



Monthly TPWind Newsletter – April 2009

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Developed by TPWind Secretariat

For any feedback or question on the newsletter, please contact Filippo Gagliardi (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org, +32 2 546 1982).

Section 1 – News from the Secretariat

A new TPWind monthly newsletter

During the 3rd General Assembly, held in Brussels on October 8th and 9th; 2008, TPWind members provided the Secretariat with key feedbacks on how to improve its performances and those of the Platform.

The first and most important result of this consultation was that TPWind members are unanimously satisfied with the quality of the SRA/MDS, as well as with the capacity of the Platform to develop valuable relationships in Brussels.

However, several areas of improvements were also identified, the most important one being communication.

As a matter of fact, TPWind members stressed the importance of being regularly updated on the developments of the Platform, not only through the website but also through ad-hoc newsletters.

The Secretariat has therefore developed, with the support of the Executive Committee, a new monthly newsletter, which from now on will be regularly sent to TPWind members in order to keep them updated on the activities of the Platform.

This is the first issue of the newsletter, which is composed of four sections: news from the Secretariat, news from Members (where members will be able to post their own articles), events (this section will be open to members' inputs too) and funding opportunities.

Any feedback on the newsletter should be addressed to Filippo Gagliardi (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org, +32 2 546 1982).

The European Wind Initiative (EWI)

The European Wind Initiative was announced for the first time by the European Commission in 2007, in the framework of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan).

Six Initiatives were proposed at that time, with the aim of supporting strategic energy sectors: wind, solar, nuclear fission, CCS, bio-energy and electricity grids.

Since June 2008, TPWind has cooperated with the European Commission in order to develop the EWI, which is set to become one of the most important instruments for the support of the wind energy sector in the years to come, especially in view of the EU's 2020 targets (i.e. reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, ensure 20% of renewable energy sources in the EU energy mix and reduce global primary energy demand by 20%).

In this process, four meetings were held between TPWind and the EC, i.e. on September 8th, 2008; November 4th, 2008; January 7th, 2009 and March 3rd, 2009.

Further to that, the last version of the EWI was presented and discussed during the last Steering Committee meeting, held on March 17th, 2009.

Following this meeting, the final version of the EWI was developed and eventually submitted to the EC on March 24th.

This version was then presented to EU Member States (MS) representatives on March 31st, at a workshop organized by the European Commission.

The EWI was well received by MS, which stated their intention to support it even if they required some minor changes to the text.

Member States will now examine the EWI and negotiate, if the case, further changes.

The next steps in the development of the EWI will be the following:

- Presentation of the Initiative to the Sherpa Group on April 28th;
- Presentation and discussion of the Initiative at the SET-Plan Steering Committee meeting in May. This will represent a key milestone, since high level representatives of Member States and key decision makers will be directly involved for the first time;
- EU spring Council in 2010, which should ideally represent the final step of the process and lead to the final endorsement of the EWI by the EU.

The EWI, which is expected to have a total budget (i.e. composed of public and private resources) of up to € 6 bn, will be divided into six components with different objectives:

- EWI1 will ease site assessment and gather data for improved on and offshore designs;
- EWI2 will develop turbine technology and deliver the manufacturing capacity for both onshore and offshore;
- EWI 3 will support the takeoff of offshore in the short to medium term and will ensure its long-term leadership. This action will focus on support structures, assembly, installation, O&M, decommissioning and environment;
- EWI4 will enable large-scale grid integration of on and offshore wind energy;
- EWI5 will design the economic and spatial planning instruments to deploy on and offshore technologies;
- EWI6 will implement the training structures to secure the necessary workforce for on and offshore deployment.

More information on the implementing structure of the EWI, on its budget and on the rules for its disbursement will become available in the coming weeks.

The EU Economic Recovery Plan

A € 5 bn package, representing the first batch of an EU Economic Recovery Plan to fight the current financial crisis, was proposed by the European Commission on January 28th, 2009. The aim of the package was to support smart investments in the fields of gas and electricity interconnectors, offshore wind power and CCS, so as to support the economy and avoiding the worst effects of recession. The amount originally earmarked for offshore wind was € 500 m.

On March 11th, 2009, following negotiations at Member States level, the amount dedicated to offshore wind was raised to € 565 m and the projects included in the plan appeared to be the following:

- Baltic I;
- Kriegers Flak I, II and III;
- North Sea Grid;
- Alpha Ventus / Borkum Area – Bard 1;
- Aberdeen offshore wind farm;
- Thornton Bank.

On March 20th, the European Council reached an agreement on the Community part of the European Economic Recovery Plan, in support to projects in the field of energy.

