

Authority services

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Public

Parties to the SEA Protocol

Notification in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regarding the Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities, Finland

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (the SEA protocol) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) Finland hereby notifies the parties of the Protocol of the SEA of the Espoo Convention regarding the Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities. In addition to the Protocol on SEA, the notification is sent in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 1 of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive).

Information on the Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities

The legislation on nuclear energy in Finland is undergoing a reform. In the comprehensive reform the current Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987) will be overhauled in its entirety to take into account changes in the operating environment, technological developments, changes in the energy market, and the reform of other Finnish legislation as well as international and EU regulation.

In connection with the reform, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is preparing a Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities. The Decree would be issued on the basis of the new Nuclear Energy Act and would lay down provisions on restricting radiation exposure and emissions of radioactive materials, which are currently laid down in the Nuclear Energy Decree (161/1988). The new Decree will replace the provisions of the current Nuclear Energy Decree insofar as they concern the safety of nuclear facilities, radiation exposure, radioactive material emissions, licensing procedures and the related administrative structures.

The environmental assessment will take into account the following alternative scenarios:

- Parliament does not approve the government proposal for a Nuclear Energy Act and the current state of the regulation remains unchanged;
- Parliament approves the proposal for a Nuclear Energy Act, and the Government issues a Decree on Nuclear Facilities under the new Act.

The Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority's regulations will be revised in connection to the overall revision of the Nuclear Energy Act. The documents related to these regulations, prepared by the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, are also a subject to transboundary consultations.

The SEA procedure

In Finland, the environmental impacts of certain types of plans and programmes must be assessed pursuant to the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005, SEA Act). As a rule, decrees have not been considered plans and programmes that require environmental assessment under the SEA Directive and, consequently, the SEA Act. However, the Court of Justice of the European Union has interpreted the concept of plans and programmes broadly and has held that that concept may also include decrees if they fulfil the conditions for the environmental assessment obligation.

The Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities is considered to set a framework for licence or approval decisions for projects under section 4 of the SEA Act. As the Decree applies to the energy supply sector referred to in paragraph 1 of the same section, the preparation of the Decree can be considered to fulfil the conditions for the environmental assessment obligation under the SEA Act. An environmental assessment and an environmental report will be drawn up in connection with the preparation of the Decree.

The plan for carrying out an environmental assessment under the SEA Act describes the background, preparation and timetable of the Decree and the plan for the environmental assessment. When preparing the Decree, the likelihood of significant transboundary environmental impacts will also be assessed.

Two consultations will be held in Finland and internationally during the assessment procedure. In this first phase, a consultation will be held concerning the environmental assessment plan and the preparation of the environmental report. In Finland the first phase is held from 16 May to 14 June 2026. In the second phase, later in 2026, a consultation under section 9 of the SEA Act will be held concerning the Decree, i.e. the draft plan or programme, as well as the environmental report. The feedback received during the consultations will be considered in the environmental assessment and the preparation of the Decree, to the extent possible.

Participation in the procedure

The attached materials are available in Finnish, Swedish and English from May 16 to June 14, 2026 (30 days) on the following website of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment: <https://tem.fi/en/government-decree-on-nuclear-facilities>.

Comprehensive reform of the Nuclear Energy Act, information about the project (available in Finnish and Swedish) can be found in Finnish Government's website: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/hanke?tunnus=TEM032:00/2023>.

Please send the response by email to the Register Office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi by **2 July 2026 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your country is likely to be affected by the transboundary impacts of the planned activities under the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention, and wishes to participate in the consultation procedure,
- If your state is participating in the process, please indicate the language in which you would like to receive the environmental report,
- provide views and comments on the material,
- submit any comments you might receive from the public, authorities and others concerned in your state.

Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2026/1153** in your letter.

More information

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This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Appendices Plan for carrying out an environmental assessment, government decree on nuclear facilities 29 April 2026 (pdf)

Plan för miljöbedömning, statsrådets förordning om kärnanläggningar 29.4.2026 (pdf)

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