



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) inter-operability standards	TSOs, Industry, NRAs	Q3 2027

5. Offshore renewable hydrogen transport, storage and production²

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 off-shore 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 States 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