

Statement of Cooperation on Energy
between
the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and
the Government of the French Republic

Paris, 10th March 2023

I. Introduction

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the ‘UK’) and the Government of the French Republic (‘France’) acknowledge the essential role energy transition will play in their respective efforts and common goal to fight climate change. They reaffirm their commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and will reduce all greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero by 2050, enhance energy resilience, provide affordable energy for both countries’ consumers and support industrial and regional development.

This declaration sets out their intent to strengthen cooperation on their shared interests and ambitions in the three pillars of energy resilience (including energy security and electricity interconnection), energy transition, low carbon technologies and domestic climate policies, and civil nuclear.

II. Areas for cooperation

Energy resilience (including energy security and interconnection).

Both countries recognise the importance of bilateral arrangements and cooperation through bilateral dialogues to achieve secure energy systems and supply diversity for their energy consumers, and commit to continuing a formal dialogue to share information, expertise and experience, including on electricity and gas outlooks, in the spirit of solidarity. As key players in global energy markets, they decide to continue and strengthen the existing operational coordination and explore new ways to work together to promote regional and global energy security. They recognise that every country’s decarbonisation pathway must take account of access to energy and reducing energy poverty. But they underline that the best and fastest way to long term energy security is through accelerating the clean energy transition. They reaffirm commitments made by G7 leaders at Elmau to support stability in global energy markets.

Both countries also recognise the central role of electricity interconnection in their mutual energy security of supply, the green transition and prosperity. They recognise the mutual importance of critical infrastructure and are committed to keeping interconnectors open and related operational coordination during winter periods to maintain electricity supplies for their consumers and businesses. They recognise that their energy systems will evolve as they transition to net zero and, when mutually beneficial, commit to make their best efforts to

progress future interconnection projects between their countries, whilst ensuring timely coordination with onshore grid developments. This should take account of a re-examination of the case for new interconnection in France, in 2023.

Energy transition, low carbon technologies and domestic climate policies.

The UK and France underline the importance of the transition to a net zero energy system, and the development of decarbonised technologies such as nuclear and renewables, as well as energy efficiency.

Both countries will also work alongside partners to exchange experiences, challenges and good practices on their domestic climate policies and actions towards net zero.

In this context, they will enhance their bilateral dialogue on energy transition, and encourage cooperation in the field of clean energy: nuclear, renewable, notably offshore wind, renewable and low carbon hydrogen, carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS), and energy efficiency. They will also cooperate in multilateral fora such as the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) to facilitate the development of offshore energy.

Regarding hydrogen, they decide to work together on the deployment of the technology, market adoption, certification and definition of renewable and low carbon hydrogen.

Both countries acknowledge their shared interest in cooperating on Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) deployment, particularly to examine the potential of cross-border CO₂ transport and storage, acknowledging the shared regulatory barriers to address.

As they cooperate to drive investment in and adoption of these vital contributors to the global energy transition, they also recognise the importance of their shared international commitments, including to promote intelligence-sharing and transparency as they pursue these priorities.

Civil nuclear.

Recent global events have highlighted the importance and the value of nuclear energy in achieving a resilient and diverse energy supply. As leaders in the European civil nuclear field with ambitious plans for new nuclear development and recognising Franco-British collaboration on Hinkley Point C and the proposed replica EPR project at Sizewell C, the UK and France today express their desire to maintain and enhance their bilateral cooperation in the realm of civil nuclear energy.

Both governments seek to build on their existing collaboration in this field, including through a separate statement of cooperation covering the following areas: new build, energy diversification, decommissioning and dismantling, waste management, research and development (including safe and secure deployment of Small Modular Reactors and Advanced Modular Reactors), skills and diversity, supply chain, fusion and safety.

III. Delivery

In recognition of the importance of all these areas of cooperation, the UK and France will launch a strategic working group and work programme in 2023 guided by six monthly Director General dialogues, as well as an annual meeting of ministers.

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