



Working document for the meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission Marine Renewable Energy Working Group

21 April 2015 - Brussels

This working document will help clarifying **the context** in which the meeting of the Marine Renewable Energy Working Group of the Atlantic Arc Commission will take place next 21st April 2015. It can be used as a “reminder” of what has been done so far by this group so as to decide what should be done in the future.

This document will focus on three important elements:

- I. The Atlantic Arc Commission Final Declaration adopted in Bilbao (ES) last 18 March 2015
- II. The Atlantic Arc Commission position on Marine Renewable Energy adopted in Umea (SE) last 25 October 2014
- III. The European Commission Action Plan for the Atlantic Maritime Strategy adopted in May 2013

I. Messages on Marine Renewable Energies and Maritime industries in the Atlantic Arc Commission Final Declaration Bilbao 2015

This Final declaration adopted unanimously by the Atlantic Arc Commission General Assembly in Bilbao 17/18 March 2015. This document is available on line: www.arcatlantique.org

Marine Renewable Energies were mentioned in two out of six messages:

Third message: “The Atlantic Arc Commission expects the Juncker Plan to fund large structuring projects in the Atlantic Regions. The Atlantic Arc Commission already has proposals to submit, in particular in the marine leisure, energy efficiency, maritime industries and marine renewable energies sectors.”

Fourth message: “The Atlantic Arc Commission calls on the EU to set up an integrated industrial maritime strategy. Indeed, there is a real potential in terms of growth and jobs in maritime industries in the Atlantic regions which should be supported at the European level.”

Questions to be raised during our meeting:

- Do member Regions know about regional / national projects would could be financed via the new mechanism established by the Juncker Plan?
- Would it make sense to suggest MRE projects to be financed by this mechanism? At the transnational scale? (Demonstrators, wiring, grid interconnectivity, etc.)?
- What are the needs?

*II. Sum up of the Atlantic Arc Commission position on Marine Renewable Energies:
“Marine Renewables Energies: Sources of growth for the Atlantic Regions”*

This note, prepared in the framework of the Atlantic Arc Commission Marine Renewable Energy Group, was approved by the Atlantic Arc Commission on 24 September 2014

Cf. www.arcatlantique.org

Objective of the document:

- First, this document is a reaction to the Communication on Blue Energy which puts forward the assets of the Atlantic Regions that can enable them to become leaders in MRE development in Europe.
- Secondly, the Atlantic Arc Commission members also aim to establish policy recommendations from the Regions’ point of view in order to ease the rapid deployment of MREs along the Atlantic façade.
- Finally, the Atlantic Arc Commission wishes to contribute to the Ocean Energy Forum (2014-2016) with regard to the preparation of the strategic roadmap on ocean energies which will be released by the end of 2016.

Structure of the document:

1. What role can the Atlantic Arc Regions play in the development of MRE in Europe?
 - The Atlantic Arc Regions are essential actors to ensure the successful development of the marine renewable energy sector in Europe.
2. What are the reactions of the Atlantic Arc Commission’s member Regions on the European Commission’s Communication on Ocean energy?
 - The Atlantic Arc Commission expresses its satisfaction after the publication of the European Commission’s Communication on ocean energy, the first sector-specific Communication for this type of energy. The Atlantic Arc Commission also welcomes the setting up of the Ocean Energy Forum aiming to collect proposals and opinions from the different actors within the sector between 2014 and 2016.
3. What are the policy recommendations for the future?
 - a) Financial aid in two essential areas: Research and development, and grid connection of MREs
 - b) Establishing a sustainable framework that facilitates the development of MRE by ensuring visibility and legal stability for the next 15 years
 - c) Developing, promoting and harmonising professional training for jobs needed for the installation and maintenance of offshore MRE farms

Questions to be raised during our meeting:

- Shall we draft a new position / benchmarking document / technical note of the Atlantic Arc Commission in the perspective of COP 21 (Paris, December 2015)?
- How to capitalize on this document to go further and be identified as an important player in the MRE sector?

III. Objectives regarding the development of Marine Renewable Energies in the Atlantic Action Plan

The Action plan of the Atlantic Strategy was adopted by the European Commission last 13 May 2013 and endorsed by the Council in June 2013 (General Council conclusions).

www.ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/atlantic_ocean/documents/com_2013_279_en.pdf

Introduction:

“The marine and maritime sectors that make up the 'blue economy' have the potential to provide 7 million jobs in Europe by 2020. These jobs will be found not only in emerging sectors, such as **offshore renewable energy**, but also through revitalising traditional maritime industries. The Atlantic area can make a significant contribution to this 'blue growth’”.

Marine Renewable Energies are directly mentioned in two out four priorities:

Priority 2: Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment

There are four specific objectives developed on this priority, the last one being focused on exploiting the potential of renewable energy:

- i. Improving maritime safety and security;
- ii. Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones;
- iii. Sustainable management of marine resources;
- iv. Exploitation of the **renewable energy potential** of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment.

Within this last specific objective (iv), the EC wants to “Consider ways to **accelerate the deployment of sustainable offshore renewable energy by**”:

- a) Encouraging assessment and mapping of the potential of the European Atlantic Ocean's energy resource and determining how to mitigate the environmental and navigational impact of the construction, operation and decommissioning of installations as part of regional Smart Specialisation Strategies for offshore renewable energy;
- b) Contributing to a European electricity transmission system that allows the balancing of loads between national systems and provides better links between offshore and onshore energies;
- c) Promoting research, development and demonstration of technologies for the construction and maintenance of renewable energy installations for offshore wind, wave, tidal and biomass energies including integration with desalination plants and multipurpose offshore platforms;
- d) Encouraging the harnessing of the special geological, oceanographic and meteorological conditions of the Outermost Regions of the Atlantic in order to help them achieve energy self-sufficiency and meet carbon emission reduction targets.

Priority 3: Improve accessibility and connectivity

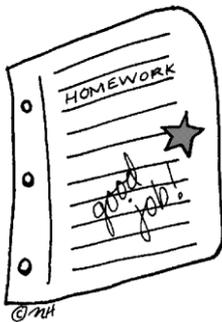
There is only one specific objective for this priority: “*promoting cooperation between ports: Facilitating the development of ports as hubs of the blue economy*”. Under this priority, point b mentions renewable energy:

- b) “Enabling ports to diversify into new business activities such as the maintenance of offshore renewable energy installations or tourism”;

Questions to be raised during our meeting:

- Are these priorities still relevant?
- Should we suggest any other priority/ sub-priority to be added for the 2016 revision of the Action Plan?
- How can we show that together, the Regions are implementing this Action Plan?

“Homework” for the Member Regions participating to this working group:



We kindly ask all participants to prepare some answers for the meeting of 21st April 2015 (Brussels) so as to move forward quite rapidly. The next European/international steps are:

- A strategic roadmap on ocean energies which will be released by the end of 2016 (European Commission / Ocean Energy Forum)
- The next United Nations Conference on Climate “COP 21” will take place in Paris in December 2015
- The Atlantic Action Plan will be reviewed in 2016

Should your Region not be able to participate in that meeting, please send us a **written contribution** as soon as possible (ideally before 21st April).