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*State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia*

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Rīgā

12.06.2026.

Our ref.Nr.2.28/AP/5521/2026

Ref. To: 05.05.2026.

No. SYKE/2026/606

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### **Regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Detailed Plan and its Amendment (Hepomäki), 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 (Hepomäki) 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 activities 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 sent information directly to the relevant Latvian authorities.

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 investigate the possibility of establishing a circular economy and industrial area in the Hepomäki area of Kuopio. In addition, the Plan examines the possibility of locating a small modular reactor (SMR) plant for district heating purposes. The planning process is currently in the preparation phase and includes the assessment of alternatives related to transport infrastructure and land use solutions. Environmental considerations within the planning process include impacts on the natural environment, climate, traffic, safety, land use restrictions, cultural environment and socio-economic aspects. A separate environmental impact assessment procedure is also being prepared for the SMR project.

The Service received opinions regarding the Plan and its potential transboundary impacts

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<sup>1</sup> Received on 5 May 2026, registration No. 4838/AP/2026.

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

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 the Interior 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, the Ministry of Economics 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 regarding the Plan, its location and the nature of the proposed land-use planning process, the competent Latvian authorities have concluded that Latvia is not likely to experience significant adverse transboundary environmental effects that would necessitate participation in the strategic environmental assessment procedure as an affected Party.

Therefore, Latvia does not intend to participate in the transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedure concerning the local detailed plan and its amendment (Hepomäki), Kuopio, Finland, pursuant to 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, any findings regarding transboundary environmental effects and any information relevant to nuclear safety, radiological safety, emergency preparedness or other environmental impacts that may be of relevance to Latvia. In particular, we would appreciate receiving information on any findings indicating potential transboundary effects that could be relevant for preparedness and response planning in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency.

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

Enclosed documents: 8 files (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *Ministry of Health\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *Ministry of Interior\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *Ministry of Transport\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *VAMOIC\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *VARAM\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *Ministry of Climate and Energy\_Hepomaki.pdf*, *Ministry of Economics\_Hepomaki.pdf*)

Sincerely yours,  
Director of Permitting Board

D. Kaleja

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

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