



Joint Declaration of Members of Parliament

**Initiated at the EUFORES Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Dublin Castle, 21 June
2013**

Kick-off of the North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative – Parliamentary Platform (NSCOGI-PP)

We,

- Members of European Parliament
- Members of national parliaments
- Members of regional parliaments and
- Members of city councils

Address this declaration to the

- European Council and the Ministers of Energy, Industry, Environment, Infrastructure, Agriculture/ Fisheries/ Maritime Affairs of the 10 NSCOGI Countries Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and UK
- EU Commissioners for Energy, Climate Action, Industry and Entrepreneurship, Environment, Research, Innovation and Science, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Regional Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development
- Belgian Government as the Political Coordinator of NSCOGI
- With copies to Members of European, national, regional parliaments and city councils from NSCOGI countries, to the public and the media

Background and preconditions

- Stressing the need for an accelerated implementation of the energy transition in Europe and the timely fulfilment of the 20% target of renewables in 2020
- Underlining the need for a strong leadership of the EU Institutions and the EU28 Member States now and beyond 2020
- Examining the abundant potential of renewables in the European Union, with the North Seas as an outstanding resource: “The future energy pool of Europe” – also as an example for other regions (the Baltics, South-Easter Europe etc.)
- Understanding their role for the EU independence from energy imports, for the fight against climate change, for the creation of jobs – especially for the young generation - and new business on global technology markets

- Counting on the huge potential of offshore wind – besides other renewable energy resources - as a major asset today and towards 2030 as shown in projections¹:
 - 2012: almost 5 GW offshore wind installed across Europe (0.5% of EU electricity consumption) - around 58,000 direct and indirect jobs
 - 2020: industry aims at 40 GW by 2020 (43 GW are planned in the National Renewable Energy Action Plans), provided the right framework is in place (4% of EU electricity consumption) - around 191,000 direct and indirect jobs
 - 2030: industry aims at 150 GW by 2030 (14% electricity consumption) - around 318,000 direct and indirect jobs
- Acknowledging the existing activities of the North Sea Countries Offshore Grid Initiative (NSCOGI) by the 10 involved EU Member States and welcoming the activities of industries, grid operators, ENTSO-E, ACER, Friends of the Supergrid etc.
- Fearing that the economic crisis weakens the implementation of RES targets and NSCOGI, whilst the promotion of renewables in EU and especially the North Seas is one key strategy to get the EU out of the economic crisis
- Seeing the need for strong support to NSCOGI on all legislative and government levels
- Acknowledging the first successes in the offshore sector, but stressing also the need to reduce costs to become competitive, to optimize the supply chain, to increase investors' security and to give a clear direction to the developments to come

Requests and expectations

- Stress the need for an intensified European cooperation among Member States and a stronger implementation of the RES Directive
- Suggest lighthouse projects like the North seas as the future energy pool of Europe and as a role model for an integrated RES technology deployment and market development
- Ask for a strengthened parliamentary interaction and an enhanced cooperation of the NSCOGI countries governments and parliaments together with EU institutions and specialised bodies
- Expect strong leadership by the European Commission and a new high level push to develop NSCOGI
- Request intensified work on a better market integration and technical, legal, political and economic aspects, leading to a new understanding of the power markets which integrate renewables, storage, secondary services...
- Suggest to integrate NSCOGI more into EU funds, programmes and mechanisms: Connecting Europe Facility, Marguerite Fund, project bonds finance, cooperation mechanisms, structural funds, industrial initiative on RES and NSCOGI in Horizon2020
- Suggest binding RES targets for 2030 as a clear signal to investors on the direction to follow
- Urge that the large potential of offshore wind is fully recognised by the EU and the NSCOGI countries in their 2030 policy frameworks, above all by the adoption of a clear vision for 2030 and an ambitious and solid implementation plan
- Recommend stable support schemes on the national level
- Demand a stronger cooperation of all levels to develop an effective supply chain

Commitments of parliamentarians

We, as Members of Parliament commit to:

