




Berlin Declaration

*Conclusions of the Chair
23 February 2007*

*European Policy
Workshop on
Offshore Wind Power
Deployment*



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

 2007 DE

EUROPEAN POLICY WORKSHOP ON OFFSHORE WIND POWER DEPLOYMENT

BERLIN DECLARATION

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Invited by the German Minister for the Environment, currently President of the EU Environment Ministers Council, policymakers and representatives from industry, regulators and scientific institutions of twelve European Member States and the European Commission met for the third "European Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment" in Berlin on 22-23 February 2007. The workshop was a follow-up to the meetings in Egmond (2004) and Copenhagen (2005). The Copenhagen Strategy formed the basis for all discussions.

The workshop aimed at finding solutions, approaches and structural cooperation between parties and Member States in order to overcome existing obstacles to the development of offshore wind power in Europe. The main goal of this year's meeting was to consider the actions on offshore wind power proposed by the EU Energy Package and to initiate further cooperation among Member States, institutions and organisations.

The workshop was held against the background of the renewable energy conclusions of the EU Energy Ministers Council on 15 February 2007 and the EU Environment Ministers Council on 20 February 2007. Member States had agreed to achieve a binding target of at least a 10% biofuels' share in fuel consumption, and to increase the total share of renewables in primary energy consumption to 20% by 2020. They also affirmed that until a global agreement is concluded, and without prejudice to its position in the negotiations, the EU will make a firm independent commitment to reduce its emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020.

Offshore wind power was attributed high priority in the context of the recent publication of policy proposals by the European Commission, such as the Integral Energy and Climate Package and the Green Paper on Maritime Policy.

The main outcomes and recommendations of the EU Policy Workshop are summarised as follows:

Market and Policy

1. The EU Energy Package tabled by the Commission is welcomed. It provides a good basis with respect to the promotion of renewable energies in Europe. The package in itself is not specific enough to promote offshore wind power in Europe. Member States should feel encouraged to develop National Action Plans containing sectoral targets for renewable energies and measures to meet them.
2. Those Member States with coastlines on the North, Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas and the Atlantic Ocean are encouraged to make use of their enormous resource of offshore wind energy in order to achieve their respective sectoral targets for electricity and to quantify this expected contribution in their National Action Plans.
3. Participants call upon the Commission to consider a project identifying risks and barriers to the large scale development of offshore wind power in Europe. The Commission should take note of work on these issues already undertaken by Member States, and should include industry players (project developers, turbine manufacturers and supply chain companies) in this project. The results of this project should be used to create a European Action Plan for offshore wind power in Europe as proposed in the Copenhagen Strategy. This plan could include targets for capacity of offshore wind in 2020.
4. In order to ensure a sufficiently stable investment climate the relevant Member States are encouraged to agree upon a realistic idea of how many GW of offshore wind power can be realised by 2020. In the opinion of EWEA, 60 GW of offshore wind power is realistic.
5. The Commission should evaluate the National Action Plans for compatibility with this overall contribution in a timely manner to foster the further discussion.
6. For an effective launch of offshore wind energy, a European Offshore Wind Energy Coordinator might play a crucial role. The Member States should consider which mandate of the European Wind Energy Coordinator would best suit this purpose.
7. The Commission should consider opening up the EU structural funds to the deployment of offshore wind power and cross border offshore grids, possibly including necessary onshore - investments, e.g. in the grid.
8. The Commission should make use of all measures to encourage Member States to streamline consenting procedures for offshore wind farms, taking into account the statements of the Copenhagen Strategy.
9. EWEA agreed to differentiate between on- and offshore wind power in its annual statistics on the wind power market and the total installed capacity in order to create transparency and to monitor the progress of offshore wind power deployment in Europe.

Research and Development

10. The participants recognise both top down and bottom up approaches for organising collaboration. The top down approach can be exemplified by better coordination of EU programmes and national programmes. The bottom up approach means the encouragement of direct interaction between scientists and other stakeholders, recognising informal structures to keep overhead costs down and work minimal. Examples are IEA, IMTS, EAWE.
11. The Steering Committee of the recently established European Wind Energy Technology Platform (TP Wind) is asked to set up a specific working group on offshore wind power. Member States should encourage the full use of this Platform to further improve the coordination of national R&D programmes.
12. TP Wind is encouraged to develop a road map for the implementation of large scale offshore wind power, identifying the necessary relevant R&D aspects. With regard to grids, this could include cabling from which significant cost reduction and acceleration of grid extension is expected.
13. The Commission should give high priority to research on technology, grid integration and environmental aspects of offshore wind power within its 7th Framework Programme, intensively covering environmental as well as technical questions.
14. The participants recognise the importance of cutting costs for offshore wind energy and of considering the whole operational life. One example is the need to give priority to strategies for O&M already in the design phase and undertake the necessary R&D for this.
15. Offshore wind R&D should also constitute a key priority of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan which the Commission is developing.
16. In their support for the expansion of offshore wind energy, the Commission and Member States should recognise the dual need firstly for a continuous development of larger projects and secondly for a supportive development and demonstration of new concepts with innovative technology, e.g. dedicated offshore wind turbine and wind farm concepts, access technology and testing of new components.
17. The TP Wind is also encouraged to initiate thematic networks for technology and ideas transfer, the output of which could be used for establishing rules of guidance (industry standards) for e.g. testing standards.
18. Member States should take initiatives to encourage the use of existing and new offshore wind farms for joint fundamental research (e.g. environmental impact, wind characteristics, wake effects, etc.).

