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**Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention¹ on the planned project titled
“Baltica-1 Offshore Wind Farm”**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 25 September 2023, we received an email from you informing us that Finland wishes to participate in the transboundary proceeding, as a potentially affected party, for the planned **Baltica-1 Offshore Wind Farm** project, for which an environmental impact assessment is being conducted in the Republic of Poland.

Therefore, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention and Article 7 of Directive 2011/92/EU², we are sending information about this project.

Project information

The planned project will consist of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Baltica-1 Offshore Wind Farm Complex with a maximum total capacity of 900 MW (hereafter:

¹ *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, signed at Espoo on 25 February 1991 (OJ. U. of 1999, No. 96, item 1110, as amended), referred to as: *Espoo Convention*;

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) (OJEU of 2012, L 26, p. 1 as amended), referred to as: *Directive 2011/92/EU*.

Baltica-1 OWF or the Project).

The basic infrastructure of Baltica-1 OWF includes:

- offshore wind turbines - nacelle with rotor and support structure (above-water part, transition elements and underwater part);
- offshore substation(s) comprising offshore transformer stations and, in the case of an HVDC solution, also offshore converter stations;
- medium- or high-voltage marine power cable lines and accessories.

The project comprises a set of offshore wind turbines with a unit capacity of 15 to 25 MW. The extreme numbers of turbines, assuming the production of 900 MW of electricity and the use of 15 to 25 MW units, are up to 60 wind turbines with a capacity of 15 MW and a rotor diameter of up to 236 m, and up to 36 turbines with a capacity of 25 MW and a rotor diameter of up to 310 m.

The Baltica-1 OWF covers an area of 85.53 km² and is located in the EEZ of the Republic of Poland, on the eastern side of the Central Shoal area, in a depth range of approx. 16 m to approx. 50 m, approx. 75 km north of the shoreline, at the level of the Smołdzino and Łeba municipalities (Pomorskie Voivodeship).

The Baltica-1 OWF area is located at a distance of approx.:

- 550 m from the Swedish EEZ border;
- 60.0 km from the Danish EEZ border;
- 84.3 km from the Russian EEZ border;
- 92.9 km from the Lithuanian EEZ border;
- 101.7 km from the Latvian EEZ border;
- 203.7 km from the German EEZ border.

The power produced by the Baltica-1 OWF will be transmitted onshore via an electricity connection which will constitute a separate project and will be subject to a separate proceeding for issuing an environmental decision.

Transboundary impact

The boundary of the Baltica-1 OWF area is located approx. 550 m from the Swedish EEZ border, hence transboundary impacts within the Swedish EEZ are very likely.

The closest Natura 2000 protected area is the Swedish Hoburgs bank och Midsjobankarna area (SE0330308), which is located 2 km north of the Baltica-1 OWF construction site.

Sources of impacts at such projects may include, for example, underwater noise emissions

generated during the installation of wind turbine foundations and substations in relation to marine mammals and fish (including cumulative impacts with other planned and ongoing offshore wind farms).

The wind farm complex, whose structures will rise to a maximum height of 330 m above sea level, could present a permanent obstacle to bird migration.

Sedimentation of the bottom sediment lifted to the pelagic water during construction of the support structures and linear infrastructure of the Baltica-1 OWF may adversely affect the functioning of plant and animal benthic groups within the sedimentation reach, which is likely to extend beyond the Polish EEZ border.

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 “Baltica-1 Offshore Wind Farm”, is being carried out at the request of Elektrownia Wiatrowa Baltica-1 Sp. z o.o., ul. Mokotowska 49, 00-542 Warsaw.

Environmental impact assessment procedure in Poland

In Poland, environmental impact assessment proceedings, including in a transboundary context, are 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 on environmental impact assessments.

Under the aforementioned Act, the proceeding for assessing the environmental impact of a project is aimed at issuing a decision on the 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 environmental decision shall specify, inter alia:

- type and location of the project,
- the relevant conditions of the environment’s use during the project’s implementation and operation or use phases,
- the environmental protection requirements that need to be included in the documentation required for the decision, in particular the construction design,
- the requirements for dealing with the effects of industrial accidents,

- the requirements for limiting transboundary environmental impacts for projects for which a transboundary environmental impact proceeding has been carried out,
- the minimisation and compensation measures, if deemed necessary,
- the requirement to conduct environmental monitoring and post-implementation analysis, if appropriate,
- the requirement to carry out a post-implementation analysis, if appropriate.

The justification for the decision on environmental conditions presents information on, inter alia, how and to what extent the findings of the environmental impact assessment documentation (the project's environmental impact report), the results of the transboundary environmental impact proceeding, if any, the comments and requests submitted as part of public participation, as well as the opinions of the relevant authorities have been taken into account.

The Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk is the competent authority for carrying out the environmental impact assessment. The General Director for Environmental Protection shall be the competent authority for the coordination of the transboundary environmental impact proceeding 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 Directive 2011/92/EU.

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

I am enclosing the following documentation:

- the application for a decision on environmental conditions in Polish and Finnish;
- the Project Information Sheet in Polish and Finnish;
- the decision of the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk to carry out a transboundary environmental impact proceeding of 4 August 2023, ref. no.: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.59.2023.AM.3, in Polish and English.
- the GDPR data protection clause in Polish and Finnish

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

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 annexes.

In view of your declaration to take part in the proceeding as a potentially affected party, you are also requested to deliver the your position on the scope of the environmental impact report **within 30 days of receipt of this notification**.

Please deliver your response to the following address:

Espoo Convention Point of Contact
Dorota Toryfter-Szumańska
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DOROTA TORYFTER-SZUMAŃSKA
Deputy Director
Environmental Impact Assessment Department
/ - digitally signed/

cc:

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