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## Shifts in early spring wind regime in North-East Europe (1955–2007)

S. Keevallik<sup>1</sup> and T. Soomere<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Marine Systems Institute at Tallinn University of Technology, Akadeemia tee 21, 12618, Estonia

<sup>2</sup>Centre for Nonlinear Studies, Institute of Cybernetics at Tallinn University of Technology, Akadeemia tee 21, 12618, Estonia

**Abstract.** Changes to the winter-to-spring switch-time of the upper air flow regime at the 850 and 500 hPa levels over the north-eastern Baltic Sea are analyzed based on a data set extending from 1955 to 2007. The long-term variation of the air flow in early spring (March) exhibits multiple regime shifts. The shifts are extracted by means of a vector analysis of the monthly mean air flow and using statistical shift detection technology. In the middle of the 1960s the average air flow turned from NW (WNW) to W (WSW) at the 500 (850) hPa level. The original regime was restored in the mid-1990s. The regime shifts in the average air flow in March can be interpreted as changes in the transition time from winter to summer circulation type.

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