

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of the Environment, Finland

## **Government Decree on the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure** *(277/2017; amendments up to 1163/2021 included)*

By decision of the Government

by virtue of the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017), the following is enacted:

### **Section 1**

#### **Information required from the developer when deciding on the application of the environmental impact assessment procedure in an individual case**

For making the decision on the application of the environmental impact assessment procedure in an individual case referred to in section 3, subsection 2 of the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017), the developer shall provide the competent authority referred to in section 11 of the Act with the following information:

1) a description of the project, in particular

a) a description of the physical characteristics of the project and, where necessary, of demolition work;

b) a description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project;

2) a description of those environmental considerations on which the project will have impacts that are likely to be significant; and

3) to the extent there is information available on any environmental impacts of the project that are likely to be significant, a description of such impacts that are due to

a) the expected residues and emissions and, where necessary, the generation of waste; or

b) the use of natural resources, particularly soil, land, water, and biodiversity.

The factors on which the decision-making is based, provided for in Annex 2 of the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, shall be taken into account, where necessary, when compiling the information under paragraphs 1–3.

### **Section 2**

Section 2 was repealed by Act 556/2021.

### **Section 3**

#### **Contents of the assessment programme**

The environmental impact assessment programme shall present to a sufficient extent:

- 1) a description of the project, its purpose, planning stage, location, size, land-use requirements and how the project is connected to other projects, information on the developer and estimate for the planning and implementation schedule of the project;
- 2) reasonable alternatives that are relevant to the project in terms of the project and its special characteristics, including not implementing the project, unless such an alternative is unnecessary for a specific reason;
- 3) information on the plans and permits required for implementing the project;
- 4) a description of the current state and evolution of the environment of the area likely to be affected;
- 5) a proposal on the identified environmental impacts that can be assessed, including transboundary environmental impacts and cumulative impacts with other projects, to the extent necessary for preparing the reasoned conclusion, and the reasons justifying the scoping of the environmental impacts to be assessed;
- 6) information on the prepared or planned studies concerning the environmental impacts and information on the methods to be used in the collection and assessment of the data and the assumptions relating to these;
- 7) information on the competence of the parties preparing the assessment programme; and
- 8) a plan for the organisation of the assessment procedure and the related participation and how these are linked to the planning of the project, and the estimated time when the assessment report is completed.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Contents of the assessment report (1163/2021)**

The environmental impact assessment report shall present the following information necessary for preparing the reasoned conclusion, taking into account the knowledge and assessment methods available at the time and such special project features and special characteristics of the environment that are likely to be affected by impacts:

- 1) description of the project and its features in which consideration is given to the construction and operational phases of the project, possible dismantling, and exceptional situations and that at least contains the following information:
  - a) purpose, location, size and land use requirement of the project;
  - b) purchases and use of energy in the project, and materials and natural resources required for the project;
  - c) estimate of the type and quantity of noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and other similar expected emissions and residues resulting from the project and the type and quantity of the expected emissions and residues that may cause the pollution of water, air, soil and subsoil;
  - d) estimate of the type and quantity of the waste resulting from the project;
- 2) information on the developer, planning and implementation schedule of the project, plans, permits and comparable decisions required for the implementation, and how the project is linked to other projects;

- 3) a report on the relationship of the project and its alternatives to the land use plans and plans and programmes concerning the use of natural resources and environmental protection and to the environmental protection objectives adopted at European Union level or at national level that are relevant for the project;
- 4) a description of the current state of the environment of the area likely to be affected and of its likely evolution if the project is not implemented;
- 5) an estimate of possible accidents and their consequences taking account of the vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and natural disasters and the emergencies associated with these and measures to prepare for such emergencies including actions to prevent and mitigate them;
- 6) an estimate and a description of the likely significant environmental impacts of the project and its reasonable alternatives;
- 7) as appropriate, an estimate and a description of transboundary environmental impacts;
- 8) a comparison of the environmental impacts of the alternatives;
- 9) information on the main reasons that led to the selection of the alternative or alternatives, including environmental impacts;
- 10) a proposal for measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or eliminate significant adverse environmental impacts which have been identified;
- 11) as appropriate, a proposal on any monitoring arrangements relating to significant adverse environmental impacts;
- 12) a report on the stages of the assessment procedure, including the participation procedures and how these are linked to the planning of the project;
- 13) a list of sources used in the preparation of the descriptions and assessments included in the report, a description of the methods used in the identification, forecasting and assessment of significant environmental impacts and information on any deficiencies and main uncertainties encountered when collecting the required information;
- 14) information on the competence of the parties preparing the assessment report;
- 15) a report on how the statement of the competent authority on the assessment programme has been taken into account; and
- 16) a non-technical and demonstrative summary of the information referred to in paragraphs 1–15.

The assessment and description of likely significant environmental impacts shall comprise the direct and indirect, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary and positive and negative impacts of the project and the cumulation with other projects that are being implemented or have been approved.

## **Section 5**

### **Contents of the public notice**

A public notice concerning an environmental impact assessment programme shall present sufficiently detailed information on the project, its location, the developer and how opinions and statements may be given on the assessment programme. The public notice shall also mention where the assessment

programme and the subsequent statement of the competent authority are kept for public viewing during the environmental impact assessment procedure. If chapter 5 of the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure concerning transboundary environmental impacts is applicable to the project, this shall be mentioned in the public notice.

The provisions in subsection 1 shall also apply to a public notice concerning an environmental impact assessment report.

## **Section 6**

### **Entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 16 May 2017.