Non-binding agreement on goals for offshore renewable generation in 2050 with intermediate steps in 2040 and 2030 for priority offshore grid corridor Northern Seas offshore grids (NSOG) pursuant to Article 14(1) of the TEN-E Regulation (EU) 2022/869

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The Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy[1] highlights the need to reach at least 300 GW of offshore wind and 40 GW of ocean energy by 2050 in the EU as a key means to reach climate neutrality, providing a major opportunity to ramp up renewables, develop a resilient industrial base in the whole EU and creating quality jobs, benefiting both coastal and landlocked Member States.

The need to accelerate the roll out of offshore renewable energy was further underlined by the RePowerEU Plan[2] to reduce the EU´s dependence on fossil fuels and minimise future energy price risks.

To facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy, the revised TEN-E Regulation[3] requires that by 24 January 2023, and every two years thereafter, Member States, with the support of the Commission, within their specific priority offshore grid corridors, taking into account the specificities and development in each region, conclude a non-binding agreement to cooperate on goals for offshore renewable generation to be deployed by 2050 within each sea basin by 2050, with intermediate steps in 2030 and 2040, in line with the national energy and climate plans and the offshore renewable potential of each sea basin.

That non-binding agreement shall be made in writing as regards each sea basin linked to the territory of the NSOG Member States and shall be without prejudice to the right of Member States to develop projects on their territorial sea and exclusive economic zone.

In line with this non-binding agreement, by 24 January 2024, and as part of each ten-year network development plan thereafter, the ENTSO for Electricity, with the involvement of the relevant TSOs, the national regulatory authorities, the Member States and the Commission, shall develop and publish high-level strategic integrated offshore network development plans for each sea-basin, taking into account environmental protection and other uses of the sea. These plans will aim to provide a high-level outlook of offshore grid development needs and related onshore grid reinforcements necessary to achieve the deployment of the Member States' present offshore renewable energy goals for such sea basin.

Based on the significant technical work carried out within the frame of the North Seas Energy Cooperation, as reflected in NSEC Joint Statement endorsed on 12 September 2022[4], also considering the input received from stakeholders, the Member States of the priority offshore grid corridor Northern Seas Offshore Grids (NSOG), Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Sweden, conclude this non-binding agreement on the following goals for offshore renewable energy generation for the NSOG priority offshore grid corridor countries:

[1] COM (2020) 741 final
[2] COM (2022) 230 final
[3] Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, OJ L 152, 3.6.2022, p. 45, see in particular Article 14
[4] https://energy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-09/220912_NSEC_Joint_Statement_Dublin_Ministerial.pdf

Member State	Goal 2030 (GW)	Goal 2040 (GW)	Goal 2050 (GW)
Belgium	6	8	8
Denmark[5]	5.3	19.3	35
Germany[6]	26.4	60	66
Ireland[7]	4.5	13	20
France[8]	2.1	4.6 - 8	4.6 - 17
Luxembourg[9]	-	-	-
Netherlands[10]	16	30 - 50	38 - 72
Sweden[11]	-	-	-
Total for NSOG priority offshore grid corridor	**60.3**	**134.9 - 158**	**171.6- 218**

[5] The estimates for 2030 and 2040 are based on the Danish forecast describing the development within the energy sector including offshore renewable energy development. The 2050 target comes from the Danish climate agreement from 25th of June 2022 and is conditional and dependent on the European demand of RES.

[6] In its Offshore Wind Act 2022 Germany has established deployment goals for offshore wind of at least 30 GW in 2030, 40 GW in 2035 and 70 GW in 2045. As there are no legal development goals for 2040, values are based on a fictitious expansion path based on the prospected deployment between 2035 and 2045. Deployment goal for 2045 as established in the Offshore Act is 70 GW.

[7] The 2030 target does not include a government objective of developing 2 GW of offshore renewable wind dedicated to production of green hydrogen by 2030, due to uncertainty regarding the location of this capacity.

[8] The upper bandwith for 2040 and 2050 is based on the average of the upper bandwith of scenarios N1 and N2 of the "Futurs énergétiques 2050" study by RTE for the Manche Est-Mer du Nord maritime zone. In 2023 and 2024, France's MSP documents and multiannual energy program will be revised after a public consultation, potentially modifying substantially the provided targets.

[9] While Luxembourg, having no national maritime space, does not participate through specific offshore renewable target contributions, Luxembourg plans to contribute significantly through cooperation on cross-border projects, especially through contributing via the Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism in exchange of statistical transfers.

[10] In the Netherlands, preparations are made for the upper bandwidth of these targets (50 GW in 2040 and 70 GW in 2050), whilst continuously reviewing and researching whether these ambitions are correct and feasible in reality.

[11] For the time being Sweden does not have any non-binding or legally binding goals for offshore capacity to be deployed in NSOG by 2030, 2040 or 2050. The Swedish Maritime Spatial Plans by 2022 consider 20 to 30 TWh of offshore wind power. At the same time the relevant authorities were given a supplementary assignment that aims to investigate additional areas for energy production, which can enable an additional 90 TWh offshore wind power.