ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY

The Minister

COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY

KADRI SIMSON

Your ref	Our ref	Date
	20/1309-	10 September 2020

Views from the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy on the strategy for offshore renewables

Dear Kadri Simson,

I refer to the ongoing public consultation on the offshore renewable strategy and welcome the opportunity to comment. I would also like to thank you for the exchange we had during the North Seas Energy Cooperation ministerial meeting on the 6th of July and underline the importance of the dialogue and cooperation between the North Seas countries.

Norway firmly believes the challenges with deploying sufficient renewable energy to combat climate change is best solved through close cooperation and exchange of best practices between countries.

We share the objective of the EU to identify a strategic direction for offshore renewable energy towards 2050. The instruments for a "green recovery" from the COVID-19 crisis outlined in the European Green Deal is also similar to the way Norway has approached the challenges, with a 3.6 billion NOK stimulus package for a green transition.

Norway has a competent and eager industry that is ready to contribute with its offshore expertise. Norway also has excellent wind resources both onshore and offshore. I hope the coming strategy will describe a future where we can contribute towards a renewable energy system in Europe.

With regard to the public consultation on the strategy, I would like to highlight the following:

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Offshore wind power has an important role to play in the global development of power systems in the years to come. Europe has a strong starting position. However, it is necessary that the coming developments succeed in further bringing down costs, facilitating the renewable energy transition.

We believe that marked based solutions are preconditions for succeeding in deploying renewable energy, while at the same time pursuing the goal of affordable energy to all consumers. The development in offshore wind should thus take place within the framework of an effective electricity market and secure a cost-effective development.

Norway would also like to stress the importance of further technology development and innovation. We believe floating wind will play a significant role in development of offshore renewables. Floating technology allows for power production in deep waters, utilizing renewable resources as well as providing greater flexibility regarding the localisation of power production. This makes floating wind well suited for meeting concerns regarding biodiversity and other interests at sea, like fisheries. Offshore wind could also play a role in the future development of production and use of green hydrogen.

Hywind Tampen, an 88-megawatt floating wind power project, will provide electricity to two oil and gas fields on the Norwegian continental shelf. The aim is, in addition to reduced emissions, to help bring down costs for floating offshore wind.

I would like to wish you the best of luck for your coming strategy on offshore renewables. I look forward to continuing the cooperation on offshore wind, and I hope that next time we will be able to meet in person.

Yours sincerely

Tina Bru