja-elektrostaciju-parks-skidbladner-buvnieciba-baltijas-jura-zviedrijas-ekskluzivaja-ekonomiskaja-zona>.

of the planned offshore windfarm “*Skidbladner*” is located approximately 150 km from the coast of Latvia (and the nearest residential houses in Tārgale parish, Ventspils region). The nearest special area of conservation located in the territory of Latvia is *NATURA 2000* site – protected marine area “*Irbes Strait*” (sitecode – LV0402200, type – A; approximately 115 km from the Project area), that has been established to ensure the protection of specially protected and migratory bird species. According to the information submitted, the State Environmental Service stated that the Project does not affect this marine protected area, as well as other major migratory routes of birds in the Baltic Sea’s exclusive economic zone of Latvia. The State Environmental Service pointed out that provided documentation also includes assessment on the potential impacts on flora and fauna (including bats, birds, etc.), landscape, cultural heritage, recreational resources, fishing etc. in the surrounding area, from which the State Environmental Service may conclude that there are no significant impacts on the environment on the territory of Latvia and on the exclusive economic zone. In addition, the Nature Conservation Agency concludes the planned offshore windfarm “*Skidbladner*” is located approximately 100 km from LIFE programme project LIFE19 NAT/LV/000973 LIFE REEF “*Research of marine protected habitats and determination of the necessary conservation status in Latvia’s exclusive economic zone*” research site, where it is possible to create a new *NATURA 2000* marine protected area “*Zēģelnieku sēkļi*”.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia shared opinion that due to the distance of the planned offshore windfarm “*Skidbladner*” to the coastal territory of Latvia, the Project will not have an impact on the human health. Other institutions within the scope of their competence provided opinion that Project wouldn’t have negative impact on territory of Latvia.

Considering above mentioned the Bureau agrees with estimation that Latvia is not likely to be affected to such an extent to require participation in the EIA and transboundary consultations of the Project under the Espoo Convention.

Though Latvia does not intend to take part in the transboundary consultation process as an affected party, we kindly ask the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to inform us about the findings of transboundary impact, especially if negative impacts on the environment are possible in the territory of Latvia, and the results of the EIA of the Project.

Best regards,

Daiga Avdejanova (signature\*) Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

*\*Document is sign with secure electronical signature*

Ilze Lielvalode, phone: +371 67770813  
e-mail: [ilze.lielvalode@vpvb.gov.lv](mailto:ilze.lielvalode@vpvb.gov.lv)