- Support the NSCOGI process in the best feasible way

¹ Scenarios EWEA – European Wind Energy Association



- Initiate discussions in our parliaments and councils (European, national, regional and local)
- Get into intensified talks and exchanges with our respective governments and administrations to raise the issue and create the right political momentum
- Communicate the topic with the public as a support for the political debate
- Seek exchange with the existing activities and institutions to connect with the leading actors and to raise the motivation for further integration of policies and projects in the region
- Kick-off and animate the NSCOGI Parliamentary Platform
- Participate in events and communication to intensify the networking among the parliaments

Next steps

- We give EUFORES the mission to manage the process as NSCOGI-PP Secretariat, supported by an informal NSCOGI-PP Steering Board as an advisory instrument
- We hereby also sign up to the complimentary membership within EUFORES to formally become part of the structured NSCOGI-PP activities

Dublin and Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, London, Luxemburg, Oslo, Paris, Riga, Stockholm, Valletta,..., 21 June 2013 – 31 January 2014

Signatories

<p>Volker BAJUS Member of Regional Parliament Niedersachsen, Germany</p>	<p>Hilde BJELDE Member of Regional Parliament Rogaland, Norway</p>
<p>Rita DE BONT Member of Parliament Belgium</p>	<p>Charles BUHAGIAR Member of Parliament Malta</p>
<p>Nessa CHILDERS Member of the European Parliament Ireland</p>	<p>Noel COONAN Member of Parliament Ireland</p>
<p>Bas EICKHOUT Member of the European Parliament The Netherlands</p>	<p>Fiona HALL Member of the European Parliament United Kingdom</p>
<p>Jens HOLM Member of Parliament Sweden</p>	<p>Steen GADE Member of Parliament Denmark</p>
<p>Yannick JADOT Member of the European Parliament France</p>	<p>Cáit KEANE Member of Senate Ireland</p>
<p>Ivans KLEMENTJEVS Member of Parliament Latvia</p>	<p>Henri KOX Member of Parliament Luxemburg</p>

<p>Oliver KRISCHER Member of Parliament Germany</p>	<p>Alan LAWTHER Local Government Councillor Antrim, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom</p>
<p>Peter LOGGHE Member of Parliament Belgium</p>	<p>W.L.M. MASTWIJK-BEEKHUIJZEN Member of Regional Parliament Drenthe, the Netherlands</p>
<p>Colin McGRATH Member of Regional Parliament Down District, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Siri MELING Member of Parliament Norway</p>
<p>Guss O'CONNELL Member of Regional Parliament South Dublin, Ireland</p>	<p>Declan O'LOAN Member of Regional Parliament Ballymena, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom</p>
<p>Joe OTTEN Member of Regional Parliament Sheffield, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Laura PUNT Member of Regional Parliament Assen, the Netherlands</p>
<p>Stephen ROBINSON Member of Regional Parliament Essex, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Jean-Louis ROUMÉGAS Member of Parliament France</p>
<p>Eamon RYAN Former Member of Parliament Ireland</p>	<p>Hermes SANCTORUM Member of Regional Parliament Flanders, Belgium</p>
<p>Gea SMITH-BULTS Member of Regional Parliament Drenthe, the Netherlands</p>	<p>Alyn SMITH Member of the European Parliament United Kingdom</p>
<p>Christina-Johanne SCHRÖDER Member of Regional Parliament Wesermarsch, Germany</p>	<p>Robin TEVERSON Member of Parliament United Kingdom</p>
<p>Claude TURMES Member of the European Parliament Luxemburg</p>	<p>Simon THOMAS Member of Regional Parliament Wales, United Kingdom</p>
<p>Stieneke VAN DER GRAAF Member of Regional Parliament Groningen, the Netherlands</p>	<p>Graham WATSON Member of the European Parliament United Kingdom</p>
<p>Alan WHITEHEAD Member of Parliament United Kingdom</p>	<p>Jim WELLS Member of Regional Parliament Northern Ireland, United Kingdom</p>
<p>Bert WOLLANTS Member of Parliament Belgium</p>	<p>Veli YÜKSEL Member of Regional Parliament Belgium</p>