MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-1)**

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 5. Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

**Subject: Energy in the Wadden Sea**

**Document No.: TG-M 21-5/5**

**Date: 17 December 2021**

**Submitted by: Germany and the Netherlands**

This document contains a proposal on dealing with the energy topic in the trilateral cooperation

**Proposal:** The group is invited to discuss the document and agree on proposed steps

# **Review and monitor impact of renewable energy production**

*Background*

In the Leeuwarden declaration the following was agreed: *“Instruct the Wadden Sea Board to review and monitor the impacts of renewable energy production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and to consider measures to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts by looking for best environmental practices also with the aim of developing, for example, related common principles to evaluate the impact of high-voltage power cables in the Wadden Sea Area in close consultation with the responsible bodies and stakeholders”.* Few steps have been taken since this agreement.

The landing of electricity is a political relevant topic in the Netherlands, more activity is expected as the wind farms on the North Sea will accelerate and cooperation between the Wadden Sea countries exists at other levels (for example in order to land electricity production from each other[[1]](#footnote-1)). Also, the landing of electricity can be seen as the start of various other (technical) challenges. In order to meet the Paris agreement, we might also see crossing of H2O-pipelines through the Wadden Sea and/or transport and storage of CCS. Maintenance might increase the pressure on the Wadden Sea.

On the implementation all countries will run to similar problems. There is a risk of different implementation of the mitigation measures from the bird and habitats directive[[2]](#footnote-2). Also, we are not at similar starting points. Lower Saxony has various energy corridors and is experienced with landing electricity. In the Netherlands discussions are ongoing, whereas scientific advisers have different views on routing than partially applied in Lower Saxony. Denmark expects no more landing of electricity in the near future, but is looking for Germany and Netherlands to further implement North Sea wind energy cooperation.

*Proposal*

Energy production is also a subject in the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP). Within the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, the members share a responsibility for preserving the Outstanding Universal Value and habitats and species according to EU directives. In relation to the landing of electricity, this creates a complex dilemma. Wind Farms at sea are needed in order to mitigate climate change and preserve the Wadden Sea, but the infrastructural projects might create damage on the short and longer term.

The topic would serve as a good first topic to experiment with and try to make the SIMP operational. Therefore, a small budget has been made available for 2022 with the intend of bring the topic forward ahead of the ministerial declaration, but in line with the agreements made in the Leeuwarden declaration.

Therefore it is proposed;

1. To establish an ad-hoc working group renewable energy production;
2. The group will be asked to provide a proposal on how the trilateral cooperation can act on this topic and main questions are:
   1. How can we better exchange best practices and information on the impact side?
   2. How can we better exchange best practices and information on the mitigation side?
   3. What are the most important open research questions?
   4. What role can the trilateral wadden sea cooperation play in advising on the possibilities in regard to routing?
   5. What role can and should the trilateral wadden sea cooperation play in regards to the supergrid planning?
3. The group will additionally be asked to work out how the budget can contribute best to the topic.
4. Membership: One from each region (NL,LS,SH,DK)

1. [European contractors unite in bid to build world’s first energy island | New Civil Engineer](https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/european-contractors-unite-in-bid-to-build-worlds-first-energy-island-07-12-2021/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Page 52 ; [EN.pdf (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/pdf/methodological-guidance_2021-10/EN.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)