



To Points of Contacts for the Espoo  
Convention in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania,  
Sweden and Russian Federation

Our ref 15 September 2020 No 7-15/20/3949-2

### **Regarding the Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan**

In a letter dated 26 November 2018, Estonia informed its neighbouring countries concerning the Estonian maritime spatial planning (MSP) process (stage 1). The countries were provided with the possibility to make comments regarding the scoping documentation of the Estonian MSP.

In a letter dated 20 May 2019, Estonia notified the neighbouring countries who had expressed its wish to participate in the transboundary strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure of the Estonian MSP (stage 2), i.e. Sweden, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania. The notification was also sent to the Russian Federation, in addition to Poland for information. Answers were received from Sweden, Finland and Latvia.

Now the Estonian MSP process has reached stage 3, i.e. dissemination of the Estonian MSP and SEA report. Please be informed that this letter, prepared by the Ministry of the Environment in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, is only sent by e-mail.

### **Overview of the Estonian MSP**

The maritime spatial plan's planning process and impact assessment, including SEA, was initiated on 25 May 2017 by the Government of the Republic. The impact assessment is integrated into the MSP process. The purpose of MSP is to agree upon the principles for the use of Estonian marine area in the long term, in order to promote the maritime economy and contribute to the achievement and maintenance of the good environmental status. In the future, the adopted MSP serves as a basis for decision-making processes for ministries and other authorities to allow different uses of the marine area. It will also serve as a guide for the activities of businesses, investors, local authorities and coastal communities. The Estonian MSP will be composed for the entire marine area (including the Exclusive Economic Zone), except Hiiu and Pärnu marine areas. These plans will remain valid after the introduction of Estonian MSP, which means that those planning solutions shall continue serving as the basis for decisions regulating the use of marine areas in those regions.

The authority organizing the preparation of MSP is the Ministry of Finance (Spatial Planning Department). The consultant for preparing the MSP and impact assessment is Hendrikson & Ko Ltd. MSP is adopted by order of the Government of the Republic. Additional information regarding the Estonian MSP can be found on the dedicated webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html>.

## **Dissemination of the Estonian MSP and SEA report**

As a result of stage 2 of the Estonian MSP process, appropriate amendments were made in the draft plan and separate impact assessment report (including SEA report) was prepared. Inter alia, the comments made by the affected Parties have been integrated into the Estonian MSP.

Now stage 3 of the Estonian MSP process, i.e the main solution of Estonian MSP, has started. The main solution does not reflect the current situation of different sea uses any more. This was a background information to prepare the draft plan and will not be the part of the document to be adopted. The main solution reflects the combined use of the Estonian marine area, including the future trends, vision, spatial development principles, guidelines and conditions for the development of different sea uses. Compared to the draft plan, guidelines and conditions about wind energy development, aquaculture and principal cable corridors have been improved the most in the main solution. Also a separate impact assessment report (including SEA report) has been prepared and associated impacts of the MSP have been analysed more thoroughly.

The documents include different schemes that are not translated into English. Please be noted that a webmap and all the layers of the draft plan in English are available on the webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/eskiislahendus-en.html> . The schemes in the draft plan are reflecting the same themes that are available in the aforementioned webpage. Please contact the Ministry of Finance contact point if you would like to receive the map layers by shapefile.

In stage 3 which is the last stage of transboundary consultations, participating countries can examine and make comments to the main solution of Estonian MSP and impact assessment report (including SEA report).

The proposed main solution of the Estonian MSP and impact assessment report (including SEA report) in English are available on the webpage <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/main-solution.html> . In addition, following the agreed approaches of the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Finland and the Commission on Transboundary EIA between Estonia and Latvia, the main solution of the Estonian MSP and summary of the impact assessment report in Finnish and in Latvian have also been provided. Please be informed that the answers of the Ministry of Finance of Estonia and the consultants to the comments made by the affected Parties in stage 2 of the Estonian MSP process are also available on the aforementioned webpage.

The adoption of the Estonian MSP is expected to take place in 2021.

For your information, the Ministry of Finance of Estonia is arranging a transboundary consultation meeting on 23.09.2020 at 13.00-16.00 (EEST). The meeting will be held virtually and the language of the meeting will be English. We kindly request to register on the Estonian MSP portal <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html> . More information about the meeting and the practicalities of the meeting will be sent to the registered parties.

### **Submitting comments**

Taking into account the feedback from the neighbouring countries, the proposed timeframe for organizing public participation and submission of comments concerning the Estonian MSP is nine weeks.

Estonia kindly asks to submit the comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the main solution of the Estonian MSP and impact assessment (including SEA) report by **18 November 2020**.

Kindly send your answer preferably by e-mail to the Ministry of the Environment ([keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee](mailto:keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee)) together with a copy to the Ministry of Finance ([info@rahandusministeerium.ee](mailto:info@rahandusministeerium.ee)). Alternatively by mail to: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia.

For more information regarding the Estonian MSP and impact assessment (including SEA), please contact Ms. Triin Lepland (Ministry of Finance of Estonia, Spatial Planning Department, Adviser, [triin.lepland@fin.ee](mailto:triin.lepland@fin.ee)).

Sincerely Yours,



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Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

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