



THE ESBJERG DECLARATION

on The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe

Energy security and the fight against climate change are crucial to the future of the European Union. Recalling the Versailles conclusions on energy, the European Commission's communication on Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy, and the most recent IPCC report and taking note of the European Commission's REPowerEU announcement of 18 May, we aim to take urgent and immediate action. The recent geopolitical events will accelerate our efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption and promote the deployment of renewable energy for more energy resilience in Europe.

Therefore, we will increasingly **replace fossil fuels, including Russian oil, coal and gas, with European renewable energy from the North Sea**, including offshore wind and green hydrogen, contributing to both EU climate neutrality and energy security.

To achieve this and to pave the way for the further expansion of offshore wind, we have **decided to jointly develop The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe, an offshore renewable energy system** connecting Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands and possibly other North Sea partners, including the members of the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC). As Members of NSEC, we will build on the work already accomplished and will implement strategies to achieve our goals in close cooperation with the other regional countries and the European Commission. In doing so, we will strive for a balanced coexistence of economic and ecological needs.

The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe will consist of **multiple connected offshore energy projects and hubs**, offshore wind production at massive scale as well as electricity and green hydrogen interconnectors. We aim for a cost-efficient buildout of offshore wind that will harvest the potential of the North Sea in the most beneficial way for both the connected countries and the European Union overall.

Together, we have set ambitious combined **targets for offshore wind of at least 65 GW by 2030**. Based on the North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe, together we aim to **more than double** our total capacity of offshore wind to **at least 150 GW by 2050, delivering more than half of capacity needed to reach EU climate neutrality** according to the European Commission's Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy.

This will contribute to large-scale onshore and offshore production of **green hydrogen**. **We have set combined targets of about 20 GW production capacity already by 2030** and look to expand our production even further for 2050.

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