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Brussels in brief

ENTSO-E 10-year grid development plan must make 2020 RES target achievable

The EU grid operators' draft ten year grid development plan is vital for ensuring the successful development of a pan-European power network, but several crucial points must be added by the plans' authors, says EWEA.

In March ENTSO-E launched a public consultation on a draft version of its first 'Ten Year Network Development Plan' - or TYNDP - for the development of Europe's electricity network. In its response to ENTSO-E's consultation, EWEA stresses the need to align the plan's assumptions with achieving the EU 2020 20% RES target.

"The European Commission has stated that to achieve the target of 20% renewables by 2020, 34% of electricity will need to come from renewable sources", says Paul Wilczek, EWEA Regulatory Affairs Advisor. "Yet ENTSO-E's scenario assumes only about 25.5% of the electricity demand will come from renewables, completely missing the 2020 RES target. They need to make their scenario consistent with the EU binding targets".

EWEA also argues that as soon as they are published by the end of June, the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs), must be incorporated into the first TYNDP. The EU 2020 targets must not be undermined by the inadequate grid enhancements projected in the TYNDP. EWEA is therefore pressing for an updated TYNDP to be published no later than end 2010.

EWEA also argues that the plan should include a set of priority projects, more extensive future projects, and a time table to concretise the plan and make it into a longer-term document. It should feature realistic market growth for the wind industry based on EWEA's baseline target of 230 GW by 2020, and always take into account the need to work towards an internal electricity market.

ENTSO-E is planning on publishing a final version of its first TYNDP in June this year, taking into account the responses received during the consultation.

[Read the draft TYNDP](#)
[Read EWEA's response](#)

100% renewables in Europe by 2050, says industry

Europe will be running on 100% renewable energy by 2050, according to a newly-released vision document from the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC).

The vision document, entitled 'RE-thinking 2050', outlines a pathway towards a 100% renewable energy system for the EU as the only sustainable option in economic, environmental and social terms, and examines the effects it will have on Europe's energy supply and on its carbon emissions. One of the largest increases in output is predicted to come from wind.

EREC President Arthouros Zervos pointed out "the potential benefits of a future based on renewable energy are multiple: mitigating climate change, ensuring energy security and creating sustainable future-oriented jobs".

According to 'RE-thinking 2050', the EU will be able to reduce its energy related CO2 emissions by more than 90% compared to 1990 emissions if it reaches 100% renewables. It will also benefit from the many jobs created - 6.1 million by 2050, EREC says - and the security of knowing its energy supply is guaranteed.

Two other recently-released roadmaps have also looked ahead to Europe's energy supply in 2050. The ['Policy Roadmap to 2050'](#) by combined researchers argues that 100% renewables in Europe and North Africa is possible by then, while the European Climate Foundation's ['Roadmap 2050'](#) explores scenarios with 100%, 80%, 60% and 40% renewable energy.

[Read EREC's vision document](#)

Kriegers Flak study favours combining offshore wind farm grid connections

Having grid connections double up as interconnectors is the most technically efficient and economically sound way of linking the wind farms being planned at Kriegers Flak in the Baltic Sea to the electricity network - known as the 'Combined Grid Solution (CGS)'. That's according to a recently published feasibility study on the different grid connection options open to the three offshore projects. The results of the feasibility study are summarised below:

- The CGS is the preferred solution from a technical and cost perspective
- Cost benefit analysis shows a positive net benefit for a CGS compared to radial grid connections
- The benefits generated by the CGS are more favourable than for the other technical solutions
- The CGS would pose some challenges for the existing market rules and national regulations in the three countries.
- Permission procedures for CGS are expected to take between two and three years
- The CGS is a very flexible solution and can be implemented in a step-wise manner



"The study has found that compared to a classic solution whereby each farm would be connected to the relevant country only - Denmark, Sweden and Germany - there are significant cost benefits to be had by adopting the so-called 'combined' solution", explains Paul Wilczek, EWEA Regulatory Affairs Advisor. "For example, it will allow more electricity through congested parts of the grid, which will increase the amount of offshore wind power to consumers with all the economic, security of supply and environmental benefits that entails".

