

Warsaw, 16 January 2024

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**Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention¹ of the planned project entitled
'Offshore Wind Farm Baltica-1+'**

¹ *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, signed at Espoo on 25 February 1991 (Journal of Laws of 1999, no 96, item 1110, as amended), hereinafter referred to as the *Espoo Convention*.

Dear all,

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention and Article 7 of the Directive 2011/92/EU², I am pleased to inform you about the planned **construction of the Offshore Wind Farm Baltica-1+**, for which an environmental impact assessment is being carried out in the Republic of Poland.

Project information

The planned project will consist of the construction, operation and demolition of the *OWF Baltica 1+* with a maximum total capacity of 1185 MW.

The basic infrastructure of *Baltica 1 OWF+* includes:

- offshore wind turbines – nacelle with rotor and support structure (above-water part, interface and underwater part),
- offshore substation(s) consisting of offshore transformer stations and, in case of HVDC solution, also the offshore converter stations,
- medium- or high-voltage offshore power cable lines, including accessories, connecting the wind turbines to the offshore electrical substation(s).

The project includes a set of offshore wind turbines, with a unit capacity ranging from 15 to 25 MW. The extreme numbers of turbines, assuming the production of 1185 MW of electricity and the use of 15 to 25 MW units, are up to 79 wind turbines with a capacity of 15 MW and a rotor diameter of up to 236m and up to 47 turbines with a capacity of 25 MW and a rotor diameter of up to 310m.

The *OWF Baltica 1+* area is approximately 131.2 km² and the estimated built-up area of this offshore wind farm is approximately 115.5 km². The project is located in the north-central part of the Polish EEZ.

Transboundary environmental impact

The border of the development area is located at a distance of 2.0 km from the border of the Swedish EEZ, hence transboundary impacts on the Swedish EEZ are very likely to occur, taking into account the type and scale of the anticipated implementation activities and the existing knowledge on the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms.

The closest Natura 2000 site is the Swedish area Hoburgs bank och Midsjöbankarna (SE0330308), which is situated 2 km north of the *OWF Baltica-1+* construction area.

The source of impacts from such projects can be e.g., the emission of underwater noise, generated during the installation of wind turbine foundations and substations, affecting marine mammals and fishes

² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification) (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1, as amended), hereinafter referred to as the *Directive 2011/92/EU*.

(including cumulative impacts with other planned and ongoing offshore wind farms).

The set of wind turbines, whose structures will rise to a maximum height of 330 m above sea level, may represent a permanent obstacle to bird migration.

Sedimentation of seabed sediment lifted into the seabed during construction of the support structures and linear infrastructure of *OWF Baltica-1+* may adversely affect the functioning of plant and animal benthic communities within the sedimentation reach, which is likely to extend beyond the boundary of the EEZ of Poland.

Therefore, it is impossible to exclude a potential negative transboundary impact of the project on the Swedish and Danish lands.

Applicant for the project

The project in question, entitled '*Offshore Wind Farm Baltica-1+*', is being carried out at the request of the Elektrownia Wiatrowa Baltica-1 Sp. z o.o., Mokotowska 49 Street, Warsaw, Poland.

Environmental impact assessment procedure in Poland

In Poland, the environmental impact assessment procedure, including in a transboundary context, is regulated by the *Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Journal of Laws of 2008, no 199, item 1227)*.

Under the aforementioned Act, the procedure for assessing the environmental impact of a project is a procedure aimed at issuing a decision on environmental conditions. The decision on environmental conditions completes the environmental impact assessment procedure and is a binding decision for the authority issuing the investment decision.

The decision on environmental conditions shall determine, e.g.:

- type and location of the project,
- significant conditions for using the environment at the stage of implementation and operation or use of the project,
- environmental protection requirements to be included in
- the documentation required for the decision, in particular the construction project,
- requirements for dealing with the effects of industrial accidents,
- requirements for limiting transboundary environmental impacts for projects for which a transboundary environmental impact procedure has been carried out,
- minimisation and compensation measures, if such a need is identified,
- a requirement for environmental monitoring and post-implementation analysis, where this is justified.

The justification for the decision on environmental conditions shall include information on, e.g., how and to what extent the findings of the environmental impact assessment documentation (the environmental impact report), the results of the transboundary environmental impact assessment proceedings, if any, the comments and requests made during public participation, as well as the opinions of the relevant authorities have been taken into account.

The competent authority for the environmental impact assessment is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk. The General Director for Environmental Protection shall be the competent authority for the coordination of transboundary environmental impact proceedings with the Affected Parties.

Current stage of the proceeding

The project in question is listed in Annex I of the Espoo Convention and is a project listed in Annex II(3)(i) of the Directive 2011/92/EU.

At this stage of the environmental impact assessment, the Affected Party that intends to participate in this procedure may comment on the information contained in the Project Information Sheet, which will then be taken into account during the determination of the scope of the environmental impact assessment report (so called scoping) by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk.

I am enclosing the following documentation:

- an application for an environmental decision in Polish, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and English,
- Project Information Sheet in Polish, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and English,
- decision of the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk to conduct proceedings on transboundary environmental impact assessment dated 02 October 2023, mark: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.68.2023.KB.4, in Polish and English,
- GDPR data protection clause in Polish, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and English.

The aforementioned application for an environmental decision, the Project Information Sheet (PIS) with the GDPR clause and the relevant translations are available for download until 15 February 2024 at the following address:

[Baltica-1+](#)

Declaration of participation as an Affected Party in a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure

The General Director for Environmental Protection, as the competent authority for the coordination of transboundary environmental impact assessment proceeding, kindly requests you to **immediately acknowledge the receipt** of this letter and its attachments.

He also request you to send the following information within 30 days of receipt of this notification:

- your position regarding participation in the proceedings on the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the project in question as an Affected Party as per the delegations contained in the Espoo Convention,
- your position on the scoping.

Your answer to the above should be forwarded to:

Espoo Convention Focal Point

Dorota Toryfter-Szumańska

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DOROTA TORYFTER-SZUMAŃSKA

Deputy Director

Department for Environmental

Impact Assessment

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ATTN:

1. Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk.
2. Elektrownia Wiatrowa Baltica-1 Sp. z o.o.