

## **BEMIP Offshore Wind Work-program**

To be reviewed in 2024

Setting offshore renewable energy as a pan-European priority is coherent with the actions undertaken by Member States around the Baltic Sea in stepping up their cooperation in view of developing the estimated offshore wind capacity potential. On 30 September 2020, the eight High-Level Group on the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) Member States and the Commission jointly endorsed the Baltic Sea Offshore Wind Joint Declaration of Intent.

This Declaration follows on work on cooperation on offshore wind that has been conducted within the BEMIP Renewable Energy Working Group since 2016. This identified offshore wind power as a significant component for economic development and energy transition contributing to renewable energy targets and facilitating carbon neutrality by 2050. The group discussed the potentials, market and grid impacts of offshore wind in the Baltic Sea and concluded that close regional cooperation was beneficial to all members and necessary to harness the benefits at the lowest costs.

On 19 November, the Commission adopted an EU wide Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future<sup>1</sup>. The Strategy proposes to increase Europe's offshore wind capacity from its current level of 12 GW to at least 60 GW by 2030 and to 300 GW by 2050 by tapping into the vast potential of all Europe's sea basins. The Strategy acknowledges the high natural potential for offshore wind energy of the Baltic Sea<sup>2</sup> and the cooperation at regional level within the framework of BEMIP in this regard.

This work-program aims to kick-start the implementation of the Baltic Sea Offshore Wind Joint Declaration of Intent. Given the rapid developments in the field of offshore renewable energy, ongoing project development, policy developments and the need for these to be taken into account, this work-program will be reviewed in 2024.

In May 2021, a new BEMIP Action Plan was established within the BEMIP High-Level Group. This work-program should be considered an integral element of that Action Plan. Moreover, in pursuit of an integrated approach for addressing challenges and achieving synergies at regional level, the BEMIP Action Plan incorporated projects and processes implementing the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in the area of energy. Work within the BEMIP Offshore Wind Working Group should also take into account, make use of and explore synergies with the EUSBSR including by the organisation of common meetings to discuss and advance offshore wind related topics.

BEMIP members agree that regional cooperation for the development of the offshore wind potential in the Baltic Sea should concentrate in the area where such cooperation brings the most added value without doubling work conducted in other fora or at EU level. Therefore, the BEMIP Offshore Wind Working-Group should establish regular strong cooperation and work together with the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC). Developments therein should be disseminated and discussed. If possible, reports and studies developed within NSEC should be made use of. Similarly, as appropriate, the BEMIP Renewable Energy Working Group should

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2020) 741 final

<sup>2</sup> 93 GW according to the Study on Baltic offshore wind energy cooperation under BEMIP prepared under the auspices of the BEMIP Renewable Energy Working Group. Available at : <https://op.europa.eu/fr/publication-detail/-/publication/9590cdee-cd30-11e9-992f-01aa75ed71a1>

establish strong cooperation with the HELCOM-VASAB working group on maritime spatial planning, as outlined in the corresponding action below.

In order to ensure focused discussions, the implementation of this work-program should be pursued in focused sub-groups. BEMIP members are encouraged to co-chair the discussions together with the European Commission.

The BEMIP Offshore Wind Work-program records a political intent alone. It does not establish any new legal commitments and does not replace or modify any existing legal obligations with regards to the BEMIP Member States.

## I. Coordinated offshore grid

<b>Actions</b>
Discuss coordination of radial and hybrid connections;
Coordination, in particular best practices exchange, on the development of onshore grids to support the integration of offshore wind energy in view of also providing input for the TYNDP process.
Facilitating active involvement and cooperation by the TSOs.
Coordination of offshore grid high-level actions necessary to support the cross-border offshore grid planning in view, also, of the initiative of several transmission system operators (TSOs) in the Baltic Sea named Baltic Offshore Grid Initiative (BOGI), which would conduct pre-feasibility, feasibility studies and environmental assessments and cooperate on a common offshore grid vision, and work towards better synchronisation of grid planning with maritime spatial planning for input to and in the context of the TYNDP. The aim is to facilitate the increased deployment of offshore wind generation capacities until 2050, with intermediary steps, at least, in 2035 and 2040, including by regular exchanges with relevant key actors from research and industry, ENTSO-E, stakeholders, competing users of the sea, business associations and NGOs.
Coordination on ensuring interoperability between the electricity grid and sector integration components, such as hydrogen production and transmission.

