

## Joint statement of European Governments, power transmission operators, and industry on the expansion of offshore wind in Europe.

- In the context of the current **energy and security crisis** in Europe and the need to accelerate the energy transition towards increasing energy independence based on renewable energies;
- Recalling that Europe has **less than a decade** to deliver five times the amount of offshore wind it has deployed in the last 30 years, and along with it three times the amount of electricity interconnection in order to meet its 2030 climate and energy targets;
- Given that the **European sea basins** offer immense opportunities for economic growth, to fight climate change, and with the right policies, hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs for current and future generations, as well developing countries' coastal regions;
- Acknowledging that particular in the North Seas, Europe has now entered the **next phase of offshore wind development** and that point-to-point offshore wind connections will be insufficient to deliver the needed volumes to reach net-zero ambitions;
- Recognising that connecting multiple wind farms to multiple markets via hybrid interconnectors, to energy islands, and to a future meshed offshore grid is important, and that offshore wind hybrids lead to more efficient deployment of infrastructure, thereby protecting the maritime environment, and reduce the impact of infrastructure on coastal communities.

*We, the signatories of this declaration, gathered at WindEurope's Annual Event in Bilbao, Spain, on the 6th of April 2022, collectively pledge to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind, bottom fixed and floating, as well as offshore grids in Europe to maximise benefits to consumers, strengthen Europe's security of supply, and contribute to the decarbonisation of multiple sectors of the economy.*

We aim to support the following actions:

- Work together on a **visible pipeline of projects** for the expansion of offshore wind and hybrid interconnectors which help drive decisions on enabling regulatory frameworks in the EU, UK and Norway;
- A joint **approach** including increased exchanges among public and private stakeholders that complement national ambitions to reach 2030 targets with the deployment of offshore hybrids on the ground, by identifying **immediate pathfinder projects and giving them the right regulatory and policy support to move forward**;
- Work on a **delivery programme for cooperation** on a voluntary basis that builds on shared political will at regional level, particularly on the work from the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC), the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP), the Atlantic Arc Commission, and other emerging initiatives in the Mediterranean and Black Seas;
- Remove barriers to offshore projects, speed up and streamline **consenting**, and prioritise projects that bring significant socio-economic benefits and contribute to Europe's climate and biodiversity protection goals;
- Increase exchange and cooperation between **public and private sectors to rapidly establish regulatory frameworks** that provide a long-term market environment and enables **sustainable business models** for offshore wind and offshore hybrid projects, including the potential for **renewable hydrogen production**;

- **Work towards appropriate, stable, and predictable electricity market arrangements** for offshore hybrids that distribute costs and benefits fairly between countries, consumers, TSOs, and offshore wind farm developers involved;
- **Work together on a scale-up** of technologies and innovations such as interoperability of HVDC and other technologies that enable system, economic and societal integration of offshore wind;
- **Reinforce at European scale R&D** programmes and projects in these fields to support the competitiveness and the expansion of Europe's offshore wind supply chain;
- **Ensure consistency** between offshore and onshore renewables and grid planning based on a common vision and scenarios for the 2050 European energy system;
- Coordinate on **maritime spatial planning** to promote the co-existence of the needed offshore wind volumes, biodiversity protection and other economic uses of the sea;
- Coordinate and exchange on the **planning of infrastructure** for offshore wind in line with national and European legislation to ensure efficiency, maximum co-use and the reduction of impacts on marine ecosystems and coastal communities;
- Coordinate projects with key stakeholders, including elected officials, TSOs, wind farm developers, NGOs, fishermen, and local associations;
- Identify and disseminate **best practices** in national support schemes to foster the coordination of national tendering processes including the use of non-price criteria;
- Coordinate the design of tenders that incorporate the selection of **competitive projects** with the appropriate risk-sharing between stakeholders, and which offer **enhanced sustainability** in the protection of marine ecosystems, climate change mitigation and co-existence;
- Cooperate on **industrial, energy, and competition policies** to support European technology leadership and to secure a financially viable, scalable, responsible, and sustainable value chain that is able to deliver the expansion of offshore wind across Europe.

*We ask the European Commission and WindEurope to support the implementation of this declaration through the appropriate existing regional cooperation initiatives, groups and other fora. We ask WindEurope to monitor the annual progress of actions by providing reports to the signatories.*

Signed on 06 April 2022 by:



Tinne van der Straeten  
Federal Minister for Energy, Belgium



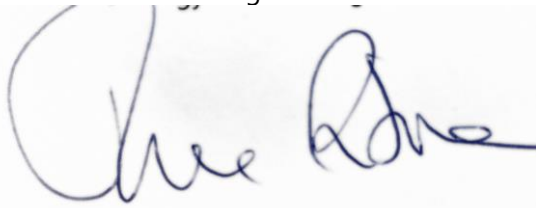
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Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt  
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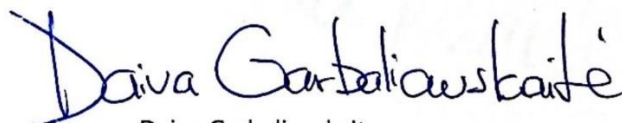
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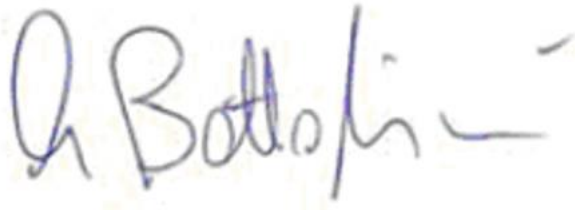


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Handwritten signature of Antonella Battaglini in blue ink.

Antonella Battaglini  
CEO, RGI

Handwritten signature of Ariel Brunner in blue ink.

Ariel Brunner  
Senior Head of Policy, Birdlife