



CPMR ATLANTIC ARC
COMMISSION



CPMR NORTH SEA
COMMISSION

BACKGROUND NOTE

On-field visit of an Offshore Wind Farm in the North Sea

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Wednesday 29 November 2017 (9.45-16.00) - Amsterdam (NL)

- **Morning session:** Noordzeekanaalgebied (North Sea Channel Environment)
Noordersluisweg, 1 - 1975 AM (NL)
- **Afternoon session:** Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre
Stand of the Basque Country

CPMR's Atlantic Arc Commission	
Pays de la Loire Delegation	
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Félix GORINTIN	INNOSEA
Frédéric PRÉVOST	VALEMO SAS
Matthieu BLANDIN	AKROCEAN SAS
Basque Country Delegation	
Iñigo ANSOLA	General Director of the Basque Energy Agency
Marta MARÍN	Head of the Basque Country Office in Brussels
Aitor MINTOGUI	European Affairs Officer at the Basque Country Delegation to the EU
Marcos SUAREZ	Project Manager – Basque Energy Cluster
Yago TORRE-ENCISO	BiMEP test site
Dorleta MARINA	BiMEP test site
CPMR's North Sea Commission	
Vastra-Gotaland Region	
Kerstin BRUNNSTRÖM	Regional Councillor and President of the North Sea Commission
Noord Holland Region	
Jannie PLUIJM	Senior Policy Advisor - Noord Holland Province
Jaap BOND	Member Executive Committee
Peter van DE MEERAKKER	CEO Port of IJmuiden
Jacoba BOLDERHEIJ	CEO Port of Den Helder
Björn BORGERS	Investment Manager North Sea Energy Gateway
Dorothy WINTERS	Programme Manager Offshore Wind, Amsterdam IJmuiden Offshore Ports
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CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission

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I. Introduction

The Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) is an association of 160 regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond. Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory. It operates at EU level both as a think tank and as a lobby for Regions.

The Atlantic Arc Commission (AAC) is one of the six Geographical Commissions in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe. Its action is to answer to specific requirements made by the Atlantic member regions. Among others, the Atlantic Arc Regions advised the Executive Secretariat of the AAC that it would be beneficial for them to meet to share experiences on offshore wind with the North Sea sea-basin where 62% of the EU offshore wind farms are located.

This initiative contributes to a broader international and EU agenda on decarbonization.

II. Legislative frameworks influencing the Atlantic energy sector:

1. International framework

- The **Paris agreement on climate** reached in December 2015 where 195 countries and the EU agreed to hold global warming below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5° C. It entered into force on November 2016 and followed up at COP 22 (2016, Marrakech), COP 23 (2017, Bonn) and next Paris international summit on 12 December 2017.
- The **OSPAR Commission's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy** aims at identifying and assessing the main threats and challenges to the ecosystem in the Region. The Strategy has identified six main thematic objectives where monitoring and evaluation work is being carried out to measure the impacts of policies on the marine environment: one of them in offshore industry.

2. EU legislative framework

a. EU Strategies

This Atlantic Arc/North Sea Commissions' initiative turns into concrete action a number of strategies decided at EU level.

- It contributes to EU's ambition to "become leader when it comes to the fight against climate change", as voiced President Jean-Claude Juncker in his **State of the Union speech**.
- It fits within the **EU Energy Union Strategy** (2015) which highlights the importance of regional cooperation to provide citizens with sustainable, secure and affordable energy.
- It meets the rationale of the **European Integrated Maritime Policy** (2007) which highlights that development of EU maritime industries would benefit from a coordinated and streamlined sea basin level actions.

b. Regulations and Directives

- **The Directive 2009/28/CE** stresses the EU's ambition to reach at least 27% of renewable energy of all energy consumption in the EU as a whole by 2030. The EU asked member states to detail how they plan to meet their targets for renewable energy in their energy mix in "national plans". They would allow manufacturers to anticipate new renewable energy installations.
 - o These targets are currently debatable since the fall of offshore wind technologies cost could help increase the European ambition: [see Euractiv](#)
- **The Directive 2014/89/EU** establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning to promote the sustainable growth of maritime economies and the use of marine resources, ensuring that proper planning is at the root of all marine-based activities, in order to allow for greater synergy between different maritime activities;

