

Joint Statement Germany - Norway

Today's meeting between Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Dr. Robert Habeck and Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Trade and Industry Jan Christian Vestre and Minister of Petroleum and Energy Terje Aasland will further strengthen the close partnership between Germany and Norway in the areas of energy and climate policy and industrial transformation.

Chancellor Scholz and Prime Minister Støre agreed in January to strengthen German-Norwegian cooperation around the energy transition and to establish a long-term and structured dialogue in the field of industry and energy. The goal is to achieve shared climate goals, create new green industries and jobs, and strengthen energy security. Today's meeting marks the beginning of this work.

This now takes place against a sombre background. Russia's bloody and illegal war of aggression in Ukraine is shocking the whole world. The war affects us all. As Europe and the international community continue to impose further sanctions, Russia is becoming more and more isolated. A number of measures are now needed to enable Europe to reduce its dependence on Russian energy supplies. Over the coming months and years, it will be extremely important to speed up the development of alternative energy sources for Europe as substitutes for Russian gas and oil and to develop the necessary infrastructure for this.

Norway is a very important exporter of oil and gas to Europe. Companies operating in Norway produce and sell oil and gas on the market up to capacity. The Norwegian government will ensure that Norway remains a stable and reliable supplier of oil and gas to Europe.

Norway wants to actively contribute to the rapid development of the hydrogen market in Germany and the EU. To this end, it has been agreed that a joint review will be conducted with a view to making large-scale transport, including via pipeline, of hydrogen from Norway to Germany possible. We plan to rapidly commission a joint feasibility study on this. Germany would like to see Norway become a future partner for the production and supply of hydrogen. In order to realise the fastest possible high-volume imports of hydrogen and ensure the rapid availability thereof, we will also jointly plan the use of blue hydrogen for a transition period. In this context, we will ensure environmental and climate integrity by establishing for example the highest possible standards for Carbon Capture and Storage.

Germany and Norway want to work together closely to ensure a reliable energy supply for Europe that is based on an increasing share of renewable energy. Both countries aim to be completely climate-neutral by mid-century, Germany by 2045 at the latest, Norway by 2050. Both countries want to expand their cooperation on renewable energy. Going forward, Germany will be increasingly interested in importing electricity from renewables, e.g. from offshore wind energy. In consideration of the considerable wind resources in the North Sea, Germany and Norway will enhance their cooperation on offshore wind, inter alia, by building on the existing cooperation in the North Seas Energy Cooperation.

We welcome the fact that talks are taking place between Norwegian and EU stakeholders with a view to increasing LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) import capacities to the EU in the short term and actively support these talks.

For many years, Germany and Norway have been involved in particularly close energy cooperation characterised by mutual trust. In order to advance the energy transition in Europe more quickly, we want to strengthen this cooperation even further. Through structured dialogue, we will further strengthen cooperation on green industry, renewables and offshore wind, hydrogen and circular economy. Together, we will further intensify our work on the development and use of new technologies. This is crucial to achieving our common goal of climate neutrality in Europe. Batteries and green shipping are examples to this end. Looking ahead, Norway and Germany will work together towards a more climate-friendly economy capable of securing jobs and energy solutions that are sustainable and forward-looking.

Norway and Germany will jointly take a leading role in managing carbon emissions in Europe in order to contribute to the transformation towards a climate-neutral industry and thus achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. We will significantly expand cooperation in the North Sea Basin Task Force, the chair of which is currently held by Germany and will be subsequently taken over by Norway. During the German-Norwegian chair, we will establish an ambitious new programme of work.