

*Stockholm Declaration
Conclusions of the Chair
15 September 2009*



Photo: Lillgrund by Fredrik Dahlström

*European Policy
Workshop on
Offshore Wind Power
Deployment*



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Foreword

Stockholm Declaration Conclusions of the chair 15 September 2009

Offshore wind power may provide a significant contribution to European energy supply at low costs, and with little negative environmental impact. This document contains a declaration from a workshop providing recommendations for successful utilisation of this potential resource.

Invited by the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union policy makers and representatives from industry, regulators and members of the scientific community from thirteen countries (where of twelve European Member states and Norway) and European Commission met for the fourth “European Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment” in Stockholm on the 15th of September 2009. The workshop was a follow up to the meetings in Egmond (2004), Copenhagen (2005) and Berlin (2007).

From climate research, industrial and political leaders have learned that greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced significantly, even if there are initial costs, in order to avoid even more serious economic and social consequences of climate change.

Wind energy is a major contributor to greenhouse gas mitigation. Measured as generator power, wind power is the largest source of new generation capacity in Europe. Still, the US and China have become the two countries adding most new capacity.

Europe wishes to take the lead in combating climate change globally. One important stepping stone is the COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen later this year. The challenges provide an opportunity to switch over to an eco-efficient and sustainable economy based on renewable resources. The responses to the economic crisis should focus on developing renewable energy sources. Such developments making the economy more fit to grow, and less vulnerable to the oil price increasing as a result of global demand growth outpacing supply capacity.

The aim of this workshop was to improve the institutional conditions for the development of offshore wind-power. Hopefully we have taken another step in that direction. The main outcomes and recommendations of the workshop are summarized as follows:

Maritime Spatial Planning

Recommendations

1. We support the use of Maritime Spatial Planning as a tool in helping to meet renewable energy targets. Participants recognise that it is pertinent to have maritime spatial planning that is co-ordinated between countries where transboundary effects may occur. The plans ought to be founded on an ecosystem approach and take other sectoral concerns into account.
2. Participants call on the European Commission to report on progress made on the consultation on establishing common principles for spatial planning at sea to explore a consistent approach across the EU in assessing impacts of offshore wind, including connecting grid issues, with other users of the sea.
3. Participants call upon the European Commission to report on progress towards the “Motorways of the Sea” work programme and clarification as to what cross-European navigation data is available to the offshore wind industry.
4. Participants call upon the Member States and European Commission to share information on cross-European fishing vessels to the offshore wind industry.
5. Ongoing studies in Member States and the European Commission on establishing offshore wind power in protected areas, for example Natura 2000, could be of value in the future considering the further expansion of offshore wind power. With engagement of the Member States, the participants therefore urge the European Commission as a priority to conclude the work on guidance on the application of EU Nature Conservation Requirements in relation to offshore wind farm development.
6. Participants urge the European Commission to share and make recommendations, where appropriate, regarding the potential co-existence of Marine Protected Areas and offshore wind farms without undermining nature conservation objectives.
7. Member States note the European Commissions efforts to collect relevant data. Member States are also encouraged to share relevant offshore data and research results with other Member States, the European Commission and relevant stakeholders. The participants recognise that there are various tools available to share information and urge Members States to make use of these tools and publish any relevant data and EIAs from individual projects.

Grid

Recommendations

8. Participants have observed that national approaches to offshore grid extensions will prevail - given Member States individual renewable targets. In the absence of operational experience, legal aspects, market implications when interconnection and wind integration are combined and relevant national considerations, there is still a need to specify the case in favour of a possible North Sea offshore grid in all its dimensions: technical, financial, economical and sometimes spatial.
9. Participants acknowledge the importance of appropriate regulatory framework for an international offshore grid (including rules and regulations on access, dispatch, grid extensions, market organization and congestion management) which will have to be based on existing national frameworks which to date have different set-ups.
10. Participants call upon member states, ACER and others to develop a model for cost allocation of the development of the European off shore grids as the benefits befalling the European community of this renewable development may be asymmetrical to the subgroups paying the costs.
11. Because of the strong development of offshore wind in the North Sea consideration of the development of an offshore grid could be logical in that geographical area but there are other examples as Krieger's flak where many experiences can be made. The outcomes of the pre-feasibility study on the Krieger's Flak project undertaken by Denmark, Germany and Sweden should be taken into account. The development of an offshore grid should be based on careful identification of costs, benefits, opportunities, risks and barriers. The participants call on Member States and TSOs to use ongoing EU projects such as WindSpeed and OffshoreGrid to study the above issues by providing these projects with input and feedback on the assumptions and scenarios used.
12. Participants call upon the EU offshore Co-ordinator according to his mandate to help shape the contours of a Vision towards an Offshore Grid having North Sea as a starting point.
13. Taking into account the outcomes of such a vision, Participants call upon the European Commission, Pentilateral Forum, ETSO, ENTSO-E and national Government authorities to engage in discussions on the development of a coherent Work Plan in which expectations on the output of different institutions are clearly formulated and relevant technical, financial, regulatory and environmental issues properly mapped out. Such work should allow for political decisions on EU grid development.

