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*State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia*

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Rīgā

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No. SYKE/2026/607

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### **Regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Detailed Plan and its Amendment (Sorsasalo), Kuopio, Finland**

The State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Service), acting as the Point of Contact regarding notifications under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the SEA Protocol) and as the competent authority on environmental assessment in Latvia, would like to thank the Finnish authorities for the notification regarding the local detailed plan and its amendment (Sorsasalo) in the City of Kuopio, Finland (hereinafter – the Plan).

Latvia reaffirms its commitment to the SEA Protocol and to the principle of information exchange between Parties concerning plans and programmes that may potentially cause significant adverse transboundary environmental effects.

The Service hereby acknowledges receipt of the notification and the accompanying documentation<sup>1</sup>. Please be informed that the Service published information regarding the Plan on the Service's webpage<sup>2</sup> on 8 May 2026 and forwarded the information to the relevant Latvian authorities and institutions for review.

The Service has reviewed the information provided regarding the Plan. According to the notification, the purpose of the local detailed plan and its amendment is to enable diverse industrial functions within the Sorsasalo industrial area in the City of Kuopio and to address the development needs of existing and planned operators in the area. The Plan includes consideration of a potential small modular reactor (SMR) plant for district heating purposes and a renewable fuel production plant. A separate environmental impact assessment procedure is being undertaken for the SMR project. The planning process is currently in the preparation phase and includes the assessment of impacts on the built and natural environment, climate, traffic, safety, land use restrictions, cultural

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<sup>1</sup> Received on 5 May 2026, registration No. 4839/AP/2026.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eva.gov.lv/jaunums/kuopio-pilsetas-sorsasalo-industrialas-zonas-detalplanojuma-somija-strategiskais-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejums>

environment and socio-economic factors.

The Service received opinions regarding the Plan and its potential transboundary environmental effects within the scope of competence from Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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 Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia and the State Centre for Defense Military Sites and Procurement. No comments were received from the public.

Based on the information currently available, Latvia does not consider that the implementation of the Plan is likely to result in significant transboundary environmental effects on its territory and therefore does not intend to participate in the transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedure under Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Nevertheless, in the spirit of openness and continued cooperation under the SEA Protocol, the Service kindly requests to be kept informed about the further development of the Plan, including the results of the strategic environmental assessment and any findings regarding transboundary environmental effects.

The Service remains available for further information exchange and cooperation with the Finnish authorities regarding the Plan.

Enclosed documents: 6 files (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs\_Hepomaki\_Sorsasalo.pdf, Ministry of Health\_Hepomaki\_Sorsasalo.pdf, Ministry of Transport\_Hepomaki\_Sorsasalo.pdf, VAMOIC\_Hepomaki.pdf, VARAM\_Sorsasalo.pdf, Ministry of Climate and Energy\_Hepomaki\_Sorsasalo.pdf*)

Sincerely yours,  
Director of Permitting Board

D. Kaleja

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