The Project Partners 50Hertz Transmission, Energinet.dk, and Svenska Kraftnät have been investigating different technical concepts for connecting offshore wind farms (OWFs) at Kriegers Flak in the Baltic Sea - Kriegers Flak 1 in Germany, Kriegers Flak 2 in Sweden, and Kriegers Flak 3 in Denmark.

The study estimates that the combined solution could begin operation from mid-2016.

[Read the feasibility study](#)

European Wind Integration Study on right lines, but key elements missing

EWEA welcomed many aspects of the recent European Wind Integration Study (EWIS) report, which examines how to efficiently accommodate wind generation, ensure energy supplies remain secure, maintain the quality and reliability of supplies, and achieve efficient network costs. The overall aim of EWIS is to examine how best to accommodate wind generation on a large scale up to 2015, from the perspective of European transmission system operators.

EWEA welcomed the acknowledgement in the report by the European transmission system operators of the benefits of large-scale integration of wind energy: avoided fuel costs and CO2 emissions, improved energy security, and wealth benefits through job creation in Europe. As a result, EWIS has sought to identify what needs to happen in the short term for such benefits to be achieved in practise from a TSO perspective.

The report, called 'Towards a successful Integration of large scale wind power into European electricity grids', highlights that the energy markets lack the appropriate infrastructure, and that they are too nationally orientated instead of being linked between regions, creating higher energy supply risks and prices.

"However, the EWIS study mentions the net benefits of interconnections solely in terms of a smoother integration of wind power, and fails to consider that the real benefit from an economic, environmental and security of supply perspective only emerges when we move from looking at the individual projects in isolation towards looking at how to provide grid access to projects in combination, pointed out Paul Wilczek, EWEA Regulatory Affairs Advisor.

Overall, EWEA believes EWIS needs to focus more on longer-term grid measures with the 2020 targets in mind, and network solutions that are truly pan-European.

The consortium of TSOs carried out the European Wind Integration Study (EWIS) between 2007 and 2009, financed by the European Commission, and provided the final draft report at the beginning of December 2009. The study was published in April 2010.

[Read EWIS' report](#)

[Read EWEA's comments on EWIS' report](#)

European Council supports 2020 growth strategy

EU ministers agreed to the key elements of the European Commission's suggested 2020 strategy for sustainable growth at their recent meeting. These included incorporating the 20% renewables target into the 2020 strategy, called 'EUROPE 2020: A New European Strategy for Jobs and Growth', improving the conditions for research and development, bringing research funding to 3% of GDP and improving education levels.

The 2020 strategy will be formally adopted in June 2010.

[Read the European Council conclusions](#)

EU to move forward with climate change commitment

Reiterating its commitment to the UN climate summit process, ministers at the recent European Council declared they would produce the €2.4 billion per year to help tackle climate the EU promised at the Copenhagen meeting, alongside consultations on how best to use the money.

The Council stressed the short time left before COP16 in Cancun and emphasised that the next fixtures in Bonn should take negotiations forward. COP16 itself should “at least provide concrete decisions anchoring the Copenhagen Accord to the UN negotiating process and addressing remaining gaps” including adaptation, forestry, technology and monitoring, reporting and verification.

[Read the European Council conclusions](#)



Commission to publish energy proposals in 2010

In its recent 2010 work programme, the European Commission announced it would publish key energy proposals this year, including:

- A public consultation on a 2050 roadmap
- An energy infrastructure package
- An Impact Assessment on moving beyond 20% GHG reductions (and possible subsequent legislation)

The public consultation, expected to be launched over the summer will, according to the Commission, seek to identify the steps necessary to attain a low carbon energy system by 2050. This will allow the Commission to publish, perhaps early in 2011, an Energy Action Plan for 2011-2020 and a Roadmap for 2050.

The infrastructure package will consist of, amongst other things, a Communication on Energy Infrastructure Development for the 2020/30 horizon, a paper on energy infrastructure, an outline of preparations for a blue print for an offshore grid in the Northern Seas of Europe, a report on the state of play of smart grids, and an analysis of the investments needed to reach the 20% 2020 renewables target.