14. Participants call upon the Pentalateral Forum to work on international North Sea grid issues and to allow other North Sea countries to participate in the work presently considered on market integration and regulatory issues.
15. Participants acknowledge the substantial research and development requirements on technical, infrastructure and regulatory issues of international grid development as inter alia incorporated in EWEA's European Industrial Wind Initiative. Participants therefore call upon the European Commission to direct the expenditure under its FP7 programs to allow for sufficient timely and focused preparatory activities.
16. Participants call upon the European Commission, industry, national governments and the research community to take note of the European Wind Initiative and develop and implement offshore grid relevant research projects.
17. Participants call upon the European Commission, TP-wind, national government authorities, TSO's, regulators and industry to consider to increase their co-operation in existing regional initiatives between regulatory bodies but also to encourage co-operation in informal working groups to help North Sea Members States' Ministers in their decision making on plans and initiatives for bilateral, multilateral or common developments towards an international offshore North Sea grid.
18. The outcome of the EWIS study (ETSO) and the work undertaken in other groups like the Pentalateral Forum and ENTSO-E should be taken into account. The participants call on Member States and TSOs to ensure that the offshore wind generation scenarios used for the 10-year Network Development Planning are consistent with the National Renewable Energy Action Plans to be submitted by June 2010.
19. Participants observed the good spirit in which TSO's have undertaken their European Wind Integration Study (EWIS) and call upon the European Commission and TSO's to continue this work with a follow-up study focused on the year 2020, thereby defining the conditions within which an offshore grid could take shape with the North Sea as a starting point.
20. Participants call upon industry to join forces in further developing DC transmission technology, with the aim of arriving at one standard.
21. Participants call upon industry, project developers and TSO's to develop demonstration projects in which offshore wind power will directly be connected to interconnection cables. Such projects will make genuine contributions to the development of an offshore grid.

Flexible Mechanisms

Recommendations

22. With a view to attaining the ambitious commitments for 2020 agreed in the Renewables Directive, willing Member States and third countries should identify opportunities to utilise flexibility mechanisms to share costs and benefits of renewable energies including large scale offshore wind projects. There are several initiatives to analyse the flexibility mechanisms provided in the Directive. Member States are encouraged to share their results with other Member States, the European Commission and relevant stakeholders.
23. The process of making offshore wind projects available for being developed through flexibility mechanisms should be transparent. All Member States should be invited to register their interest. Taking into account National Action Plans, a Europe-wide project platform should be established for potential joint projects, to be exposed for buying countries in a transparent way.
24. In order to optimise the use of joint projects or support schemes or statistical transfers, it remains important for all Member States - both potential renewable energy surplus and deficit countries - to stay focused on the enforcement of the countries trajectories. European Commission should encourage Member States, when reviewing national action plans, to act early on flexibility mechanisms.
25. The participants recognise that there may be conflicting issues between different EU legislation and the Directive on renewable energy. Legislation concerning state aid, tender rules, internal market etc., may influence the use of the flexibility mechanisms. The participants call upon the European Commission to examine how existing EU legislation and the flexibility mechanisms and possible market impacts interrelate.

Research

Recommendations

26. Participants emphasise that offshore wind energy is a new technology that can not simply adopt or copy technological solutions from onshore wind, from other marine technologies, from today's state of the art in system integration or from environmental impact precautions onshore. Research and development is therefore highly needed also in future to meet the challenges known from the first offshore projects experiences.
27. Participants therefore highly appreciate European efforts made since the Copenhagen Strategy and Berlin Declaration with instruments as TP-Wind, Strategic Energy Plan (SET-Plan) and the European Wind Energy Initiative (EWI). Participants call upon the European Commission to consider the recommendations made and to ensure financial support within FP 7, the SET-Plan and other supporting programmes and plans.
28. Participants recognise that regional co-operation can support the deployment needed in order to fulfil the international targets for renewable energy. Co-operative research efforts on offshore wind energy could support this process, for example by focusing research on specific aspects of adjacent seas. Such cooperation requires close co-ordination and information exchange between the responsible governmental and/or research institutions rather than large administrative mechanisms or bodies.

The cooperation under the "Joint declaration on co-operation in the field of research on offshore wind energy deployment" (between Denmark, Germany and Sweden so far) may provide valuable input to the international efforts on common research, eg. The European Commission's policy of research co-operation. For example the German research platforms (FINO 1,2,3) are further offered as a basis of such research i.e. collection of wind and marine data and connecting such data bases with other data gathered from measuring masts in other countries or by bringing expertise from bird migration observations together.

29. The signatories of the Joint Declaration (DK, D, S) welcome Norway joining this declaration. Participants note that other governments are most welcome to join the Declaration in which joint actions should concentrate on the seas surrounded by the participating countries ensuring that there is a high degree of overlapping interests and common needs on specific technological solutions and environmental precautions.

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