



Energētikas un vides aģentūra

Energy and Environment Agency

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The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

email: info@kliimaministerium.ee

cc: Ms. Birgit PARMAS

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Regarding the environmental impact assessment programme of the submarine cable of the fourth electricity connection between Estonia and Latvia

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 sent regarding prepared environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) Programme¹ for the submarine cable of the fourth electricity connection between Estonia and Latvia (hereinafter – the Project).

We inform that public participation of the EIA Programme of the Project in Latvia was organized from 17 July 2025 until 22 August 2025. Information regarding the EIA Programme of the Project and public participation options was published on the Agency's webpage² and send 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 Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with the Health Inspectorate, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, the State Environmental Service, the Nature Conservation Agency, the Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR", the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia. The Agency has not received comments from the public.

The Agency provides a short overview of received comments and opinions regarding the EIA Programme.

¹ The Agency's registration No 2.10/2361/2025-S from 07.07.2025.

²<https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/ceturta-igaunijas-latvijas-elektroparvades-tikla-starpsavienojuma-izbuve-igaunijas-juras-udenos>

- Within its competence, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, has taken note of the EIA programme of the Project and calls for a more detailed examination of the following aspects relating to fisheries:
 1. Commercial fishing:
 - 1.1. No information on how the Project will affect fishermen's activities and traditional fishing grounds.
 - 1.2. Lack of information on the economic impact on the local fishing industry.
 2. Fish migration routes: It is not fully described how the presence of the cable may affect fish migration routes.
 3. Long-term consequences:
 - 3.1. Detailed analysis of the long-term impact of the project on fish populations is lacking.
 - 3.2. Ecosystem recovery processes after construction are not considered.
 4. Recommendation: It would be necessary to supplement the Planned activities EIA program draft with a more detailed fisheries impact analysis, including an assessment of economic aspects, fish migration studies, and cooperation with local fishermen

- The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia confirms that it has reviewed the EIA programme and has no proposals regarding the scope of the EIA of the Project in the context of transboundary impacts. At the same time, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia encourages that, during the preparation of the EIA report, potential cumulative impacts arising from other parallel projects in the Baltic Sea region – including the ELWIND Latvia offshore wind farm and its associated infrastructure – are taken into account. To ensure a comprehensive and effective environmental impact assessment, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia recommends that the EIA process be implemented in a coordinated and integrated manner, considering the interrelated impacts of the relevant projects on the marine ecosystem, Natura 2000 sites, as well as on coastal communities and infrastructure.

- The State Environmental 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 within the notification stage of the Project. Thus, no additional conditions or proposals to the EIA Programme of the Project would be necessary.

- Within its competence, the Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” gives approval to the EIA Programme of the Project.

Other institutions informed they had no comments or proposals for the EIA Programme of the Project.

The Agency would like to express willingness to continue commenced successful bilateral cooperation in the next steps of the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the Project.

Enclosed: 2 documents (files: *Investment and Development Agency_submarine cable.pdf*,
Ministry of Agriculture_submarine cable.pdf).

Sincerely yours, Director

D.Avdejanova

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

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