The Impact Assessment will consist of an analysis of the measures needed to step beyond 20% emission reduction by 2020, in view of de-carbonisation objectives for 2050.

Pending the outcome of the analysis, the Commission may possibly take the initiative to propose an emission reduction target beyond the current 20% by 2020.

[Read the European Commission's 2010 work programme](#)

Potential of RES flexibility mechanisms examined

A recently published analysis, commissioned by the Nordic Working Group for Renewable Energy, of the flexible support mechanisms (“Flex-Mex”) in the Renewable Energy Directive emphasises the need for EU countries to carefully explore how the Flex-Mex could complement or supplement their domestic actions, for example by carrying out test projects.

The aim of the Flex-Mex is to help countries reach their renewables targets by working together, for example by statistical transfer or by hosting joint renewables projects, but as yet there is little information on how much the Member States will rely on Flex-Mex to meet their RES targets, hence the report’s recommendation.

The report, published by the Nordic Working Group for Renewable Energy and focusing in detail on the Nordic countries, also recommends that “countries that potentially could host projects establish clear rules for project developers and potential buyers on how to invest in the projects” and work together on energy issues.

The report highlights that there is not yet information how much the EU Member States will rely on RES Flex-Mex in reaching their national RES targets’ or which countries will be actively hosting joint projects or exceeding their national targets and selling renewable production through statistical transfer.

Please contact Jacopo Moccia on jm@ewea.org for more information.

EIB outlines plans to 2012

Over the next three years, the European Investment Bank (EIB) will work with the European Commission to develop a new support facility for investment in renewables and energy efficiency projects. Overall, the bank aims for a minimum of just 20% of EU energy lending to go to renewables projects.

The outlined plans are presented in the EIB’s newly released Corporate Operational Plan 2010-2012.

[Read the Corporate Operational Plan 2010-2012](#)

EWEA and events

Get ready to give Europe the fresh air it needs



EWEA will launch its exciting new campaign next week at EWEC 2010. Entitled ‘Breath of fresh air’, the year-long campaign is designed to spread a positive and fun message about wind energy. The campaign has a dedicated website: www.ewea.org/freshair.

"We want our whole industry to communicate clearly, simply and with one voice about the benefits of wind energy. So we have developed a range of materials which we have made available to EWEA members on our website", explained Elke Zander, EWEA's Campaign Officer.

The key elements of the campaign are an advert with striking and memorable images associated with fresh breath - toothpaste, mints and chewing gum - but labelled 'wind'.

To get people involved and spread the campaign messages of the benefits wind can bring, there is an interactive game that anyone and everyone will be able to play online.

"The idea is you can adopt a wind turbine anywhere in Europe via a web-based map, get your friends to vote for it, and maybe even win a holiday!" says Zander.

All EWEA members are encouraged to take part in and support the campaign. All campaign materials are available in the Members Lounge for members to adapt and use. See all the campaign components, how to use them and how EWEA can help you in our campaign handbook [in section 5: 'Influence policy' of EWEA's members' lounge](#). (You will need to log onto the members' lounge first, on www.ewea.org).

The campaign will run for a whole year, to its finale at EWEA 2011 in Brussels. Further discussions will take place at the CONE meeting at EWEC, taking place on 22 April from 13:00.

The [Global Wind Day](#) activities in Brussels, to take place around the 'Wind Day' date itself - 15 June - will form part of the campaign. Plans so far include a full-size wind turbine blade to go up on the Schuman Roundabout next to the European Commission buildings in the heart of the EU quarter of Brussels, an exhibition of wind turbine components in a park nearby and an outdoor reception for EWEA members and EWEA staff's professional contacts and friends on the evening of 14 June 14. Many other events and activities will take place all around the world.

[Find out more about the Global Wind Day.](#)



Upcoming event to examine barriers to wind development in Romania

EWEA's next policy workshop will be held in Bucharest, Romania on Tuesday 6 July. The event will present the results of the Wind Barriers project, focusing on the administrative and grid barriers to wind development in Romania and on what the country's National

Renewable Energy Action Plan will do to help. The event will also analyse the opportunities for the country provided by the EU 2009 Renewable Energy Directive.

