



## IKEA

### ON WIND FARMS

9 April 2024

The Association "Krašovaizdis" (hereafter "the Association") represents the public concerned in environmental issues and decision-making.

During the 2024-03-26 meeting on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared by UAB „Sweco Lietuva" on the planned up to 72 wind farms ordered by UAB "Žalia žemė" in Alionys, Širvintos and Zibalai communities in Širvintos District Municipality, representative of the Širvintos District Municipality lawyer Jovitas Elzbergas provided information that IKEA intends to purchase and develop the mentioned activities in accordance with the prepared project of the wind farm.

In the light of the information we have learned, we would like to inform you that:

1) In June 2023, a petition signed by 884 people was submitted to the Širvintos District Municipal Council and the Mayor of Širvintos requesting the initiation of stricter requirements and the establishment of larger distances (protection zones) from the planned wind farms to human dwellings, cultural heritage sites, protected natural and landscape objects than the distances (buffer zones) currently planned by the developer of the proposed wind farm project. The Association is aware that some 1200 objections have been sent to the drafters of the EIA report on the planned wind farms, from people who will be affected by the wind farms (their property, health and other interests). In addition, some 360 letters of objection have been received by other public bodies involved in the EIA procedures. Thus, the wind farm project is not supported by the local population.

According to the Association, the part of the EIA report on the protection of wild birds in the wind park is seriously flawed. The Association has therefore submitted comments to both the drafters of the EIA and the competent public authorities in accordance with the statutory procedure. The Association and members of the local community hired, at their own expense, an independent ornithologist who surveyed the area of the future wind farm and found and included in the Protected Species Information System a number of (22) protected bird nesting sites which were not found by the ornithologists hired by the developers of the wind park to survey the same area and who were involved in the drafting of the EIA report for the wind park. At present, the territory of the wind park has not been properly surveyed for the protection of wild birds and bats, and the EIA report for the VE Park has other fundamental shortcomings, which have been commented on in accordance with the procedure laid down by law.



Moreover, it was during the period of public information and comments on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the wind park that the developers of the wind park project (UAB 'Evecon') brought an action against the Association, seeking a denial of the untrue information in accordance with the applicant's denial, compensation for non-pecuniary damages in the amount of EUR 50 000, and the costs of proceedings. In the Association's view, such an action is to be regarded as a SLAPP action (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). In this way, the Association and its representatives have been further deprived of the opportunity to have proper access to the EIA report and to comment on it, due to the limited time and human resources available to them.

The fact that the developers of the wind park project do not always provide information about the project also contributes to the distrust of the interested public towards the wind park project. In the Association's view, the wind park project has been inadequately publicised from the outset, with inadequate or inaccurate information provided to the public, which can be seen as a violation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

Please confirm or deny the information that IKEA intends to purchase the wind park project and to develop the wind park in Alionys, Širvintos and Zibalai communities at Širvintos district municipality, Vilnius County. If so, please provide us with your comments and opinions on the situation regarding the development of the wind park and further plans for the construction of the wind park.

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Respectfully,

President of the Association "Krašovaizdis"

Teisutis Buda