- **EU Funds** like H2020, ERDF, EMFF have been financing renewable energy related projects, and will continue to do so in the future.
 - o **Example:** the INTERREG Atlantic Area project named [Atlantic Power Cluster](#) in which CPMR was an active partner. It helped the Regions involved to exploit their renewable energy potential. Through actions such as regional benchmarking study on marine energies, identification of market opportunities, definition of a common strategy to adapt the partner regions workforce etc., the project has proven the benefit of best practices exchange in this specific sector.
 - c. Specific European Commission's Communications related to Offshore Wind and other Marine Renewables in the Atlantic
- **The Commission communication on a Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic (COM(2011) 0782)**, intends to enhance blue economy in Atlantic area, emphasizing on the importance of dialogue and exchange of best practices at a sea-basin level.
- **The Communication on "Offshore Wind Energy: Achieving Energy Policy Objectives for 2020 and Beyond"** [COM (2008) 0768] promotes the development of marine and wind energy at sea in the European Union.
- **The Communication on Blue Growth (COM(2012) 0494)**, launches a joint initiative with Member States, regions, and all relevant stakeholders to unlock the potential of the blue economy.
- **Communication "Blue Energy: Realizing the Potential of Ocean Energy in Europe's Seas and Oceans by 2020 and Beyond"** [COM (2014) 0008] gives an action plan to support the development of ocean energy.

3. National frameworks

a. France:

In France, **the law n ° 2015-992 of August 17, 2015** relating to the Energy Transition for Green Growth establishes a **target of 32%** for the consumption of renewable energy in 2030. Ocean Energy and Offshore wind are seen as a priority sector for low carbon future.

The law also includes the development of a multi-year programming of energy which provides tools for steering the French energy policy and provides a framework that allows the consultation of all stakeholders. The first EPP was approved by decree on October 27, 2016 and will be revised in 2018, then every 5 years.

This plan sets objectives in terms of offshore wind power:

Calendar	Objectives in terms of Power
31 December 2018	500 MW
31 December 2023	3 000 MW

The new French Government recently affirms it will work on simplification of the licensing procedures and developments of marine renewable energies¹.

b. Spain:

National Action Plan for renewable energy 2011-2020 promotes the use of energy from renewable sources, with the objective that renewable sources account for **at least 20%** of final energy consumption in 2020, with a contribution of 10 % of renewable energy in the transport sector. There is a strong regional commitment to develop marine renewables. The test site [BiMEP \(Biscay Marine Energy Platform\)](#) is a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Basque Government to marine and offshore wind energy.

¹ Politiques de la Mer, les attentes des professionnels – Le Télégramme, 21 novembre 2017, [available online](#)

However, since the economic and financial crisis, investments from the Regions to the sector were reduced, due to a decision made by the government to stop feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity which rose its cost.

c. Portugal:

Marine Renewables are embedded in a national energy strategy. There was a strong momentum in the early 2000s but since the economic and financial crisis, the government became more reluctant to provide high subsidies that could support SMEs investment in this sector.

d. Ireland :

Ireland was the first country to put in place a National Integrated Marine Plan (2012), which sets out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions on achieving economic growth in maritime economic activities ([link](#)).

Ireland is working on a reduction of procedures through the so-called "one-stop-shops" where multiple services are offered such as easier permissions on dedicated test sites.

e. UK:

UK electricity market reform (2014) works by offering the opportunity to all capacity providers (new and existing power stations, electricity storage and capacity provided by demand side response) of a steady, predictable revenue stream on which they can base their future investments.

Licensing of wind and marine energy facilitates and coordinates deployment of renewable power plant and protect the environment by creating a stable licensing regime and commissioning of environmental monitoring studies

Scotland is quite advanced in the field of offshore wind. It is also working on the introduction of so-called "one-stop-shops" in [European Marine Energy Centre \(EMEC\)](#) test site. The IDCORE programme provided by the University of Edinburgh is a programme which intends to train world-class industrially focussed research engineers who will, with the help of sponsoring companies, accelerate the deployment of offshore wind, wave and tidal-current technologies. The programme has strong links to industry. <http://www.idcore.ac.uk/>

f. Specificity of the North Sea countries

The North Sea Countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) signed a [political declaration on energy cooperation](#) in June 2016 which sets the objective to facilitate the further cost-effective deployment of offshore renewable energy, in particular wind, through voluntary cooperation. The aim is to ensure a sustainable, secure and affordable energy supply in the North Sea countries, thereby also facilitate further interconnection between North Sea countries.

