



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

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Rīga

21.08.2024 No. 5-05/992/2024

Ref. 09.07.2024 case number NV-05552-24

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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Regarding the environmental impact assessment of marine seismic surveys and marine geological investigations throughout the Baltic Sea

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, would like to express gratitude to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for notification sent concerning regarding marine seismic surveys and marine geological investigations throughout the Baltic Sea (hereinafter – the Proposed activity) with reference to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau hereby acknowledges the receipt of the notification and prepared documentation¹. Please be informed that the Bureau published received information regarding the Proposed activity on Bureau's webpage² on 15 of July 2024 and sent information directly to the involved authorities. The Bureau received opinions regarding the Proposed activity and its potential transboundary impacts within the scope of competence from the Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Economic of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the State Environmental Service, the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology. The Bureau has not received comments from the public.

The Bureau has gathered and evaluated opinions expressed by above mentioned authorities regarding Proposed activity, identified potential transboundary impacts and their significance as well as necessity of entering into transboundary consultations. The Bureau agrees with general estimation that Latvia is not likely to be affected to such an extent that would require participation

¹ Received on 10 July 2024, registration no 5-05/2027/2024.

²<https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/par-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-planotajiem-baltijas-juras-seismiskajiem-petijumiem-un-geologiskai-izpetei-baltijas-jura>

in the EIA of the Proposed activity as an affected country under the Espoo Convention. In the view of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia the Proposed activity will not have a direct negative impact on the defence interests of the Republic of Latvia.

In reference to the request for comments on scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on territory of Latvia, please be informed that we do not have additional comments to the scope of the EIA that is provided in the Chapter 7 *Cumulative and cross-border effects of the Consultation document SGU's marine seismic surveys and marine geological investigations in the Central, Southeastern and Southern Baltic Sea*.

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 results of the EIA, findings of transboundary impact, especially if negative impacts on the environment are possible in the territory of Latvia. We would highly appreciate possibility get acquainted with the results of the planned geological survey in an area of the Proposed activity that is located closer to the Exclusive Economic Zone of Latvia.

Sincerely yours,

Indra Kramzaka (signature*) Deputy Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

**Document is sign with secure electronical signature and contains a time stamp*

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