



JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION PROJECTS FOR AN INTERCONNECTED OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRID IN THE NORTH SEAS

By the Federal Public Service Economy, Directorate General Energy of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth of the Government of the Netherlands and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Federal Public Service Economy, Directorate General Energy of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth of the Government of the Netherlands and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, hereinafter referred to individually as a “Side” and collectively as the “Sides”, in the context of the Hamburg Declaration signed on the 26th of January 2026, recollecting the Esbjerg Declaration signed on 18th of May 2022, the Ostend Declaration of 24th of April 2023 as well as the Ostend Statement of 6th November 2025, herewith declare their common vision to support, enable and facilitate the realisation of an interconnected offshore renewable energy grid that connects them in the North Seas.

Recalling these past declarations as well as the joint support for the Hamburg Declaration and the Hamburg Declaration of Energy Ministers, today the Sides reaffirm their common intent to ensure that the necessary bilateral and multilateral political decisions, as well as necessary arrangements, are in place in due time to support the realisation of the shared vision. The Sides stand united in their efforts to build a secure, sustainable, and interconnected energy future through close collaboration and shared responsibility. In this context, the Sides take note of the conclusions of the Offshore Transmission System Operator (TSO) Collaboration (OTC) Expert Paper IV “Balancing costs, benefits and risks for cross-border offshore grids in the North Seas” and their invaluable work towards regional infrastructure planning and intend to continue to work together with the OTC as well as on project level with individual involved TSOs.

Section 1 – Objective

Joint offshore infrastructure and renewable energy planning for the North Seas Basin allows the Sides to maximise economic benefits not only for individual countries but for the entire region. The Sides aim to jointly develop the enabling conditions for sets of cooperation projects¹ that deliver net gains for our economies as well as their societies whilst ensuring full consistency with national priorities and regulatory frameworks. Experiences gathered from pursuing the implementation of concrete project sets may provide valuable insights into potential challenges and solutions and demonstrate how early coordination, shared planning principles and transparent cost-allocation mechanisms can significantly accelerate cross-border offshore development and reduce overall system costs.

Recognising that each Side is advancing and maturing hybrid projects, as reflected in the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP), this Joint Declaration of Intent (JDoI) focuses on implementing the necessary steps to progress the development of project sets, in close collaboration with the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) and the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC). Lessons learned from mature hybrid projects such as the LionLink project and previous exchanges should inform this group, ensuring that governance, financing and technical interoperability are addressed from the outset.

Section 2 –Cooperation

To realise the common vision, the Sides intend to engage in the following areas of cooperation:

1. Through a joint working group, the Sides aim to identify the most promising and cost-effective principles for offshore infrastructure and renewable energy development.
2. The Sides intend to discuss and develop the political, regulatory and financial enabling conditions for an innovative, first-of-its-kind hybrid offshore project set to be mutually agreed upon by the Sides and on the basis of proposals and analyses by the TSOs.

¹ For the purpose of this JDoI, ‘cooperation projects’ refer to hybrid offshore wind projects with grid connections to more than one country and cross-border radially connected wind farms.

3. The Sides aim to explore methodologies for joint cost-sharing with a view to develop common principles and examine financing instruments for cooperation projects.
4. The Sides intend to collaborate with NSEC and the OTC to regularly inform the joint grid planning for the North Seas.
5. The Sides intend to further develop their national regulatory frameworks and planning processes to enable hybrid projects including enhanced coordination of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). This could include and is not limited to: looking at possible ways to integrate regional planning cycles into their national grid development plans as well as examining necessary framework conditions such as national permitting processes, national and cross-border liability arrangements and national and cross-border support mechanisms for offshore wind farms as well as infrastructure assets as part of hybrid projects.
6. Where relevant, the Sides -in particular those that are EU Member States- intend to collaborate with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to find potential solutions for the financing of offshore grid infrastructure.

Section 3 – Joint Working Group

The Sides envisage to establish a joint working group in order to advance the cooperation and implement the joint vision. Wherever relevant, the joint working group aims to cooperate with TSOs and NRAs as well as with the EIB. Further, the Sides intend to ensure the regular coordination with and reporting to NSEC regarding their activities in the joint working group. The joint working group remains open to other North Seas states who wish to participate and are concerned by the project set. All Sides intend to maintain the working group as long as deemed necessary and relevant. The working group's task is to determine an appropriate schedule of meetings and identify relevant topics, upon which the Sides would mutually agree before each meeting.

Section 4 – Legal Nature and Financial Implications

This JDoI does not create any rights or obligations under international or domestic law, nor prevails over the rights and obligations stemming from international agreements to which a Side is a party. With respect to Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, this JDoI does not prevail over the rights and obligations arising from their membership in the European Union and Union law. This does not impose any financial obligations on the Sides.

All costs resulting from cooperation under this JDoI will be borne by the Side that incurs them, unless otherwise jointly decided.

Section 5 – Amendment Procedures and Cooperation

This JDoI may be amended at any time by written consent of the Sides.

At any time, the Sides will consult, at the request of any of them, on any matter relating to this JDoI, in the spirit of cooperation, good faith and mutual trust, to resolve quickly any difficulties or misunderstanding that may arise. In case of misunderstanding or insufficient progress between the TSOs, the Ministers of each Side should be informed in order to ensure continuous cooperation.

Section 6 – Final Provisions

This JDoI will start applying on the day of signature. It will be jointly reviewed upon written request of one of the Sides.

Each Side may end cooperation under this JDoI at any time. It should inform the other Sides in writing of its intention to end cooperation at least three (3) months prior. The end of cooperation under this JDoI will not affect any on-going activities under it, unless otherwise decided jointly by the Sides.



JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION PROJECTS FOR AN INTERCONNECTED OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRID IN THE NORTH SEAS

Signed on the 26 January 2026 in the English language.

Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs and Energy of the Federal
Republic of Germany

Minister of Justice, in charge of
the North Sea of the Kingdom of
Belgium

Minister for Climate, Energy
and Utilities of the Kingdom of
Denmark

Katherina Reiche

Annelies Verlinden

Lars Aagaard

Minister of Climate Policy and
Green Growth of the Netherlands

Secretary of State for Energy
Security and Net Zero of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Sophie Hermans

Ed Miliband