

[Logo of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland]

Turku 17 December 2007  
Reg. No. M132/2007/HA/pv

Ministry of the Environment  
P. O. Box 35  
FI-00023 GOVERNMENT

[Stamp of the Finnish Ministry of the Environment  
*19 December 2007*  
Reg. No. YM5/5521/2006]

Re: Opinion on the interim report on the environmental impact assessment programme regarding the Russia-Germany offshore natural gas pipeline in Finland's exclusive economic zone  
Ref. Your request of 13 November 2007 for an opinion, reg. no. YM5/5521/2006

In a meeting held on 17 December 2007, the Opinions Committee of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland arrived at the following decision regarding an opinion on the matter in question (Section 172 of the minutes):

The Regional Council of Southwest Finland does not have any specific comments on the interim report on the environmental impact assessment programme regarding the Russia-Germany offshore natural gas pipeline in Finland's exclusive economic zone. Instead, we would like to draw your attention to the opinion which we gave on the EIA Programme on 22 January 2007. We stated then, among other things, that those responsible for the project should consider separately whether or not it is expedient to assess, in connection with the EIA process of this planned project, the environmental impact of the possible branch pipeline leading to the Finnish mainland.

The Regional Council of Southwest Finland will issue a separate opinion on the future EIA report on the offshore gas pipeline project once it has been completed.

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST FINLAND  
Opinions Committee

[signature]  
Pentti Jussilainen  
Chairman

[signature]  
Tapio Tuhkanen  
Secretary