
# ACTION PLAN TO THE HAMBURG DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS

(2026 – 2050)

Following the Third North Sea Summit in Hamburg, we, the signatory governments reaffirm our ambitions set out in the Declaration. Recognising the vital importance of cooperation in achieving our shared energy security and climate objectives, we aim to translate the Declaration's vision into concrete and measurable actions.

This Action Plan reflects our shared determination and mutual responsibility to accelerate the offshore energy transition in the North Seas Region. It sets out specific actions to enable the North Seas to become a cornerstone of Europe's clean energy transition while providing a stable, secure and affordable energy supply.

This Action Plan provides a concise and implementation-focused translation of the political declaration. The actions should be read in light of the principles, conditions, and intentions set out in that Declaration and have no legal obligations but only indications on when different actors would have to play a role.

Implementation will be pursued primarily through the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC), making use of its established frameworks for multilateral coordination, technical collaboration and policy alignment. This Action Plan will be continuously reviewed and adapted, taking into account the latest political, economic and technical developments. We will report regularly within the NSEC on progress made towards fulfilling this Action Plan.

## 1. Grid Planning

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Establish a recurrent sea basin offshore grid planning exercise, update the grid map, taking the results of the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) and the Offshore Network Development Plan for the Northern Seas (ONDP) into consideration | Transmission System Operators (TSOs), Governments | First grid map published in April 2025, with regular updates |
| Develop insights for a joint position on a potential cost-benefit sharing methodology for regional planning process, building on existing methodologies | National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), TSOs together with Governments | 2026 |
| Identify and work towards the first cooperation project[1] set and its potential integration into the TYNDP cycles | TSOs, Governments | 2027 (TYNDP 2028) |

## 2. Financing & Investment Frameworks

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Joint assessment of risks and mitigation measures of market arrangements for hybrid projects | Participating European Union (EU) Member States, who will seek cooperation with the European Commission (involvement of other signatory governments where possible) | Q3 2026 |
| Promote the exchange on best practices regarding regulatory frameworks, including on TSO financing models such as special purpose vehicles (SPVs), while ensuring that regulated TSOs always retain ownership of the asset | Governments | Q1 2027 |
| Exploring design options for domestic and joint offshore wind support schemes where appropriate, like Contracts-for-Difference (CfD) or equivalent price security mechanisms | Governments, NRAs | Q1 2027 |
| Participating EU Member States ask the European Commission to enhance conditions for the European Investment Bank's (EIB) investments in offshore cooperation projects | Participating EU Member States, who will seek cooperation with the European Commission | Q1 2027 |
| Ensure that firm regulation on market arrangement for hybrid projects is in place | Participating EU Member States, who will seek cooperation with the European Commission | Q2 2027 |

1 Cross-border cooperation projects comprise hybrid offshore wind projects including transmission infrastructure with grid connections to more than one country, as well as cross-border radially connected wind farms.

## 3. Permitting & Regulatory Harmonisation

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Implement EU permitting acceleration provisions | Participating EU Member States | Ongoing |
| Examine the need for coordinated planning and permitting for cooperation projects | Participating EU Member States, National Authorities | Q3 2027 |

## 4. Offshore Security & Resilience

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Continue to pursue training on security and crisis management planning | Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) Operators, TSOs | Ongoing |
| Continue the offshore infrastructure security dialogue with industry | Governments, Industry, TSOs | Q4 2026 |
| Define minimum cybersecurity and High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) interoperability standards | TSOs, Industry, NRAs | Q3 2027 |

## 5. Offshore renewable hydrogen transport, storage and production[2]

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Participating EU Member States and the UK express the need for a long-term strategy for combining offshore wind and offshore hydrogen projects in the North Seas where it is cost-effective and provides value to the energy system | Participating EU Member States and the UK | Q4 2026 |
| Hydrogen Networks for the Northern Seas (HyNOS) and the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC) deliver a roadmap for the coordinated planning of offshore energy networks | OTC, HyNOS, Offshore System Integration Group (OSIG) | Until the next North Sea summit |

2 The relevance of offshore hydrogen as a means to address the power grid balancing need resulting from offshore wind power generation is still a question under investigation in NSEC SG5.

## 6. Supply Chain Strengthening

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Continue the dialogue on national tender and construction timelines to work towards ensuring a stable offshore wind tender pipeline between 2031 and 2040 across the North Seas | Governments | Ongoing |
| Participating EU Member States ask the EIB and the European Commission to investigate options to implement a counter-guarantee scheme for component and ship manufacturing building on existing schemes | Participating EU Member States who will seek cooperation with the EIB and the European Commission | Q1 2027 |
| Jointly look into port capacity expansion needs | Governments | Q2 2027 |
| Establish HVDC manufacturing standards and interoperability | TSOs, Industry | Q4 2027 |

## 7. Workforce Development

| Action | Responsible Parties | Expected time frame |
|---|---|---|
| Support reskilling, upskilling and retaining workforce for offshore deployment | Industry, Governments | Ongoing |
| Increase number of apprenticeships and internships as well as number of partnerships with vocational education and training facilities | Industry | Ongoing |

