

Authority services

18.9.2026

SYKE/2026/1153
Public

Points of Contact in Denmark, Norway and Sweden

Consultation in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regarding the draft plan and the environmental assessment report for the Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities, Finland

In accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and with Article 7 of the Directive 2001/24/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, Finland hereby sends this consultation letter regarding the draft Government Decree on Nuclear Facilities to Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Finland also sends this letter for information purposes to Estonia, Lithuania and Romania.

On 22 May 2026, Finland notified the Parties to the SEA Protocol regarding the initiation of the plan for carrying out an environmental assessment under the SEA Act.

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.

The Nuclear Energy Act (775/2026) was ratified in Finland on 4 September 2026; prior to this, it had been approved by the Parliament. The Act will enter into force on 1 January 2027. The Ministry of Employment has prepared a draft Government Decree on nuclear facilities. The Decree would be issued pursuant to the new Nuclear Energy Act and would lay down more detailed provisions regarding radiation safety at nuclear facilities and during the transport of nuclear material and nuclear waste, the decision-in-principle on a nuclear facility project, licences for nuclear facilities, licences for nuclear material recovery facilities, licences for processing and storage, as well as the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safety and the Advisory Committee on Security in the Nuclear Sector. In connection with the preparation of the decree, an environmental assessment has been carried out in accordance with the SEA Act (200/2005) and an environmental report has been drawn up regarding the provisions on radiation safety in Chapter 1 of the decree.

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.

In Finland, a consultation under section 9 of the SEA Act is held from 31 August to 12 October 2026 concerning the draft Decree and the environmental report.

Participation in the procedure

The attached materials are available in Finnish, Swedish and English from the following FileSender link: <https://filesender.funet.fi/?s=download&token=e18ab578-720c-4172-aedd-8d1259db257d>. The link will expire on 9 October 2026.

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 **30 October 2026 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of this consultation letter,
- 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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Hanne Rajanen

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

Appendices

Materials in English:
VNa Nuclear Facilities
Environmental report

Materials in Swedish:
Kärnanläggningar
Miljörapport

Materials in Finnish:
VNa ydinlaitokset
Ympäristöselostus - valtioneuvoston asetus ydinlaitoksista

Send list As per send list below on this page

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
Points of Contact in Estonia, Lithuania and Romania

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Seuraavat henkilöt (organisaationimen mukaisessa aakkosjärjestyksessä) ovat allekirjoittaneet tämän asiakirjan sähköisesti. / Följande personer (i bokstavsordning efter organisationens namn) har undertecknat detta dokument elektroniskt. / This document has been electronically signed by the following persons (in alphabetical order according to their organization's name):

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