

WG 6 Policy and Environment

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Structure of the document

Policy and research recommendations

- q Contribution of wind to electricity supply,
- q The competitiveness of wind,
- q Electricity market and infrastructure,
- q Administrative procedures,
- q Integration into the natural environment,
- q Public support,
- q Innovation and job creation.

Contribution of wind to electricity supply

Policy Recommendations

- q Sanctions are placed on Member States that do not reach their target or fulfil their action plans.
- q Member states are encouraged to come up with sectoral targets for heat, power and transport. These targets should be seen as a minimum.

The competitiveness of wind

Study Recommendations

- q Research is undertaken into the impact of wind energy on the stability of energy prices.
- q Research is undertaken into the application / implementation of the polluter-pays-principle in electricity generation has to be further analyzed (e.g.: which methodologies can be used to internalize the environmental and social damage created by electricity generation and consumption).
- q Research is undertaken into how to establish a level-playing field for all energy technologies.

Electricity market and infrastructure

Policy Recommendations

- q Development in the short-term of a European road map of strategic development of main grid lines.
- q Political push for long-term coordination on grid development at the European-level. Political support and ambition for an inter-continental grid connection is needed.
- q Policy development and application of best practice balancing, forecasting, market rules, allocation methods to optimize the power market operation with respect to wind energy integration
- q A European energy regulator is established with and that sustainability is included in the remit of the regulator at the European and member state level.

Electricity market and infrastructure

Study Recommendations

- q Research to assess and evaluate the technological and economical feasibility of creating a European-wide grid network.
- q Research to forecast the implementation of a Strategic Road Map for wind energy developments and grid infrastructure.

Administrative procedures

Policy Recommendations

- q A framework is established for member states to produce strategic plans for developing onshore and offshore wind farms and auxiliary developments. Within the identified areas, there should be greater certainty of acquiring planning permission and the administration should be streamlined. This framework should identify priority wind energy zones as a bottom-up exercise matching overall the EU targets for wind energy in 2030.
- q An Offshore Wind Convention is established at the EU level to identify areas designated for the development of offshore wind farms and the necessary grid. When identifying designated areas, there is a consideration of technological constraints and conflicts with other commercial activities as well as a consideration of environmental impacts.

Administrative procedures

Study Recommendations

- q As a matter of urgency, research should be undertaken and guidance produced on the administration of applications for repowered wind farm developments.
- q Review of the administration of Environmental Impact Assessments of wind farm and auxiliary developments. This review should in particular focus on how to streamline applications, e.g. by using the scoping stage to identify the key issues and to close out further assessment of impacts that are not relevant to the development. This review should suggest specific time limits for the individual steps in the consenting process.
- q A One-Stop-Shop is established to offer authoritative guidance on the administration of wind farm proposals.

Integration into the natural environment

Policy Recommendations

The potential conflict between the Habitats Directive and the Renewables Directive is addressed and reconciled.

Research recommendations:

- § Recommended EIA format & research on utilization of findings of post-operational monitoring to refine scope of further EIAs.
- § A centralized source of standardized data on environmental baseline and impacts of wind farm development
- § Research into/development of guidelines / tools to assess cumulative impacts and thresholds of impacts

Public support

Study Recommendations

- q Research into the motivation behind public opinion and people's concerns, and review of existing research.
- q Review of case studies looking at before-and-after local opinion.
- q Review of existing status of research on the key myths/concerns and identification of where more research is needed.
- q A review of the range of mechanisms used across Europe for transforming the global benefits to tangible benefits to local communities (e.g. local tax system in France and Portugal, community investment, financial packages/funds, policy on use of local labour) and identification of how these affect public opinion.
- q Review of current good practice guidance on effective consultation processes and how this guidance is disseminated.

Innovation and job creation

Study Recommendations

Research into the number and range of skills needed in the industry to meet 2020/2030 targets and identification of the education and training needed to meet these. Development of concrete short term boost educational programmes to meet the high and increasing demand of renewable energy industry.

Cost-benefit study of developing regions that can provide services e.g. construction / operation / maintenance.

Research into benefits of wind energy development in terms of creation of local / regional jobs; local economic benefit.