# Timeline

| Action | Responsible Parties | 2026 | | | | 2027 | | | | 2028 | | | | Beyond 2028 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2040 | 2050 |
| **Grid Planning** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Establish a recurrent sea basin offshore grid planning exercise, update the grid map, taking the results of the TYNDP and the ONDP into consideration | TSOs, Governments | | | | | | For example: Regular updates | | | | | | | | |
| Develop insights for a joint position on a potential cost-benefit sharing methodology for regional planning process, building on existing methodologies | NRAs, TSOs together with Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Identify and work towards the first cooperation project set and its potential integration into the TYNDP cycles | TSOs, Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Financing & Investment Frameworks** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Joint assessment of risks and mitigation measures of market arrangements for hybrid projects | Participating EU Member States who will seek cooperation with the European Commission (involvement of other signatory governments where possible) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Promote the exchange on best practices regarding regulatory frameworks, including on TSO financing models such as SPVs, while ensuring that regulated TSOs always retain ownership of the asset | Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exploring design options for domestic and joint offshore wind support schemes where appropriate, like CfDs or equivalent price security mechanisms | Governments, NRAs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participating EU Member States ask the European Commission to enhance conditions for the EIB's investments in offshore cooperation projects | Participating EU Member States, who will seek cooperation with the European Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ensure that firm regulation on market arrangement for hybrid projects is in place | Participating EU Member States, who will seek cooperation with the European Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Permitting & Regulatory Harmonisation** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Implement EU permitting acceleration provisions | Participating EU Member States | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Examine the need for coordinated planning and permitting for cooperation projects | Participating EU Member States, National Authorities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Action | Responsible Parties | 2026 | | | | 2027 | | | | 2028 | | | | Beyond 2028 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2040 | 2050 |
| **Offshore Security & Resilience** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continue to pursue training on security and crisis management planning | OWF Operators, TSOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Continue the offshore infrastructure security dialogue with industry | Governments, Industry, TSOs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Define minimum cybersecurity and HVDC interoperability standards | TSOs, Industry, NRAs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Offshore renewable hydrogen, transport, storage and production** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participating EU Member States and the UK express the need for a long-term strategy for combining offshore wind and offshore hydrogen projects in the North Seas where it is cost-effective and provides value to the energy system | Participating EU Member Staes and the UK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HyNOS and the OTC deliver a roadmap for the joint coordinated planning of offshore energy networks | OTC, HyNOS, OSIG | | | | | | | | | | | | | Until the next North Sea Summit | |
| **Supply Chain Strengthening** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continue the dialogue on national tender and construction timelines to work towards ensuring a stable offshore wind pipeline between 2031 and 2040 across the North Seas | Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Participating EU Member States ask the EIB and the European Commission to investigate options to implement a counter-guarantee scheme for component and ship manufacturing building on existing schemes | Participating EU Member States who will seek cooperation with the EIB and the European Commission | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jointly look into port capacity expansion needs | Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Establish HVDC manufacturing standards and interoperability | TSOs, Industry | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Workforce Development** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Support reskilling, upskilling and retaining workforce for offshore deployment | Industry, Governments | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ongoing | Ongoing |
| Increase number of apprenticeships and internships as well as number of partnerships with vocational education and training facilities | Industry | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ongoing | Ongoing |

## Early warning system through Key Performance Indicators

In addition to the agreed action items and the monitoring of their implementation, we aim to establish an early warning system to identify developments in the offshore wind sector that could jeopardize the achievement of our shared build-out ambitions. This early warning system could constitute of the following potential key performance indicators (KPIs) covering relevant aspects of offshore wind expansion in the North Seas: physical cooperation projects, offtake security and sufficient supply chain and workforce availability as well as supportive conditions in terms of financing, auctioning and permitting. Rather than retroactively monitoring progress, the KPIs should have a forward-looking character to detect bottlenecks at an early stage and to enable joint and decisive action where necessary in addressing potential shortcomings in the regulatory and framework conditions. The following indicators could be a starting point for setting up such an early warning system and should be developed further and eventually monitored within NSEC.

(1) **Auctions success rate:** Development of auction award volumes and the implied success rates as an outlook for future expansion volumes

(2) **Project durations:** Development of project durations across permitting, development, and construction phases to identify trends and measure progress to reduce implementation times

(3) **Progress of cooperation projects:** Status of cooperation projects from initial consideration until start of operations, tracking their current state vs. plans for build-out

(4) **Power demand projection:** Projection of expected power demand volumes vs. a net zero target scenario to identify implications for offshore wind generation volumes

(5) **Secured offtake:** Concrete offtake strategies or contracted offtake volumes to de-risk offshore wind projects and allow investment decisions

(6) **Interconnection capacity:** Comparison of expected build-up of offshore interconnection capacity vs. the identified system needs in the current offshore network development plan for the hybrid offshore corridor of the North Seas basin

(7) **Supply chain capacity:** Comparison of Europe-for-Europe supply chain capacity of individual offshore wind components vs. demand for components from offshore wind expansion

(8) **Financing framework:** Milestone-based implementation progress of the provisions in the Hamburg Declaration of Energy Ministers towards an effective financing and investment framework

(9) **Workforce capacity:** Availability of sufficient workers across a series of capabilities required for offshore wind expansion in Europe

(10) **NIS2 implementation:** Progress of the implementation of regulations (particularly Directive (EU) 2022/2555 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS-2)) for offshore infrastructure assets and their physical and cyber security