The European Parliament (EP) will now vote on the Plan as well. Should the EP approve it, the European Commission will finally be in the position to take the necessary steps to implement it and start delivering its funds (which, according to the plans of the EC, should be disbursed by the end of 2010).

TPWind is not involved in the development of the Plan or in the selection of its projects. However, TPWind priorities were taken onboard by the EC when developing the Plan.

More information are available [here](#).

Outcomes of TPWind 6th Steering Committee Meeting

TPWind 6th Steering Committee meeting was held on March 17th from 1 to 6 pm, at the EWEC2009 conference centre in Marseille.

The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- The latest version of the European Wind Initiative (EWI) was presented by Nicolas Fichaux and discussed by the participants. Steering Committee members expressed their overall satisfaction with the latest version of the Initiative: only minor changes were suggested;
- Susanna Widstrand presented the new Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Member States Mirror Group (MSMG), which was approved by the Executive Committee of the Platform on January 29th, 2009. She also added that cooperation with other MSMGs has recently been launched. Finally, her request to allow MSMG members to attend TPWind General Assemblies as observers was approved by the Steering Committee;
- Filippo Gagliardi presented the latest version of the “SRA Implementation Plan”, based on the projects identified by TPWind members during the 3rd General Assembly (GA). This document, which will guide the next steps of the Platform, will not be published and its final version will be circulated before the next GA. Following his presentation, a discussion on its relevance followed (especially in view of the development of the EWI).

A brochure on the results of the 3rd GA was printed and launched at EWEC2009 (see next paragraph) to inform the outside world on the progresses of the “SRA Implementation Plan” without disclosing confidential information;

- Nicolas Fichaux presented the strategy of the Platform on its future. TPWind will need to expand its scope and activities in order to become a true EU flagship. For this reason, a detailed action plan on its future will be finalized before the end of the year. This document will be based on the inputs of the Steering Committee and of the EC;
- Filippo Gagliardi presented the new communication strategy of TPWind, which is aimed at providing the Platform with more visibility and at improving communication between the Secretariat and members. This newsletter will be the most important tool for sharing information within TPWind;
- The new strategy for the Finance Working Group (FWoG) was officially approved. According to the new strategy, the duty of identifying and monitoring funding opportunities for wind energy operators will be temporarily taken over by the Secretariat, which will act under the supervision and mandate of the Steering Committee. An ad-hoc group of financial experts will be established to support the Secretariat and TPWind Steering Committee on a case by case basis and to answer specific needs (e.g. R&D, demonstration activities and so on).

This ad-hoc group, which will be consulted by the Secretariat whenever needed or considered appropriate by the Executive or Steering Committee, will not be an official body of the Platform (i.e. will not be one of its Working Groups), but will act as a consultative body. The current members of the FWoG will be invited to join other TPWind WGs on the basis of their individual expertise and qualification, where they

will keep providing their valuable contribution to the work of the Platform and the development of the wind energy sector.

- The chairpersons of Working Groups 1 (Mr. Petersen of RISOE), 2 (Mr. Beurskens of ECN), 3 (Ms. Holttinen of VTT), 4 (Mr. MacAskill of Sea Energy Renewable), 5 (Mr. Gasco of Iberdrola) and 6 (Mr. Zervos of NTUA) had their mandate renewed for the next 18 months;
- The 4th General Assembly will be held in Brussels on May 13th and 14th, 2009, as originally planned. This GA will focus on the EWI, the SRA implementation plan and the future of the Platform. The first day will be dedicated to Working Groups meetings only, while the Plenary Session will be held on the second day;
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in Brussels on May 12th, from 3 to 7 pm.

Outcomes of EWEC2009

The 2009 edition of the European Wind Energy Conference (EWEC), organized by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA), was recently held in Marseille on March 16 – 19, 2009.

The event has been a great success, with 7.500 participants from around the world, 390 leading companies present at the exhibition and 500 presentations in over 50 sessions and side events.

The opening session featured leading political figures, among which Mr. Andris Piebalgs, EU Energy Commissioner, who confirmed the support of the EC to wind energy; Ms. Mechthild Rothe, Vice President of the European Parliament, who stressed the importance of investing in tested green technologies like wind power instead of supporting unproven initiatives like CCS; Ms. Chantal Jouanno, French Secretary of State for Ecology; Mr. Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Mr. Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA, who stressed the fact that in 2008 more wind power was installed in the EU than any other electricity generating technology.

Further to that, the Global Leaders' Vision Panel, held on March 16th after the opening session, saw the participation of, among others, Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Mr. Christian Kjaer, CEO of EWEA.

A whole session dedicated to TPWind was held on Tuesday 17th, from 9 to 10.30 am.

The panel, attended by approximately 100 participants and chaired by Mr. Henning Kruse, TPWind chairperson, featured the following speakers:

- Filippo Gagliardi, TPWind Project Manager, who presented the outcomes of the 3rd General Assembly and the SRA implementation plan;
- Susanna Widstrand, chairperson of the Member States Mirror Group (MSMG), who outlined its goal and next steps;
- Takis Chaviaropoulos, member of TPWind Executive Committee, who presented the plans for the future of the Platform;
- Josep Prats, member of TPWind Executive Committee, who provided an overview of the European Wind Initiative (EWI);
- Stefan Tostmann, head of unit in DG TREN (European Commission), who discussed the goal and structure of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan);
- Pier Nabuurs, chairman of SmartGrids, who presented the recent achievements and next steps of this European Technology Platform;
- Pietro Gimondo, chairman of the Energy Working Group of ESTEP, who provided an outline of the projects being implemented in the field of energy by the European Steel Technology Platform.

During the session, a brochure on the results of the 3rd General Assembly, which provides an outline of the projects identified by TPWind members to transform the SRA into reality, was officially presented.

This brochure, called "TPWind: the way forward", will be uploaded on the [website](#) of the Platform shortly and represents the most recent publication of TPWind.

Several major media reported on EWEC2009, including Le Figaro, The Guardian and Euronews (the video report can be seen [here](#)).

More information on the event are available [here](#).

RESPOND project

The RESPOND project (Renewable Electricity Supply interactions with conventional Power generations, Networks and Demand), financed by the European Commission through the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme, will soon come to an end: its final conference will be held in May 2009.

This interesting action, managed by Mr. Frits Van Oostvoorn, a TPWind member belonging to Working Group 5, had the main objective of developing guidelines for changing EU policies, market rules and regulations in order to allow EU power markets to cope with a large share of variable RES-E in the future.

More information on the project and its conclusions are available [here](#).

Section 2 – News from members

This section of the newsletter is currently empty.

Its goal will be to **host articles developed directly by TPwind members**, so as to provide them with the opportunity to inform the Platform on their most recent achievements, plans, products, studies or R&D efforts.

Every month, 2 to 4 short articles (maximum 250 words) will be selected by the Executive Committee or the Secretariat and will be included in this section of the newsletter, together with the contact details of the person or company publishing the article.

For this reason, **the Secretariat invites all TPWind members who would like to publish an article in this newsletter to contact Filippo Gagliardi and send him their contribution by Friday the 17th of April at the latest (filippo.gagliardi@ewea.org; +32 2 546 19821).**

The selected articles will be published in the next issue of the newsletter, which will be circulated at the end of April.

To this purpose, the Secretariat would like to remember all readers that this newsletter is sent to all TPWind members, to those included in the reserve lists of the Platform as well as to selected EC and EWEA representatives (approximately 300 people in total).

Section 3 – Events

April

6th European Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) Forum *April 2 and 3, 2009 – Berlin, Germany*

The event will be hosted by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

The Forum will enable policymakers, industry, the academic community and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and best practice in technology transfer, so as to encourage the development of eco-innovation and environmental technologies. Topics will include successful case studies that demonstrate proven technology transfer methods.

More information are available [here](#).

European Renewable Energy Conference *April 2 and 3, 2009 – Berlin, Germany*

The event, organized by Platts, will provide participants not only with an overview of each relevant topic in the field of renewables (finance, operation, technology and so on), but it will also take an in-depth look into a number of case study on the implementation of new projects in renewable power generation across Europe.

More information are available [here](#).

5th International Congress & Exhibition on Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Sources for South-East Europe *April 6 – 8, 2009 – Sofia, Bulgaria*

The event will be a platform for dialogue and business contacts, since it will combine scientific and industrial issues from all perspectives, providing industry professionals with the latest technologies, strategies and best practices for lowering costs and improving reliability.

More information are available [here](#).

May

Windpower 2009 *May 4 – 7, 2009 – Chicago, USA*

This conference and exhibition, organised by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), is the biggest and most relevant wind energy event in the USA.

More information are available [here](#).

6th Offshore Wind and Other Marine Renewable Energies in Mediterranean and European Seas (OWEMES) *May 21 – 23, 2009 – Brindisi, Italy*

The OWEMES conference will provide the opportunity to meet experts from various fields of the industry. These experts will share their knowledge, unique experiences and vision on alternative energies.

