

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

Environment State Bureau of Latvia pasts@vpvb.gov.lv

Our ref 17.02.2025 6-3/24/2872-7

Regarding environmental impact assessment of the Rail Baltica railway line section "Kabli– Estonian/Latvian border" project

On 21 June 2024, by letter No 6-3/24/2872-3, Estonia notified Latvia according to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the Rail Baltica railway line section "Kabli–Estonian/Latvian border" project. Latvia indicated its wish to participate in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure.

Rail Baltica is a fast, conventional double-track electrified railway line project on the route from Estonia to the Lithuanian-Polish border, designed with 1435 mm gauge. In Estonia, the county-wide spatial plans for Rail Baltica have established a 213 km long north-south corridor running through Harju, Rapla and Pärnu counties in the direction of Riga. As part of the preparation of the construction project, the EIA procedure is being carried out for the 12,7 km section in Estonia from Kabli to the Estonian-Latvian border.

Hereby we inform you that the project has reached the EIA programme stage. The developer has prepared a summary of the EIA programme in English (enclosed). Inter alia, the summary includes an overview of the feedback provided by Latvia in the EIA notification stage together with the developer's and consultant's responses.

In Estonia, the public display of the EIA programme takes place from 21 February to 14 March 2025. The public hearing meeting will take place on 19 March 2025 from 16.00 to 18.00 in Häädemeeste Seltsimaja (Suurküla 4, Häädemeeste rural municipality, Pärnu county). On the basis of the EIA programme that has been declared compliant with the requirements by the decision-maker, the EIA report will be prepared.

Estonia kindly asks Latvia to respond by 17 April 2025 (e-mail: info@kliimaministeerium.ee), at the latest, and to:

- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your territory;

- submit the comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the EIA programme.

Contacts information Developer: Rail Baltic Estonia OÜ – Mr. Janis Erilaid, janis.erilaid@rbe.ee. Decision-maker: Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – Ms. Raili Kukk, raili.kukk@ttja.ee. Transboundary EIA procedure: Ministry of Climate – Mr. Rainer Persidski, rainer.persidski@kliimaministeerium.ee.

Sincerely Yours,

(signed electronically) Birgit Parmas Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: Summary of the EIA programme

For information: Rail Baltic Estonia OÜ, Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority