

Offshore Wind

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening virtually on 11-12 June 2021:

Notes that:

- starting initially with a small test site in the North Sea, the offshore wind sector has evolved into a European success story;
- offshore wind is an example of European leadership;
- offshore wind is able to provide a vast amount of cheap, renewable, and stable energy, and is one of the central elements in the shift towards a decarbonised Europe;
- deployment of offshore wind has been increasing over the years, driven by the ambition to decarbonise and high competitiveness of the private sector;
- the current permitting process for offshore wind parks provides uncertainty to the developers, and often provides setbacks in form of unnecessarily long delays;
- private investment has been an important driver in offshore wind progress and will continue to play an important role in the sector going forward;
- the required investments will reach magnitudes of 500 billion Euros across the EU to cover the connections of both offshore and onshore wind farms to the consumers, and the increase in need for cross-border electricity transmission.

Believes that:

- Europe needs to up the pace of offshore energy deployment as one of the sustainable energy resources if we want to combat climate change and increase the share of renewable energy making Europe less dependable on fossil sources;
- offshore wind holds the potential to contribute radically to the European Green Transition;
- EU leadership in the offshore wind sector has to be preserved as it will become a strong contributor to the European economy through products and technology export, and creation of jobs;
- the current deployment pace of offshore wind is not strong enough and a change of gear is necessary if we are to reach the goal of the EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy;
- a special role needs to be reserved for ports in the EU's offshore renewable energy strategy through modernising them and ensuring that they take advantage of the new business opportunities for the assembly, production and maintenance of offshore energy installations;

Resolution:

Offshore Wind

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

1

- legislative efforts to foster the best conditions for rolling out the required capacity is needed for the EU to make the most use of its strong advantages of offshore renewable energy;
- green energy and biodiversity objectives should not be pitted against each other, but practical ways should be found to achieve them, thereby making it easier to realise the offshore energy potential more quickly in practice and ensuring concrete maritime spatial planning, also taking into account people's desire to preserve the marine landscape, the growing potential of eco-tourism and demands to preserve the attractiveness of natural surroundings;
- in order to ensure the continued interest in offshore wind, the regulatory frameworks governing offshore renewable energy must provide certainty and clarity for investors;
- the rules we set in place must facilitate the most effective use of our energy capacity and avoid the unnecessary curtailing of energy;
- investments will not only be needed in the deployment of offshore wind parks but also in the infrastructure needed to support the transmission of the increasing amounts of electricity produced;
- the conversion of renewable electricity into clean hydrogen and its derivatives (PtX) can foster sector integration, provide enhanced security of supply and seasonal storage, reduce system costs by balancing electricity grid expansion and provide clean fuels;
- the revision of state aid rules should allow for national instruments aiming to increase the share of offshore wind energy;
- it is of critical importance to ensure an internal energy market where cheap and clean offshore energy can flow freely.

Calls upon its members to:

- make a push toward improving the conditions for rolling out the required capacity in the European Parliament, and in the Council as well as in the individual member states;
- work on securing that relevant legislative acts and financial tools reflect the huge infrastructure needs and facilitate anticipatory investments and encourage technical innovations.

Calls for the European states to:

- remove excessive bureaucracy that hinders actual progress;
- increase the public and private investment for research and development in support of sustainable development and environment-friendly technologies, renewable energy in general;
- harmonise national permitting procedures across member states in order to simplify the work required to deploy projects across borders;

Resolution:

Offshore Wind

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

2

- harmonise overlapping regulations and directives such as the Maritime Spatial Planning directive and the National Energy and Climate Plans regulation;
- reconsider the distribution of income between developers and transmission system operators;
- reconsider the regulatory regime regulating hybrid projects to account for the particularities of this new project type;
- eliminate the market distorting mechanism that prevent the successful introduction of offshore renewable energy.

Resolution:

Offshore Wind

Year and Congress:

eCongress, June 2021

Category:

Agriculture,
Environment and
Energy

Page:

3