

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
AND
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
ON
ENERGY COOPERATION RELATED TO THE NORTH SEA

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Federal Government of the Kingdom of Belgium (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties");

Acknowledging the importance of the bilateral relationship between Norway and Belgium and our shared values and interests;

Appreciating the long-standing energy cooperation and trade between Norway and Belgium;

Emphasising the need for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the obligation to deliver on the Parties' respective Nationally Determined Contributions;

Underlining the important contribution of offshore wind energy, hydrogen and carbon capture storage (CCS) in meeting national climate targets and our common ambition in the transition to a low-carbon industry and net zero emissions, while strengthening the competitiveness of our economies;

Wishing to enhance the cooperation between our countries in the field of offshore wind energy, hydrogen and CCS;

Emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation among the countries around the North Sea in supporting cross-border energy infrastructure and subsea CO₂ storage facilities and deployment, including renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure;

Recognizing the importance of preserving the marine environment in the North Sea.

Bearing in mind that this MoU expresses the mutual intent of the Parties to advance bilateral relations between our countries and facilitate and support the development and deployment of offshore wind energy, hydrogen and CCS.

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this MoU is to:

- promote cooperation in the field of offshore wind energy, hydrogen and CCS, and the Parties' cooperation to facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge, advice, skills and expertise in these fields;
- start joint work towards establishing and formalising cross border cooperation on CCS between the Parties;
- timely establish practical arrangements and, where appropriate, cooperation agreements regarding the topics under this MoU.

Section 2 – Cooperation

The cooperation between the Parties under this MoU will be operationalised through continued and strengthened dialogue at expert and ministerial level, as agreed between the Parties. The Parties will engage the respective competent authorities and agencies, where appropriate.

The cooperation will in particular focus on the following topics of mutual interest:

- a. Promoting the establishment of necessary regulatory frameworks to enable the safe and commercial deployment and technological development of offshore wind energy, hydrogen and CCS both nationally and internationally, including under – inter alia – the London Protocol, the OSPAR-convention and relevant EU regulatory frameworks.
- b. Consideration and preparation of a bilateral agreement or arrangement between the Parties enabling cross-border transportation in view of permanent carbon storage.
- c. Exchange of knowledge on relevant experiences in view of enhancing our cooperation relating to the following:
 - offshore wind energy, inter alia, by building on the existing cooperation in the North Seas Energy Cooperation, and on analyses on technical, economic and environmental aspects on offshore wind and transmission infrastructure;
 - the import and export of renewable or low-carbon hydrogen,
- d. Other subject areas as the Parties may jointly decide.

Section 3 – Arrangements of the Parties

This MoU does not create any rights and obligations under international law and does not impose any financial obligations on the Parties.

Each Party intends to conduct the cooperation under this MoU subject to all applicable international and national laws and regulations, within respective constitutional competences, and subject to availability of resources and personnel.

The designated authorities responsible for the cooperation under this MoU will be the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy on behalf of the Kingdom of Norway, and the Federal Public Services Economy and Environment of the Kingdom of Belgium. Each Party will designate a primary point of contact to coordinate the overall cooperation between the Parties under this MoU.

Signed in two original copies in Brussels, Belgium on the 23 of February 2022 each in the English language.



*The Prime Minister of the Kingdom
of Norway*

Jonas Gahr Støre



*The Prime Minister of the Kingdom
of Belgium*

Alexander De Croo