## II. Maritime Spatial Planning focusing on offshore wind development (co-chaired by Poland)

Action
Cooperation on better coordination of maritime spatial planning and environmental assessments to be able to utilise the offshore wind energy potential of the Baltic Sea in order to enable cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities in all BEMIP members and with the TSOs, in view of the current and future maritime spatial plans for the Baltic Sea.
Facilitating a more efficient use of maritime space.
Address the potential of innovation and multi-use of the maritime space, share experience and best practices.
Increasing the availability and interoperability of marine data for planning, impact assessment, licensing and operations.
Developing and sharing relevant knowledge on species, habitats and ecosystem through monitoring and joint research using an adaptive management approach.
Cooperation and coordination with HELCOM-VASAB working group on Maritime Spatial Planning also in view of establishing the link between the role BEMIP HLG and that of HELCOM-VASAB.

## III. Cooperation on enabling appropriate financing (co-chaired by Estonia)

Actions
Discussion on the application of Cost-Benefit Analyses (CBAs) and Cross-Border Cost Allocations (CBCAs) regarding both the infrastructure assets and the electricity generation assets of joint and hybrid projects, as well as on how CBAs and CBCAs of the two types of assets could be coordinated with each other.
Cooperation on modalities of increasing investment certainty where relevant and exploring financing opportunities and business models.
Identifying the bottlenecks and exchanging best practices and lessons learned on financing.

Enhancing the possibilities and conditions for subsidy free and market based offshore wind development in the Baltic Sea.

Cooperation on offshore tenders/auctions by means of sharing information regarding the national tender schedules and plans for offshore wind deployment including at the regional level.

Identify the best practices of tender designs in the region.

Best practice exchange on alternative support scheme designs, including the development of tender designs aiming at zero-subsidy support and sector integration components such as hydrogen production.

Discuss options for cross-border cooperation models between national support schemes in order to facilitate long-term investments in joint and hybrid offshore wind energy projects.

Discuss different grid connection regimes and the ownership of the connection to shore with a view to how to best capture this aspect in tender design.

Analyse and discuss additional financing options, such as the Union Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism, the Connecting Europe Facility, LIFE, the Innovation Fund, Horizon Europe.

Assess, discuss and coordinate regulatory aspects, market arrangements and ways to overcome barriers to hybrid and joint projects.

Cooperation on a joint contribution to elements of a potential EU policies for “hybrid” projects, e.g., financing, RES share allocation, grid access/connection, electricity market arrangements, including discussions on offshore bidding zones and alternatives, to the extent that an EU regulatory framework for hybrid projects is appropriate and necessary to implement those projects.

Building up the regional value chain by identifying areas of cooperation for maximizing the opportunities for regional industries.

#### IV. Acceleration of specific Baltic offshore projects and permitting

<b>Actions</b>
Sharing best practices on the accelerated development of offshore wind energy from more advanced and experienced Members States to less advanced.
Ensuring that applied solutions minimize the overall costs.
Discuss concrete plans for developing potential joint and hybrid projects offshore projects, including by regular exchanges with key actors from regulators, TSO's research & innovation and offshore wind and industry, aiming at optimizing generation and grid investments, by lowering overall costs and facilitating a more efficient use of maritime space and ensuring their advancement, including as regards possible inclusion in TYNDP, subsequent PCI processes and national development plans, while respecting national decision making processes.
Cooperation on intergovernmental agreements linked to the implementation of the identified joint and hybrid projects between two or more countries.
Cooperate on finding sector integration solutions, such as hydrogen generation, aiming at integrating renewable energy and bringing it to consumption centres in the most efficient and effective manner.
Exchanging best practices on public acceptance, especially regards onshore grid connection and impact of offshore infrastructure on fishermen.
Coordinate technical safety issues, lightning and marking in order to ensure that the same standards or methodology are applied for all projects in the region.
Alignment of technical standards within hybrid and/or joint projects with a view to, inter alia, ensure grid interoperability.