



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045, Latvia, phone +371 67321173, e-mail pasts@vpvb.gov.lv, www.vpvb.gov.lv

Rīga

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The Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Espoo@mst.dk

Regarding the transboundary strategic environmental assessment of the amendment of Denmark`s maritime spatial plan

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau) would like to express gratitude to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency for information sent on the results of the strategic environmental assessment (hereinafter – the SEA) of the amendment of Denmark`s maritime spatial plan (hereinafter – the Planning document).

Taking into account your request the Bureau has published the information regarding the public consultation of the SEA of the Planning document and document “*Strategic environmental assessment of proposed amendments to the Danish Maritime Spatial Plan. Transboundary environmental impact report (Espoo Report)*” (hereinafter – the Report) on the Bureau`s webpage¹ on November 22, 2023, as well as has sent directly to the various authorities. Please be informed that we have received response from the Ministry of the Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the State Fire and Rescue Service of the Republic of Latvia, the State Environment Service and the Nature Conservation Agency, the Dienvidkurzeme Municipality. The Bureau has not received comments from the public.

The above-mentioned authorities informed us that they have reviewed received document and have no comments or suggestions regarding the results of the SEA, including in the context of transboundary impacts. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia and the Nature Conservation Agency provided more detailed comment. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with the Health Inspectorate considers that the planned activities will not have a direct impact on the health of Latvian residents. The Nature Conservation Agency noted that the Report contains references to the studies that will be useful for an assessment of the potential impacts on natural diversity in the future.

The Bureau would like to draw your attention, that according to the information included in the Section 4.3 “*Land reclamation*” of the Report “*the Lynetteholm development may cause*

¹ The Bureau`s webpage: <https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/par-danijas-juras-telpiska-planojuma-grozijumu-izstradi-un-strategisko-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertjumu>.

transboundary impacts on the marine environment in the Baltic Sea, as the flow of water through the Danish straits may be affected, causing changes in the exchange of water between the North Sea and the Baltic. This could in turn affect the flow of salty bottom water from the North Sea to the Baltic, for example. This is of crucial importance for the oxygen conditions in the deeper parts of the Baltic Sea such as the Arkona Basin, Bornholm Deep, Gotland Deep and Gdansk Deep, and could potentially affect cod spawning in these areas. The extent of the impact depends, among other things, on the size of the area being reclaimed, including the area set aside in the Kronløb basin along the Øresund coast". Considering that "it is currently not clear whether an effect of this magnitude will have any impact on the aquatic environment in the Baltic, in particular on the salinity of the Baltic Sea", the Bureau kindly recommends verifying this assessment during implementation of the Planning document.

Sincerely yours,

Daiga Avdejanova (signature*) Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

**Document is sign with secure electronical signature*

Ilze Lielvalode, phone: +371 67770813,
e-mail: ilze.lielvalode@vpvb.gov.lv