

# The EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy

## Accelerating deployment of offshore wind in Europe

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We have identified **five pillars to be addressed in the EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy to accommodate a significant increase in offshore wind capacity needed to reach carbon neutrality in Europe by 2050:**

**#1 Space** National maritime spatial plans should acknowledge offshore wind as a material good on the same terms as other offshore resources, such as oil & gas, fish stocks etc., and should allocate offshore areas based on most optimal use, rather than assuming historic use. A major mind-shift is needed - instead of dividing the sea between users, co-use of and co-location in the sea needs to be the ultimate goal of any EU framework and Member States' policies around maritime spatial planning.

**#2 Infrastructure** To continue market integration of renewables, it is crucial to create a sufficiently strong European transmission and distribution grid. Offshore grid transmission development should be pursued on a sea-basin level within regional coordination groups, to lift regional potential and work towards a meshed offshore grid. Exemptions of rules under EU electricity market legislation need to be considered for offshore hybrid project investments to take place in the mid-2020s. A roadmap approach should be pursued to develop the appropriate regulatory regime, from the current early stages to longer term enduring solutions.

**#3 Investment Framework** To unlock low-carbon technology deployment including offshore wind, a priority for the EU needs to be to find agreement on the EU's 2030 climate ambition. With regard to the enabling framework, the Commission should ensure competition rules fully align with EU renewable energy legislation and continue to support two-sided Contracts for Difference. The European Commission should provide guidance to Member States on tender design / procedure and best practice.

**#4 Permitting** A robust consenting procedure is crucial for the realisation of higher installation rates. In this context, implementation of the EU renewable energy legislation and providing best-practice is key. Creating a common understanding on assessment and data analysis methodologies to perform and analyse environmental impact assessments would be beneficial.

**#5 System Integration** Thanks to its high number of full-load hours, offshore wind can strongly contribute to a renewable hydrogen-based economy. In addition to the work carried out system integration and hydrogen, the European Commission should investigate the economic benefits for a coupled hydrogen and offshore wind tender.

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Vattenfall is a European energy company with approximately 20,000 employees. For more than 100 years we have electrified industries, supplied energy to people's homes and modernized our way of living through innovation and cooperation. Our goal is to make fossil-free living possible within one generation. Everything we do and the decisions we take shall lead to this goal. This is the basis of Vattenfall's strategy, and we advocate for a regulatory environment that makes this transition possible – in the energy sector and beyond in transport, industry etc.



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