A High-Level Group on North Seas Energy Cooperation gathers regularly to discuss cooperation in maritime spatial planning, development and regulation of offshore grids and other offshore infrastructures, support framework and finance, standards, technical rules and regulation in the offshore wind sector.

III. Main characteristics of Offshore wind sector in the Atlantic Arc²

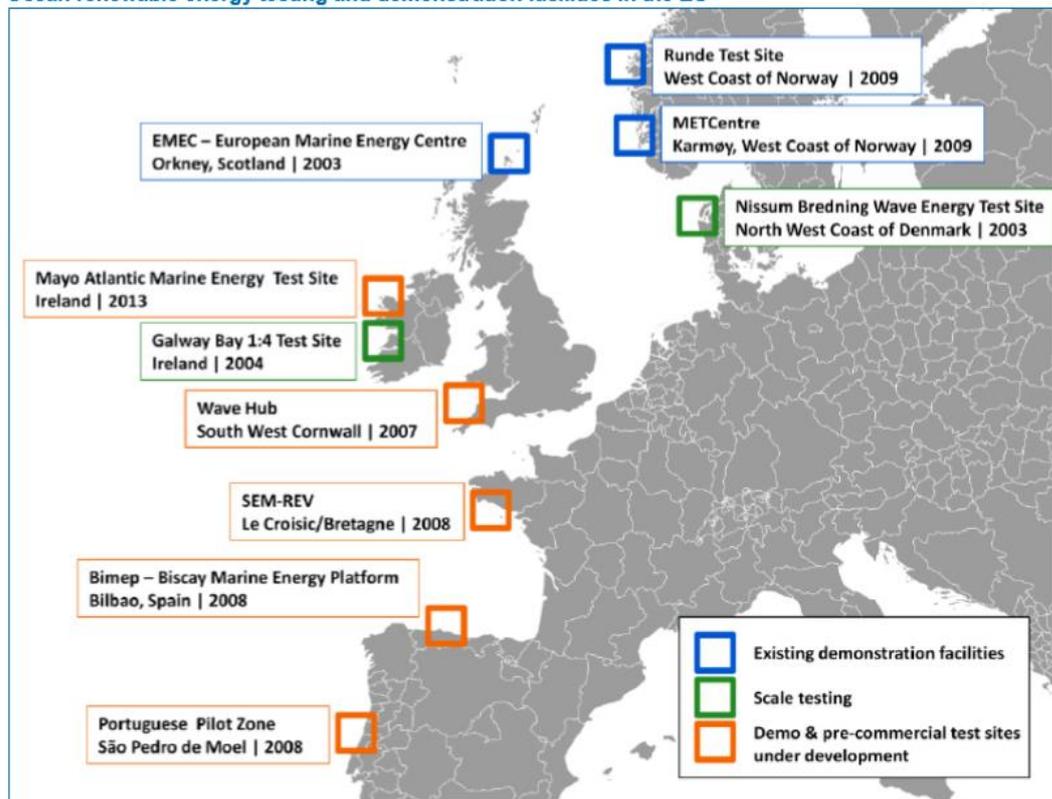
a. Geography

The Atlantic Ocean presents great potential for offshore wind. However, its water depth also represents a major bottleneck for the development of offshore wind capacity at a large scale. The development of floating installations on the longer term may decrease this disadvantage in the future.

The strongest activities in the offshore wind can be found in Ireland (Galway) and the UK (Scottish West Coast) as demonstrated by the following map.

² Study on Deepening Understanding of Potential Blue Growth in the EU Member States on Europe's Atlantic Arc, Ecorys (2013), available online

Ocean renewable energy testing and demonstration facilities in the EU



EU OEA (2012) Position Paper Towards European industrial leadership in OE in 2020 p.13

b. Economic characteristics

State of the art of promising maritime activities in the Atlantic Member States:

Listing promising maritime economic activities at EU Member State level

UK	Ireland	France	Spain	Portugal
Blue biotechnology	Ocean Renewable Energy	Ocean Renewable Energy	Ocean renewable energy	Blue Biotechnology
Offshore wind	Blue Biotechnology	Blue Biotechnology	Blue Biotechnology	Ocean renewable energy
Ocean renewable energy	Environmental monitoring	Marine minerals mining	Desalination	Environmental monitoring
Environmental monitoring	Offshore wind	Shipbuilding	Marine minerals mining	Offshore wind
Shipbuilding	Yachting & marinas	Offshore oil & gas	Offshore wind	Marine minerals mining
Offshore oil & gas	Cruise tourism	Environmental monitoring	Environmental monitoring	Offshore oil & gas
Cruise tourism	Coastal protection	Maritime surveillance	Maritime surveillance	Shipbuilding

