
TASK FORCE FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND POWER

In cooperation with



First meeting 2021 of the task force “Floating offshore wind power: technologies and policies. The Mediterranean case study”, organized in cooperation with Wind Europe.

Details

Date: March 9, 2021

Participants:

- **Ivan Pineda** – Director of Public Affairs, Wind Europe
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- **Francesco Leva** – Technical support personnel at the Sicilian Regional Energy Department
- **Manuel Sapiano** – CEO, The Energy & Water Agency Ministry for Energy and Water Management, Malta
- **John Paul Ellul** – Senior Coordinator, MMH Malta Limited
- **George Alexakis** – Vice Governor for European and International Affairs, Region of Crete, Greece
- **Lizet Ramirez** – Analyst Offshore Wind, Wind Europe
- **Mattia Cecchinato** – Offshore & Sustainability Analyst, Wind Europe
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- **Kyriakos Gialoglou** – Director of European Government Affairs, Seawind Ocean
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Minutes

Key inputs on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive and permitting process on islands

- Increase local competences to approve projects and speed up process;
- Simplify the number of administrations involved;
- Provide more transparency on information (e.g. maritime spatial plans, procedures, guidelines to submit projects);
- Give clarity on the envelope permitted (e.g. distance from shore, exclusivity);
- Set the scheduling for auctions and work backwards the improvements to meet it;
- Collaborate to engage the stakeholders as early as possible;
- Collaboration between island authorities and developers to share these messages with central Governments.

Feedback from the islands

- Canary Islands
 - Decarbonization target by 2040, so forced to generate power offshore;





- Regional government in charge of MSP;
- 890MW of offshore wind projects are already under authorization with previous national decree;
- 500MW of floating offshore wind could happen before 2030 and 2GW in 2040.
- Crete
 - Significant wind energy potential;
 - Better acceptance of offshore than inland wind power;
 - National or regional plans for MSP are not yet available;
 - Open to pilots for testing locations, licensing procedures and investor remuneration schemes.
- Sicily
 - Wind is already the most important renewable source and could be increased – also with floating offshore – to meet the target of 70% energy needs coverage with RES by 2030;
 - Central government is in charge for offshore wind and the authorization process remains long and complicated with many concessions and certificates needed;
 - The best areas for wind power production are far away from the shore so floating is the best solution.
 - First floating offshore wind farm under development (MeDWos project);
 - Still facing popular rejection but offshore wind can be better accepted.
- Malta
 - Sea waters in Malta are deep at a short distance from the shore, so floating would be a good solution;
 - Stability in the grid and security of supply are critical so increased storage capacity would be needed;
 - Interested in the cross border RES initiative.

Opportunities

- Moving towards a decentralized systems for grid application, planning and construction;
- Transparency and flexibility from islands governments can help permitting;
- Coexistence of floating wind farms with nature and the fishing sector is possible, there are good examples (e.g. South Korea);
- After 12 NM from shore the wind turbines disappear from sight;
- Floating offshore wind power is becoming cheaper, could reach 40-60€/MWh by 2030;



- Early engagement of stakeholders and local communities (e.g. fishing industry) is very important;
- Floating offshore wind can contribute to the creation of highly qualified jobs;
- Islands can be used as testbeds for new business models and to speed up permitting;
- Cross-border projects are in sight of the CEF funding by the EC and they can move forward when they become Projects of Common Interest.

Challenges

- Many islands/states do not have MSP available at this time;
- 3 years to get a permit is not enough to reach the decarbonization goals;
- Not enough permitting at present to reach net-zero, 10 times more would be necessary to reach 70GW in the southern Europe seas by 2050, meaning 2GW per year in the next decade;
- Too many entities are involved in the permitting process;
- Often MSPs are decided by central governments in the capitals with little involvement of the islands;
- The technology is making its market entry so its costs are still relatively higher;
- The storage capacities of islands need to be increased alongside higher penetration of RES like offshore wind.

Next Steps

- To discuss MSPs in the task force and support their timely availability, exploring how to speed up private projects already in the pipeline even if the full framework is not ready;
- To establish a stable dialogue with central governments and build recommendations with Wind Europe and the islands in the task force disseminating the potential of islands as testbeds for the technology and the authorization process;
- To map the authorization processes and the entities involved in the islands;
- To bring the focus on auctions and remuneration schemes.
- To continue discussing the topics advanced by the task force on the GTI App (available on desktop and mobile) Task Force Forum.

