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State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia

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Rīgā

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Regarding the strategic environmental impact assessment for the decision on selecting potential offshore wind farm sites within the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone

The State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Service) would like to express gratitude to the Finnish Environment Institute for information sent on the results of the strategic environmental assessment (hereinafter – the SEA) for the decision on selecting potential offshore wind farm sites within the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (hereinafter – the Planning document).

Please be informed that the Service published received information on webpage¹ on 3 November 2025 and sent information directly to the involved authorities. The Service received comments from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the State Centre for Defence Logistics and Procurement and the Nature Conservation Agency. The Service has not received comments from the public.

The above-mentioned authorities informed that they have reviewed received documentation and have no comments or suggestions regarding the results of the SE, except the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia and the Nature Conservation Agency that provided more detailed comments regarding the Environmental report of the Planning document.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia noted that considering that the impact zones of the Planning document is not in the vicinity of the maritime border of Latvia and no direct impact of the planned activity on human health in Latvia is expected, the Ministry of Health has no comments or proposals regarding the Planning document.

The Nature Conservation Agency recognises that the competent Finnish authorities have carried

¹<https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/somijas-republikas-valdibas-lemumprojekts-par-potencialo-juras-veja-parku-vietu-izveli-baltijas-jura-somijas-ekskluzivaja-ekonomiskaja-zona>

out a comprehensive SEA, assessing the impact on the marine environment, birds, fish resources, shipping, climate and socio-economic aspects. The Environmental report also provides information on cumulative impacts under different possible scenarios (VE0-VE2), which are relevant at the level of the Baltic Sea ecosystem. The Nature Conservation Agency concludes that:

1. Direct transboundary impact on the territory of Latvia is not expected, taking into account the considerable distance between Finland's planned wind farm areas (Bothnian Sea and Bay) and the Exclusive Economic Zone (hereinafter – the EEZ) and coastline of the Republic of Latvia.
2. However, there may be indirect cumulative impacts at the Baltic Sea level, in particular as regards:
 - a. populations of migratory birds (because the Bothnian Sea is an important migration route).
 - b. marine mammals and fish stocks, taking into account the total pressure from the development of offshore wind projects of several States.
 - c. the possible noise and vibration load for marine ecosystems during the construction and operational phases.
3. The Environmental report notes that the lack of data on biodiversity and underwater noise impacts in the Finnish EEZ continues to create uncertainty in the assessment; it would therefore be useful to strengthen transnational data exchange and joint environmental monitoring in the Baltic Sea region (e.g. under HELCOM).
4. It is essential to ensure that Finland's maritime spatial planning solutions are aligned with the principles of sustainable use of the Baltic Sea Region and the objectives of HELCOM in favour of the status of the marine environment.

The Nature Conservation Agency notes that the Finnish SEA documentation envisages continuing consultations with participating countries and monitoring to cumulative impacts. The Nature Conservation Agency expresses interest in seeing the final results of the SEA and the conditions of the decision taken, in particular as regards the conservation of biodiversity, noise and cumulative impacts at Baltic Sea level.

Looking forward to further successful cooperation in the field of transboundary SEA.

Sincerely yours,
Acting Director of the Permits Department,
Deputy Director

A. Veliks

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