Note: Cells in colour represent maritime economic activities which are prominent in all countries

Source: Ecorys, 2013

Atlantic regions benefit from **strong port facilities, deep sea engineering and skilled workforce**, notably stemming from their competitive shipbuilding or offshore oil and gas, to support the expanding offshore wind power sector. As an example, the cruiser builder STX France and DCNS look for opportunity in the wind energy sector. In Portugal, the decline of the shipbuilding sector prompted industries to develop sophisticated vessels and platforms like Windfloat platform, in Setubal.

However, there is insufficient number of skilled workforce able to carry out such work for Small and Medium Size companies. Manufacturing of turbines, installation and maintenance of power plant is mainly done by companies which have experience in related technologies and which have skilled workforce able to handle the difficulties of working on the sea. **Local SMEs are struggling to attract skilled people** due to fierce competition by big companies in the offshore sectors.

IV. Work of the CPMR’s Commissions

a. Atlantic Arc Commission

- The Atlantic Arc Commission Secretariat has developed **key political messages** on marine renewables:

Atlantic Arc Commission’s political position of 2014 develops three necessary policy recommendations for an integrated development of the Marine Renewable Energy Sector along the Atlantic shores:

- 1) Financial aid in two areas: Research and development, and grid connection of MREs
- 2) Establishing a sustainable framework that facilitates the development of MRE by ensuring visibility and legal stability for the next 15 years
- 3) Developing, promoting and harmonising professional training for jobs needed for the installation and maintenance of offshore MRE farms

- **Map of Marine Renewable Energies** in the Atlantic Arc Regions - Atlantic Arc Commission Secretariat: [map online](#)
- Minute of the Atlantic Arc Commission’s Marine Renewable Energies Working Group: [available online](#). Regions agreed to promote the Atlantic Arc as an area of great potential to welcome marine renewable energies.
- The Atlantic Arc Commission has developed a table of main regional competences in the Atlantic Arc on Energy: [available online](#)

PORTUGAL	SPAIN	FRANCE	IRELAND	UK
For continental Regions, coastal zones depend on the Regional Hydrographic Administration that develops coastal development plans in a joint coordinated manner with two national institutes (INC for nature and biodiversity and APA for national waters).	The regional authorities have jurisdiction over coastal areas and the territory, while the State retains jurisdiction over the maritime field. Regions are also in charge of promoting regional economic development	Promotion of economic development in its territory. Coordination of actions for economic development (defining the system of economic aid for companies, and preparing a regional planning and development scheme). Organisation of professional training to meet the needs of the Regions Drawing up of a Regional “Climate-Air-Energy” Plan	Competence is currently being reviewed, to provide a streamlined approval process for both onshore and offshore installations. Development in the inshore area is the responsibility of local authorities. At regional level, Regional Assemblies will produce Regional Economic and Spatial Development Strategies.	In Scotland, “Marine Scotland” is a directorate of the Scottish Government, which is the competent authority and grants authorisation for maritime project development.

b. North Sea Commission

- Position on Energy Package “Clean Energy for all Europeans”, approved by the CPMR North Sea Commission Annual Business Meeting 28 June 2017 - Göttingen, Germany : [available online](#)
- Leaflet on energy cooperation in the North Sea, provided by email

V. Potential areas of work with the North Sea Regions:

Even though the States have jurisdiction over the marine space in all the countries of the Atlantic Arc, regions can contribute to the sector development by:

- Carrying out territorial diagnosis through Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3)
- Supporting education and training in new economic sector
- Financing projects of cooperation at EU, national, regional, transnational levels
- Supporting research and innovation
- Supporting companies/business development
- Favours social acceptance through local debates and consultations

The North Sea Energy Declaration and its replication in the Atlantic could also be tackled, as well as the specific issue of Brexit on energy cooperation.

These thematic areas or more to be addressed could be subject to exchanges of best practices during the on-field visit on 29 November.



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160 Regions from 25 States of the European Union and beyond.**

Representing nearly 200 million citizens, the CPMR works to promote
a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a *think tank* and a lobby for the Regions.
Its main objective is focused on social, economic and territorial cohesion,
maritime policy and accessibility.

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