

BALTIC SEA OFFSHORE WIND
JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

Sides:

the European Commission

the Kingdom of Denmark

the Federal Republic of Germany

the Republic of Estonia

the Republic of Latvia

the Republic of Lithuania

the Republic of Poland

the Republic of Finland

the Kingdom of Sweden

INTRODUCTION

In light of the objective of achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2050, the Paris Agreement, the European Green Deal presented by the European Commission, and national renewable deployment targets, including as reflected in the National Energy and Climate Plans, increasing offshore wind energy production will be essential. The potential EU contribution of offshore wind energy by 2050 will amount at least 20 times today's installed capacity of 12 GW (EU-27), making it a crucial pillar of the energy mix. In the Baltic Sea alone, the potential¹ for offshore

¹ According to the STUDY ON BALTIC OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY COOPERATION UNDER BEMIP, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2019, ISBN: 978-92-76-09690-0, Doi: 10.2833/864823, Catalogue number: MJ-04-19-544-EN-N

wind power will be substantial, reaching up to 93 GW. This potential can be achieved, most efficiently, through a cooperative, regional approach.

The Sides share a common vision of the Baltic Sea Region as an area of dynamic economic development and acknowledge the progress and achievements of regional cooperation in the context of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) High-level Group.

The Sides acknowledge that they will be facing different degrees of challenges as regards the transformation of their energy systems in view of mitigating climate change in pursuit of EU's climate neutrality objective for 2050. Therefore, stable, long-term access to affordable energy sources will be required in order to ensure employment, economic growth and prosperity for all Europeans.

Since, working closely together, Member States achieve more than they can individually, the Sides intend to strengthen energy cooperation by intensifying their cooperation in offshore wind development within the BEMIP High-Level Group, as a key component in pursuing their common vision. Cost-efficient and environmentally sustainable deployment of offshore wind, through voluntary cooperation will be crucial to ensure a clean, secure and affordable energy supply for the Sides.

Strengthened cooperation as regards joint and hybrid offshore wind projects, as well as smart grids, offshore wind parks, energy system integration, low-emission offshore technologies and digitalization will lead to a more flexible, resilient and well-balanced energy network. In particular, concrete joint and hybrid projects will be an important element and visible symbol of regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area.

Therefore,

THE SIDES HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

The Sides will aim to work towards increased offshore wind electricity supplies and better transmission infrastructure across the Baltic Sea, taking into account the need to ensure a sustainable, competitive and secure supply of electricity to consumers.

The Sides intend to contribute to further political, economic and technological integration in the Baltic Sea Region through increased regional cooperation on offshore wind development.

The Sides acknowledge that the development of renewable offshore wind projects across the Baltic Sea must be based on commercially viable solutions.

The Sides will work together to achieve a sustainable, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly deployment of offshore wind in the Baltic Sea and will develop a better coordinated approach to comprehensive planning and implementation in view of harnessing this potential whilst taking into account other uses of the sea and environmental protection.

The Sides will encourage transmission system operators to cooperate on offshore grid planning and, where relevant, on the related transmission infrastructure on land in order to facilitate secure, cost-effective integration of offshore wind energy.

The Sides intend to explore most effective ways to coordinate their efforts in reducing levelized cost of energy in the region within the BEMIP High-level Group.

The Sides aim to work together to provide a level playing field and equal access to the market for companies investing in the development of offshore wind farms.

The Sides intend to facilitate the efficient integration of offshore wind energy together with other renewable sources of electricity to supply stable electricity to consumers.

The Sides will strive to cooperate on identifying potential joint and hybrid projects across the Baltic Sea and fostering their development among the countries involved and to achieve this by engaging in the debate on elements of a potential EU enabling framework to overcome barriers to such projects and support their realisation.

The Sides concur to utilise the BEMIP High-level Group as the framework for offshore cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and, to this end, jointly decide to create an offshore working group within BEMIP to start work as soon as possible.

The Sides ask the BEMIP High-level Group to operationalise this Political Declaration. This includes coordinated exchange of information on regional cooperation opportunities and intentions in the area of offshore wind development with other regional cooperation fora.

The Sides task the BEMIP High-level Group to adopt, in the Spring of 2021, a work programme for offshore wind development taking into account national policy plans of every Baltic Sea Region country set in their National Energy and Climate Plans and the EU policy developments in relation to renewable energy production.

This document does not intend to establish any legal commitments or to replace or modify any existing legal obligations, nor does it affect in any way the outcome of discussions on the governance system for the Energy Union.

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