



Energētikas un vides aģentūra

Energy and Environment Agency

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The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

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

The Energy and Environment Agency of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Agency) would like to express gratitude to the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia for the information regarding prepared environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) Programme¹ of the Rail Baltica railway line section „Kabli – Estonian/Latvian border” (hereinafter – the Project).

Please be informed that public information and participation process of the EIA Programme of the Project in Latvia was organized from 21 February 2025 until 4 March 2025. Information regarding the prepared EIA Programme of the Project and public participation options was published on the Agency's webpage² and sent directly to the various stakeholders considering the national procedure of the EIA in the transboundary context.

The Agency has received response 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 Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Nature Conservation Agency and the State Environmental Service. The Agency has not received comments from the public.

The Agency provides a short overview of received comments and opinions.

¹ The Agency's registration No 2.10/313/2025-S from 17.02.2025.

² <https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/eiropas-standarta-platuma-dzelzcela-linijas-rail-baltica-posma-pernava-igaunijas-latvijas-robeza-sektora-kabli-igaunijas-latvijas-robeza-buvnieciba-pernavas-aprinki-igaunija>

According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Project will not have a direct impact on the territory of the Republic of Latvia in terms of human health. Therefore, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia has no comment or a proposal on the scope of the EIA of the Project in the context of transboundary impacts.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia concludes that the Project will not have a direct negative transboundary impact on the defence interests of the Republic of Latvia. The Ministry does not object to the realization of the Project.

The State Environment Service and the Nature Conservation Agency conclude that EIA Programme of the Project contains the proposals made by both authorities regarding the assessment of potential transboundary impacts expressed during public information process of the notification stage of the Project. Thus, no additional conditions or proposals to the EIA Programme of the Project would be necessary.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia informed they had no comments or proposals for the EIA Programme of the Project.

The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia concludes that the EIA Programme of the Project contains the proposals and comments addressed by the AS "RB Rail" during public information process of the notification stage. According to the EIA programme, an appropriate Natura assessment on the Nature Reserve "Mērnīeku dumbbrājs" will be carried out. Thus, it is expected that solutions also will be evaluated to prevent the impact of the Project on the Nature Reserve "Mērnīeku dumbbrājs". The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia also concludes that it is intended to assess the impact on specially protected bird species as well, including the Lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarine*.

It is noted that one of the impacts that is planned to be assessed is the impact on climate. In this regard, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia draws attention of the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia to the fact that, in addition to the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 *on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment*, the European Commission's Technical Guidance No. C/2021/5430 of 29 July 2021 *on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027*³ also applies to infrastructure development projects in the European Union, ensuring that climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures are integrated into the EIA procedure and infrastructure project solutions. Compliance with these conditions is essential for the implementation of the Rail Baltica project.

Enclosure: 1 document (file: *Ministry of Transport_Rail Baltica*).

Sincerely yours, Director

D.Avdejanova

THIS DOCUMENT IS SIGNED WITH SECURE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND
CONTAINS TIME- STAMP

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³ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/cipr/items/722278/en>