

Support Group 4

Input paper for NSEC Ministerial Meeting

Support Group 4, 'Delivering 2050', is a newly formed support group under the new NSEC Work Programme (2020-2022). The group discussed its scope and its deliverables, with a special focus on national 2050 visions and scenarios of the North Seas countries, including the role of hydrogen.

Scope of SG4

- We agree that it is important to start developing a common long-term vision for the North Seas offshore renewables potential as early as possible;
- The work undertaken by SG4 will provide input for the EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy;
- We recognise substantial coordination efforts are required to optimise the work flows of the different groups. Special attention will be given to spatial planning and to grid planning, by offering a platform where different stakeholders can come together;
- We recognise that the coordination with SG1 and SG3 needs to be strengthened and meetings might be organised back to back whenever appropriate;
- We recognise that long-term planning contains many uncertain elements and that short term (infrastructure) developments need to fit in the long term vision.

2050 Analysis

- We recognise that working towards delivering 2050 requires a certain level of understanding of what the energy system in 2050 could or will look like. That is why SG4 started to look into the different and shared national and EU expectations and assumptions for 2050. Depending on available financial resources, an analysis looking into the different national analyses and scenarios could provide more insight into no regret measures on the way towards 2050 and into uncertainties that require further discussion, an aggregated offshore generation trajectory 2030-2050 for the North Seas region and the role offshore wind plays in meeting energy demand;
- The results of the study "The long term energy scenarios in Penta countries" are a valuable first input for the analysis
- We aim to build on this work by broadening the geographical scope and focusing more in-depth on issues relevant for offshore (wind) energy;
- The results of the study would feed into the further work of SG4 with a particular focus on the road towards 2050, as well as for the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy.

Hydrogen

- We acknowledge the potential of hydrogen as an important player in the future energy system. As one option to integrate large volumes of volatile offshore wind electricity up to 2050 into a stable energy system year-round, in particular for the decarbonisation of transport, heat and industry, hydrogen is an important point of attention for SG4;
- We recognise that there are many possibilities and uncertainties to the potential of hydrogen, the locations of electrolyzers and storage, the infrastructure connections between production and demand centers (both on- and offshore), the financing needs and the accounting rules under RED II;
- The paper 'Hydrogen and Offshore Energy' will be further worked out and finalised at an expert workshop exploring the possibilities of hydrogen and offshore at the end of 2020

Long term grid planning

- We recognise the work done by ENTSO-E on long term grid planning and their intention to give a special focus to offshore grid planning and continue to exchange views to develop a holistic view;
- We recognise the need for balanced stakeholder involvement and agree to work on a stakeholder management plan for both offshore and onshore grid planning, in close cooperation with the other support groups, especially SG2.

Exchanging best practices in communicating the societal value of grid expansion

- We recognise the importance of communicating the societal value of grid expansion in order to realise the vast deployment of offshore (wind) energy. SG4 agrees to start working on this specific challenge after the summer break.