TPWind will participate to the event: Filippo Gagliardi will deliver a presentation on the most recent achievements of the Platform and on its offshore strategy.

More information are available [here](#).

June

Global Wind Day

June 15, 2009 - Global

The Global Wind Day is an awareness campaign for the promotion of wind energy worldwide.

On 15 June 2009, thousands of public events will be organised simultaneously around the world.

More information on the events and the campaign are available [here](#).

BWEA Offshore Conference 2009

June 24 and 25, 2009 - Westminster, UK

The Offshore Conference organized by the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) will be dedicated to the development of offshore wind power in the UK

Over 500 delegates are expected to join the event, including senior government officials, investors, financiers, manufacturers, developers and all others with an interest in the latest policy and technical developments in offshore wind.

More information are available [here](#).

July

5th European-African Conference on Wind Engineering (EACWE)

July 19 – 23, 2009 – Florence, Italy

The EACWE conference will represent an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices among engineers and scientists in the field of wind engineering.

TPWind will participate to the event: Filippo Gagliardi will deliver a presentation on the most recent achievements of the Platform and on its next steps.

More information are available [here](#).

September

European Offshore Wind Conference and Exhibition 2009

September 14 – 16, 2009 – Stockholm, Sweden

This will be the third edition of the bi-annual offshore conference and exhibition organized by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA).

The conference will examine how the development of offshore wind energy is progressing and will propose solutions to the many challenges still facing the industry. Further to that, practical steps forward to decision makers at EU and national levels will be presented.

The conference will emphasise the importance of grid integration, industrial development and environmental and administrative considerations.

More information are available [here](#).

Eolica Expo Mediterranean 2009

September 30 – October 2, 2009 – Rome, Italy

This fair on wind power, organized in parallel with the 8th Conference on Wind Energy in the Mediterranean area, will be a unique opportunity to meet the most relevant stakeholders of the sector.

Further to that, the exhibition will take place in the framework of “Zeroemission Rome”, a major event involving many other renewable energy sectors (including PV, solar, biomass and ocean energy).
More information are available [here](#).

Section 4 – Funding opportunities

7th Framework Programme (FP7)

The FP7 is the most important EU instrument for financing R&D. It has a budget of over € 50 bn and runs from 2007 to 2013.

One major FP7 “call for proposals” targeting energy issues is currently open. Its identification number is FP7-ENERGY-2009-2: it was published on September 3rd, 2008, and will expire on April 29th, 2009.

Its total budget is € 100 m and is divided into several research topics.

Three of them are relevant to the wind energy sector:

- Topic ENERGY.2009.2.9.1: Deep off-shore multi-purpose renewable energy conversion platforms for wind/ocean energy conversion;
- Topic ENERGY.2009.2.9.2: Coordination action on off-shore renewable energy conversion platforms;
- Topic ENERGY.2009.7.1.1: Optimisation of the electricity grid with large scale renewables and storage.

The full application package, which includes the “work programme” of the call (i.e. the list of the R&D topics covered by the call and the rules of participation), can be found [here](#).

Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)

IEE is the EU's instrument for improving energy efficiency and supporting the use of renewable energy sources.

It has an overall budget of € 727 m and runs from 2008 to 2013.

The 2009 “call for proposal” has been published on March 31st: its total budget is € 65 m and its deadline will be on June 25th, 2009.

The 2009 call is relevant to wind energy operators because one of its priorities will be to reduce non-technological barriers to offshore power (e.g. by developing better maritime spatial planning tools with an EU approach).

It should be noted to this purpose that the Commission is not looking for projects aiming just to raise awareness on the issue or to provide inputs to EU decision makers.

On the other hand, priority will be given to actions capable of putting in place new administrative procedures, regulations, codes or plans. Participants should therefore make sure that their proposal will be capable of delivering tangible results.

As for the composition consortia, they should involve TSOs, regulators, public administrations, developers, other marine users' interest groups and NGOs.

More information can be found [here](#).

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

The EIP has the aim of promoting all forms of innovation in enterprises (especially in SMEs). It has an overall budget of € 585 m and runs from 2007 to 2013.

The EIP could be relevant to wind energy operators because one of its priorities is the promotion of eco-innovation, which includes all forms of innovations resulting in significantly improved environmental protection (e.g. new production processes, products, services or business methods which prevent or substantially reduce the risks they pose to the environment).

For this reason, the development of new recycling strategies represents one of the key areas supported by EIP.

There are currently no EIP “calls for proposals” open at the moment.

However, according to the latest information available, the 2009 call will be published in April.

More information can be found [here](#).