

Points of Contact in
Denmark,
Estonia,
Germany,
Latvia,
Lithuania,
Poland, and
Sweden.

Notification of a preliminary draft plan or programme with potentially significant environmental effects - Article 10 para. 1 of the SEA Protocol concerning the decision on selecting potential offshore wind farm sites within the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (the SEA protocol) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and with Article 7 of the Directive 2001/24/EC of the European parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Finland hereby notifies Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of authorities' plans and programmes concerning a draft decision about potential offshore wind farm sites within the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone. Attached to this letter is a document containing information on the initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and consultation on the Assessment.

Information on the planned offshore wind farm site in the Finnish EEZ

Pursuant to the Act on Offshore Wind Power in the Exclusive Economic Zone (937/2024), the Government may make a decision that concerns reserving a site located in Finland's Exclusive Economic Zone for wind energy generation, competitive tendering regarding the site, and the conditions for using the site. Finland's exclusive economic zone is an international sea area that Finland can exploit for such purposes as offshore wind power production. The Government will make its decision on the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment's presentation. The decision will designate one or more sites in Finland's exclusive economic zone for offshore wind power production as well as specify the timeline for the competitive tendering process concerning concessions to use the site(s) in question. The tendering process will be organised by the Finnish Energy Authority. The decision may additionally impose conditions on the use of the site.

In the SEA procedure, the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be limited to the offshore wind farm sites in the exclusive economic zone and the transmission connections to land required for energy generation set out in the draft decision as well as the geographical area affected by their impacts.

At this stage, the draft decision firstly comprises the four proposed offshore wind farm sites, without yet commenting on the number that will be put out to tender or the schedule of the tendering processes. The total surface area of these sites is 921 square kilometres.



The SEA procedure

In Finland, the environmental impacts of certain types of plans and programmes of the authorities must be assessed pursuant to the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005). This obligation also applies to the Finnish Government's decision on offshore wind farm sited in the exclusive economic zone, even if it is a decision rather than a plan in the strict sense.

The upcoming assessment process will include two national and international consultation rounds. The first phase, which is implemented at present time, includes a consultation on the planning of the environmental assessment and preparation of the environmental report. In the second phase, which is expected to take place in autumn 2025, a consultation on the actual environmental report will be organised.

The Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, which is preparing the decision, has commissioned an SEA assessment of the draft decision. This will be conducted by Sweco Finland Ltd. in 2025. For more information, please contact Ms Outi Vilén (outi.vilen@gov.fi) or MsTuuli Oikarinen (tuuli.oikarinen@gov.fi) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

The public display of the draft assessment plan takes place in Finland between 23 May and 4 July 2025

Participation in the procedure

Please send the response by email to the Register Office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi by **18 July 2025 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the preliminary notification,
- indicate whether your country is likely to be affected by the upcoming decision and wishes to participate in the consultation procedure,
- submit any observations concerning the attached document containing information on the initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the consultation on the Assessment.

Please let us know if you would like to receive the draft environmental report in a language other than English. Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2025/1121** in your response.

Head of Services

Jenni Juslén

Senior Officer,
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention
and the Protocol on SEA

Ulla Helminen



This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Attachment Strategic environmental assessment of authorities' plans and programmes (SEA) concerning potential offshore wind farm sites in the exclusive economic zone – provision of information on the initiation of the SEA process and consultation on the assessment plan

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