Grid Integration

19. Participants generally supported the designation of a European coordinator on grids for northern European offshore wind power plants as indicated in the Priority Interconnection Plan.
20. Grid operators, regulators and licensing authorities are asked to accelerate the implementation of projects on European interconnectors.
21. It was stated that new large scale offshore wind power plants create the need for new transmission infrastructure.
22. It was noted that trading close to real time improves the integration of fluctuating renewable energy sources. Intraday trading should therefore be developed throughout Europe.
23. It is recognized that cross-border offshore grid connections have the dual function of connecting offshore wind power plants and enhancing the interconnector capacities.
24. It is recommended that a general study on cross-border offshore grids as specially related to necessary regulation is carried out, taking into account the results of the ongoing studies EWIS and TradeWind.
25. The Commission is then asked to develop a regulatory regime for market integration of wind farms connected to a cross-border offshore grid, taking into account the existence of different national support schemes.
26. It is recommended to Member States that they consider common approaches to the regulation and market operation for the construction of new grid infrastructure offshore.
27. Member States are encouraged to facilitate a market driven expansion of offshore wind generated electricity by providing assistance in the regulatory and financial issues related to the grid connection of offshore wind farms.
28. A socialisation of grid connection costs should happen in a framework that optimises investments and sites
29. Participants welcome the fact that system integration analyses from a European perspective – as recommended in the Copenhagen Strategy – has begun and look forward to the results from the EWIS and TradeWind projects.

Environmental Impacts

30. Participants reaffirmed the recommendations in the Copenhagen Strategy that the promotion of environmental studies should continue to improve the evaluation and assessment process for addressing and mitigating the impacts of offshore wind power on the marine environment. Research results should continue to be reflected in the information supplied by applicants in the project related Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The participants take note of the documented effect studies on some aspects of environmental impacts of offshore wind farms, as presented in Annex I of these Conclusions.
31. UK and Germany will explore during 2007 the possibilities of a collaborative project to test cumulative impact assessment methodologies using a water-bird of conservation concern (e.g. red throated diver or common scoter) often present in areas of offshore wind farm development.
32. It is agreed to promote the concept of a major scientific meeting with commissioned syntheses of the latest European and other data in early 2008, to be hosted by the UK with an international steering committee. A prime outcome of the conference shall prioritise research topics for consideration for funding under FP7.
33. It is agreed to initiate a programme of technical workshops using the “Informal, International, Innovative” model; the first in the series will be on bird studies using radar, to be hosted in 2007 by Germany.
34. It is agreed to propose a web based metadata exchange route to link the range of existing databases and information sources; Member States will take responsibility for maintaining their own databases to facilitate information exchange.
35. The work of the ad-hoc working group on “Guidelines on Wind Energy and Nature Conservation” of the European Commission is welcomed. Further assistance, for instance by the European Environment Agency, might be sought in the collation of information and statistics on environmental results of individual offshore wind farms across the Union.
36. The Steering Committee of the European Wind Energy Technology Platform should include in their priorities offshore environmental research along with policy and technology research.
37. Participants welcome bilateral and regional cooperation. As a good example participants take note of the idea of expanding the Danish-German cooperation on research and development to include Sweden, and also to look into the possibilities of including other interested countries. The scope of the cooperation today, which includes environmental issues, could also be widened to include technologically oriented aspects.
38. United Kingdom, Netherlands and Sweden will develop a proposal for a workshop of Member States’ wind farm licensing authorities to share examples of consenting procedures and identify opportunities for streamlining, as well as sharing examples for decision-making strategies under uncertain ecological baseline information.

Follow Up

39. The 4th European Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment is to be hosted by Sweden in 2009.
40. The German Federal Ministry for Environment will publish the "Berlin Declaration" and address it to the relevant stakeholders.

Annex I

- A. The UK pan Government Research Advisory Group (RAG) has a continuing research programme on offshore windfarm environmental issues, as does the UK COWRIE group. Reports are available from the DTI <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/offshore/research-advisory-group/page22590.html> and COWRIE websites (<http://www.offshorewindfarms.co.uk/>).
- B. The final results of the Danish research and monitoring programme were presented at a conference in November 2006. A book (Danish Offshore Wind – Key Environmental Issues) is available on <http://ens/netboghandel.dk>.
- C. The results of German research have recently been published in book form. (Offshore Wind Energy Research on Environmental Impacts. 2006, XVIII, 371 p., 135 illus., 106 in colour, Hardcover ISBN: 978-3-540-34676-0) available via <http://www.springer.com/uk/home/generic/search/results?SGWID=3-40109-22-173661222-0>).
- D. An overview of offshore wind projects and their environmental impact assessments in the Netherlands is available at <http://www.noordzeeloket.nl/activiteiten/windenergie/initiatieven/>.
- E. A literature review of potential environmental impacts of offshore wind farms was published by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in 2006: Federal Ecological Research on Offshore Wind Farms: International Exchange of Experiences. PART B: Literature Review of Ecological Impacts.