



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Sweden's response to the notification in accordance with Article 10 of the protocol for strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo convention regarding the master plan for Tornio 2040, Tornio municipality, Finland. SYKE/2025/168

Sweden has been notified by Finland regarding the master plan for Tornio 2040. The plan is prepared as a strategic land use plan and covers the entire area of Tornio municipality, bordered by the Tornio River and the Finnish-Swedish border in the west.

Sweden acknowledge that the notification has been received and inform that Sweden would like to take part in the further environmental assessment. Views and comments on the plan and the assessment is presented below.

Consultation in Sweden

The document for consultation has been circulated for consideration to Swedish central government agencies, the relevant county administrative board in Norrbotten county and the municipalities that borders Tornio municipality, organizations and the public during the period from 29th of January 2025 until 31th of March 2025.

A public hearing was held in Tornio in Finland on the 26th of February. It was possible to attend the public hearing on-line. The Swedish EPA (SEPA) had announced the consultation and the public hearing in relevant daily papers. The documents for consultation were also published on the website of SEPA.

The Swedish EPA is the authority responsible for fulfilling the obligations following from, inter alia, Article 10 in the protocol (SEA) to the Espoo convention. However, SEPA does not evaluate the consultations received with a view to presenting an overall Swedish position. For a comprehensive view of the comments received during the consultations, we refer to the enclosed statements.

Comments received

Statements have been received from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, The Swedish Energy Agency, Sámediggi, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Maritime Administration, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the Swedish National Heritage Board the County

Administrative Board, the Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission and Haparanda city.

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Transport Administration had no comments on the plan at this stage. Birdlife Sweden refrained from giving an opinion.

A brief summary of the statements with comments is provided below, please note that the summary is written by the Swedish EPA and not the referred body. All statements are attached and must be read in full text.

The Swedish Energy Agency recommends that Tornio municipality invites Haparanda municipality to a dialogue regarding the environmental assessment of the planned small modular, nuclear, reactors.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency submits comments regarding consequences for the national defence, information on electric distributions lines of national interest for the national defence and information on the risk for flooding since Tornio river and its surrounding is identified as a flood risk area. In addition, the authority identified that transboundary impact from small modular reactors have not been described and need to be completed. See full statement for more information.

Sámediggi cannot, based on the provided documentation, at present see that the general plan would make reindeer husbandry in Sweden more difficult except for in the northern are of Tornio municipality where wind power parks are planned in addition to those already decided. Sámediggi expects to leave comments when the specific wind power projects will come for consultation. See full statement.

The Swedish Maritime Administration consider that the plan has no impact on the Swedish sea transports, and their access to routes or Swedish harbours. The authority does not give any comments regarding health and environmental issues.

The Geological survey of Sweden (SGU) provides general information regarding risks that should be considered in planning. SGU also points out that acid sulphide soil can be present along the coasts and river valleys in the area close to the Baltic Sea and that this, as well as the consequences, must be taken into account in the planning. They also state that risks related to the bedrock and soils present and that supply of material have to be considered and that cross-border co-operation with Haparanda on supply material is recommended. See the full statement and the attached general information for more details.

The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten states that the implementation of planned activities may have a transboundary impact on nature and species in Sweden. It is important that Sweden is allowed to leave comments on the environmental assessment for each plan or project. The extensively plans for wind power plants may also have a negative impact on cultural heritage in Sweden. The Board will leave comments regarding planned SMR in the next stage, see full statement for more information.

The Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission raise issues regarding wind power plants and their risk for negative impact on the tourism industry, the living conditions and the areas of national interest for cultural heritage along the Tornio river. See more details in the full statement.

Haparanda city sees opportunities for more planning projects to be carried out in collaboration. When planning industrial areas, the transboundary impacts have to be considered and industries should generally be localised to areas without negative transboundary impact. Haparanda presents a list with points to be considered when planning small scale nuclear plants. Finally, they are positive to improvements for cycling and walking listed in previous plans but would like to see an increased focus on this in both cities. See full statement for more information.

Conclusion and summary

Based on the comments received Sweden intends to participate in the further planning procedure and leave comments on the environmental assessment etc.

The decision has been made electronically and there is no need for signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm

Head of Unit

Åsa Blomster

Point of Contact for the Espoo protocol

Attachment with comments from:

Geological survey of Sweden (2 documents)

Sámediggi,

Swedish Energy Agency

Swedish Maritime Administration

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

County Administrative Board in Norrbotten

Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission

Haparanda city

Copy

Ministry of Climate and Enterprise Eleonora Rönström and Sandra Jalalian

Finnish Environmental Institute, Ulla Helminen and Wilma Poutanen,