

*The format for notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by the [Decision II/7](#) at its sixth session held in Geneva from 2 to 5 June 2014.*

*This document contains excerpt from the Decision II/7 and can only be used in conjunction with the full text of Decision II/7 and not as a stand-alone document.*

## **Notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

<i>Description of information to be included</i>	<i>Information</i>
<b>General information on the plan or programme</b>	
Name of the plan or programme	North Sea Programme 2028-2033
Type and sector of plan or programme (e.g., local land-use plan, national energy strategy)	The North Sea Programme 2028-2033 is an national programme, established as an independent annex to the National Water Programme of the Dutch government.
Territorial coverage (e.g., regional, national)	National (the Dutch Continental Shelf area of the North Sea - including Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone)
Main content and purpose of the plan or programme (e.g., framework setting for projects, determination of use of land) and its links with other plans or programmes	<p>The programme contains the North Sea policy and the maritime spatial plan. Among other things, the North Sea Programme designates offshore wind farm zones that provide space for the development of wind farms.</p> <p>As a first step in the process, the Dutch government now publishes for consultation the Scoping document and the Participation Plan for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).</p>
Whether the plan or programme is binding	<p>Binding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The North Sea Programme is self-binding, i.e. setting a policy framework for the Dutch government in managing human activities at sea.</p> <p>Not binding <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>Submitted documents (Scoping document and the Participation Plan for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA))</b>	
Draft plan or programme	<p>Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not enclosed; the draft North Sea Programme 2028-2033 is foreseen to be published for consultation in Q1 of 2027 and adopted by 31 December 2027</p> <p>(in which case, date by it will be transmitted)</p>
	Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Report	Not enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Not enclosed  (the Strategic Environmental Assessment is foreseen to be published in Q1 of 2027 simultaneously with consultation on the draft programme)
Other documents (with description)	Enclosed: Scoping document and the Participation Plan for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Languages into which documents are or will be translated	English. The translation was produced using machine translation and may contain inaccuracies; please refer to the original text for authoritative interpretation.
<b>Description of the decision-making procedure and of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in the Party of origin</b>	
Description of the phases of the planning procedure	The Scoping and Level of Detail Report and the Participation Plan are the first step though the Programme North Sea 2028-2033. The Scoping and Level of Detail Report is the plan of approach for the PlanMER (environmental impact report). The Scoping and Level of Detail Report and the Participation Plan available for public inspection till 11 May 2026.
Legal basis for the planning procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	The Dutch Water Act / per January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 integrated in the Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet)
Description of the phases of the SEA procedure, including participation of the affected Party	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping phase: drafting Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail for the SEA</li> <li>2. Public inspection Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail</li> <li>3. The preparation of the SEA.</li> <li>4. The integration of environmental considerations into the draft decision North Sea Programma 2028-2033.</li> <li>5. Public inspection draft decision North Sea Programme 2028-2033 and SEA</li> <li>6. Final decision North Sea Programme</li> </ol>
Legal basis for the SEA procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	The Dutch Water Act / per January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 integrated in the Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet)
Present phase of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	The Scoping document and the Participation Plan are available for public inspection till 11 May.
Time schedule of the foreseen continuation of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	The North Sea Programme 2028-2033 is scheduled to publish in October 2027.

Process and timing of the possible adoption of the plan or programme	Final decision to adopt the programme will be by 31 December 2027.
<b>Information on the public participation process in the Party of origin</b>	
Opportunities for the public to participate:	There is opportunity to participate in the consultation on the enclosed documents through written procedure.
Start and end dates for the public to provide comments on the environmental report and draft plan or programme	31 March 2026 till 11 May 2026.
How the public is informed of the public participation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifications via the Espoo contact points</li> <li>• National public inspection procedure via <a href="http://www.platformparticipatie.nl">www.platformparticipatie.nl</a></li> <li>• There will be a notification through the Noordzeeoverleg and the GBSI.</li> </ul>
Whether a public hearing is organized and, if so, when	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(in which case, the date of the hearing)</p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
How the public is informed of the adoption of the plan or programme and how the information specified in article 11, paragraph 2, is made available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifications via the Espoo contact points</li> <li>• National public inspection procedure via <a href="http://www.platformparticipatie.nl">www.platformparticipatie.nl</a></li> <li>• Parties that submit their views through the consultations process will receive a direct response and will be kept informed during the further process if they express this wish.</li> </ul>
Expected time schedule for transmittal of comments and questions by the public of the affected Party on the draft plan or programme and on the full environmental report	Public inspection till 11 May 2026. The reaction on the public inspection comes in September 2026.
<b>Involved authorities in the Party of origin</b>	
Authority responsible for the planning procedure	The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management.
Authority/institution responsible for the adoption of the plan or programme	The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management.
Authority responsible for the SEA procedure	The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management.

Authority/institution responsible for the SEA decision (if applicable)	The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management.
<b>Affected Parties</b>	
List of Parties to which notification has been sent	Belgium Germany Denmark United Kingdom Norway France Sweden Ireland Iceland European Commission
<b>Point of contact for the transboundary procedure</b>	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure: name, address, email, telephone and fax numbers	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management <a href="mailto:postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl">postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl</a>
<b>Deadlines for response to the notification</b>	
Deadline for responding to indicate whether the affected Party wishes to participate	11 May 2026
Deadline for transmission of comments on the draft plan or programme and the full environmental report by authorities of the affected Party (if different from above)	11 May 2026

<b>Means of communication</b>	
Means by which letters from the Party of origin are sent (e.g., e-mail, fax, post, via embassy)	E-mail, contact via <a href="mailto:postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl">postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl</a>
Means by which affected Parties are asked to send their letters	E-mail, contact via <a href="mailto:postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl">postbusprogrammanoordzee@minienw.nl</a>