

Ms. Sandija Balka  
Ministry of the Environment  
25 Peldu street  
LV-1494 Riga  
LATVIA

4 February 2014 No. 11-2/14/1093

Mr. Vitalijus Auglys  
Head of EIA Division  
Ministry of the Environment  
Jaksto 4 /9  
LT-01105 Vilnius  
LITHUANIA

Mr. Vladimir Ivlev  
Deputy Director  
Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
of the Russian Federation  
4/6, B. Gruzinskaya str., D-242, GSP-5  
123995 Moscow  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the  
Convention on Environmental Impact assessment  
in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)

As Party of Origin Estonia is hereby sending notification, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention, of the project plan by the developer, Gasum Oy, to build an offshore natural gas pipeline, Balticconnector, to connect the gas transmission pipeline networks of Finland and Estonia. The project partner of Gasum Oy in Estonia is AS EG Võrguteenus. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure of the Balticconnector pipeline project is planned to include the assessments of:

- Balticconnector offshore pipeline from Inkoo to Paldiski (app. 81 km);
- Receiving stations both Finland and Estonia;
- Onshore pipelines from point of landfall to compressor station in Inkoo (app. 1-2 km) and from point of landfall to receiving station in Paldiski Kersalu (app. 1.3 km);
- Compressor station in Inkoo.

More detailed description of the project and planned environmental impact assessments can be found from the EIA programme (scoping document). Concerning Estonia additional information can also be found in the application for the superficial licence application (development consent).

### **The EIA procedure in Estonia**

EIA procedure is regulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. An EIA of the proposed activity shall be carried out during making the decision of giving the development consent.

The authority responsible for making the decision on giving the development consent shall initiate EIA. The expenses of EIA will be covered by the developer. After initiation of EIA, an expert holding the EIA licence, together with the developer, shall prepare an EIA programme. The programme as the scoping document consists of information on the proposed activity and the content of EIA.

The EIA programme is published. Everyone has the right to access the EIA programme at the time of the public display and the public consultation regarding the programme, to submit proposals, objections and questions regarding the programme and obtain responses. The EIA expert shall, in cooperation with the developer, make the necessary amendments to the EIA programme on the basis of the proposals and objections submitted at the time of the public display and the public consultation. Taking account of the proposals and objections shall be described and refusals shall be justified in the amended programme. Written questions shall be responded to by the developer by sending an unregistered or a registered letter. After the publication the programme and the consultation with the Affected Parties the supervisor of EIA shall make the decision to approve or refuse to approve the EIA programme. In case of transboundary EIA the supervisor is the Ministry of the Environment.

Environmental impacts of the proposed activity are analysed in the EIA report which is composed on the basis of the approved EIA programme. The EIA report is also published and approved or refused to approve by the supervisor as described earlier. The decision to issue the development consent is made after the EIA, taken into account the results of the EIA report.

### **Espoo Convention procedure**

According to the Espoo Convention where the Party of Origin considers that the proposed activity is likely to cause significant adverse transboundary impact, the Party of Origin shall notify any Party which it considers to be an Affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.

The Affected Party shall respond to the Party of Origin within the time specified in the notification, acknowledging receipt of the notification, and shall indicate whether it intends to participate in the EIA procedure. The Affected Party will have the opportunity to make comments on the EIA programme and report.

The Estonian Ministry of the Environment is the Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Estonia and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment in Finland. The Agreement between Finland and Estonia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context shall

be applied to the project. According to the Agreement, Estonia and Finland have agreed to carry out a joint environmental impact assessment in this project within the framework of their national legislation.

#### **Answer to the notification**

The EIA programme is available in Finnish, Swedish, Estonian and English. The document intended for notifying the public of the Parties of the Espoo Convention with information on the proposed activity, including available information on its possible transboundary impact, is available also in Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Russian and English. All these documents (incl. the application for the development consent) are also attached to this letter.

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Estonia kindly asks your country to respond by **18 April 2014** at the latest, and to

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the transboundary EIA procedure,
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country, and
- submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

The Points of Contacts of the Parties of Origin are prepared to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your public is provided with similar opportunities as the Finnish and Estonian public to comment on the EIA programme and documentation. Please contact these authorities if you require further information or assistance in this matter. The hearing period in Finland and Estonia at this stage will be from 10 February until 7 April, 2014.

Subsequent to the notification, the developer plans to prepare an EIA documentation, which will be then – according to the provisions of the Espoo Convention – sent by Parties of Origin to the Affected Parties who have indicated their wish to participate in the transboundary EIA procedure. The Affected Parties will then have the opportunity for consultation of authorities and public participation in their countries.

Kindly send the answer to this notification to:

Ministry of the Environment of Estonia  
Narva mnt 7a  
15172 Tallinn  
ESTONIA  
keskkonnaministeerium [at] enviree

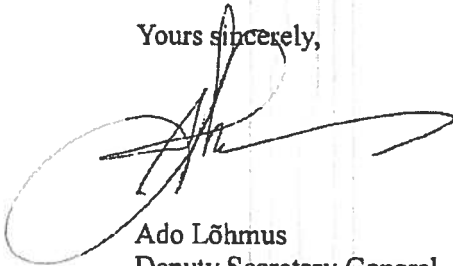
#### **For more information about the project and the EIA:**

Developer  
Gasum Oy  
Contact person: Mr. Timo Kallio  
Telephone: +358 500 723 650  
e-mail: timo.kallio[at]gasum.fi

Issuer of the superficial licence  
The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Estonia  
Authority conducting proceedings  
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication  
Contact person: Mr. Taivo Linnamägi  
Telephone: +372 625 6439  
E-mail: taivo.linnamagi [at] mkm.ee

EIA supervision authority in Estonia  
Ministry of the Environment  
Contact person: Ms. Maris Malva  
Telephone: +372 626 0742  
E-mail: maris.malva [at] enviree

Yours sincerely,



Ado Lõhmus  
Deputy Secretary General  
Point of Contact of the  
Espoo Convention in Estonia

- Enclosure:
1. Environmental Impact Assessment Programme (Joint scoping document for the whole project) - in English;
  2. Environmental Impact Assessment Programme Summary. Document intended for notifying the public of the Parties to the Espoo Convention. Information on the proposed activity, including available information on its possible transboundary impacts. (Joint document for the whole project) - in the country's own language;
  3. Memory stick including the EIA programme documents

Copy: Ms. Seija Rantakallio  
Ministerial Adviser  
Ministry of the Environment  
P.O. Box 35  
FIN-00023 Government  
FINLAND

Maris Malva, phone +372 6260 742, e-mail: [maris.malva@enviree](mailto:maris.malva@enviree)