English/Romanian interpretation will be provided. Attendance is free of charge.

For full information and to register: www.ewea.org/events
For further information please contact John McSweeney, Tel: + 32 2 400 1038 or jms@ewea.org.

Reporting on wind energy

EWEA is due to launch several new [reports](#) next week at [EWEC 2010](#). Here is a sneak preview:

'Wind energy and electricity prices' will review case studies on the so-called 'merit order effect', which is when wind pushes more expensive power sources off the grid and brings spot prices down.

EWEA's factsheets are being relaunched, having been updated, revamped and refreshed, bringing the crucial information on all the major topics relating to the sector, from statistics to jobs to climate change.

EWEA's annual report will present everything the EWEA team got up to in 2009 - with photos!



And finally, a new issue of [Wind Directions](#) is coming out in time for EWEC 2010 - exploring women's place in our industry, wind energy and the 2010 Winter Olympics, new research on the barriers to wind projects across the EU and featuring an exclusive interview with the Spanish Secretary of State for Energy.

Sponsorship and stand opportunities coming up

Sales are well and truly open for the three next EWEA events after next week's EWEC. Exhibition spots are up for grabs at Grids 2010 (23-24 November in Berlin), EWEA 2011 (14-17 March in Brussels) and Offshore 2011 (29 November - 2 December in Amsterdam). There are also opportunities for sponsorship at Grids 2010 still available.

Find out more: [Grids 2010](#), [EWEA 2011](#), [Offshore 2011](#).

Find out about your fellow EWEA members

The 2010 EWEA members' directory has been sent out to members. The directory contains company descriptions and six contact details from each member.

There will also be more contact information on the EWEA [members' lounge online](#).

“We are going to include six contact details corresponding to six different functions at each company”, explains Anna Hedrzak, Head of Membership and Sales. “This will facilitate interaction between our members and increase the sense of an EWEA network”.

The EWEA team has also sent out a membership survey so you can rate your experience and give suggestions for how it can be improved.

Market and industry updates

Germany

Siemens to supply to German offshore project

Siemens is to supply 20 turbines to the Riffgat project in the North Sea off the coast of Germany. Siemens will install, connect and commission the turbines, rated at 3.6 megawatts (MW) each, and perform maintenance for five years.

[More information](#)

India

Suzlon wins 18 MW wind order

Suzlon has won a contract from a company based in the Gujarat region of India - Gujarat State Fertilisers and Chemicals - to build and maintain an 18 MW wind farm.

Suzlon will supply 12 turbines of 1.5 MW to the project, which is due to be commissioned in June 2010.

[More information](#)

Poland

REpower provides wind turbines to Poland

REpower Systems AG last week concluded a contract to deliver 15 of its MM92 wind turbines – which have a capacity of 2.05 MW each - to Poland. They will be put up at the Lipniki wind farm near Opole in south-west Poland later this year.

With a total output of 30.75 MW, the Lipniki wind farm is so far the biggest project undertaken by the Hamburg-based wind turbine manufacturer in Poland. REpower entered the Polish market in 2009.

[More information](#)

Turkey

93 MW of Vestas turbines to go to Turkey

Turkish firm Galata Wind has signed a deal with Vestas for 31 turbines, with a total capacity of 93 MW, to go to its Sahres wind farm in the north west of the country, which should be completed by mid-2011.

Vestas will start delivering the turbines by late 2010. The company recently finished construction in southern Turkey at the 33 MW

Mersin project, also for Galata, which belongs to the Agaoglu group.

Turkey has set a target of meeting 30% of its electricity requirement from renewables by 2023, including 20 GW of wind capacity.

[More information](#)

UK

AES gains 700 MW

US company AES Wind Generation has purchased UK wind energy developer Your Energy and is taking a 51% stake in a Polish portfolio owned by 3E. This will bring the company 700 MW of wind energy assets in Europe.

[More information](#)



Photos: p.2: DONG energy; p.3: Nick Moir; p.4: IG Windkraft