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# The future of TPWind



European Wind Energy  
Technology Platform

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## Introduction (I)

- q TPWind is now a well structured network. It has published its SRA/MDS (Strategic Research Agenda / Market Deployment Strategy) in July 2008, it is cooperating with the European Commission on the development of the “European Wind Initiative” and it has recently entered the implementation phase
- q However, TPWind is also debating its future, since it is aware of the fact that it should aim at expanding its activities and role, in order to become a true EU flagship and contribute to the achievement of the EU’s 20% binding target for renewable energy production by 2020 (which has been set in the 20% Directive approved in December 2008)

## Introduction (II)

- q For these reasons, TPWind intends to develop a detailed action plan outlining its future role, actions and objectives
- q The action plan, which will be finalized before the end of 2009, is being developed also with the support of the EC, which has provided inputs through:
  - § The review of Windsec deliverables
  - § An ad-hoc brainstorming session held on January 29<sup>th</sup>
- q The next slides will provide:
  - § An overview of the comments received from the EC on Windsec
  - § An outline of the main conclusions of the brainstorming session
  - § An overview of the structure of the future action plan

## EC comments on Windsec

- q The assessment of Windsec 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period (March 2007 – September 2008) has been recently completed
- q The EC has made the following comments:
  - § All objectives of Windsec for the first reporting period have been achieved;
  - § The management of the project and of TPWind is excellent;
  - § However, it is not clear how TPWind will be further supported after the completion of Windsec;
  - § Further to that, there is little information on the actual communication with other organizations (TSOs, DSOs, ETPs and relevant international, European or national R&D initiatives).

## EC recommendations on Windsec

- q On the basis of the abovementioned comments, the following recommendations were formulated:
  - § TPWind should develop concrete cooperation activities with other relevant organizations (TSOs, DSOs, similar ETPs, AWEA and relevant R&D projects)
  - § TPWind should improve its visibility and dissemination capacity, by:
    - Using its website more effectively (all Windsec deliverables should be published);
    - Participating to more international events;
    - Reaching the outside world (i.e. non-TPWind members and Countries not deeply involved in the development of wind energy, like France and Italy);
    - Trying to measure the effectiveness of its networking actions (e.g. impact of events).
  - § An action plan on the future of TPWind should be developed, so as to define its activities and sources of funding after the completion of Windsec. Studying the solutions adopted by other ETPs could be useful in this exercise

## Outcomes of the brainstorming session - Jan 29th (I)

- q TPWind is a very important tool for the EC, since it is the only network with enough expertise and critical mass to identify the R&D needs of the whole wind energy sector (the development of the EWI would not have been possible without TPWind). Besides, the management of TPWind has proved to be excellent so far. For these reasons, the EC would be glad if TPWind would continue its activities in the long term
- q The main challenge that TPWind is facing at the moment, from a purely financial point of view, is ensuring that the costs of its Secretariat will be covered in the future. As a matter of fact, all TPWind members participate to the activities of the Platform on a voluntary basis and do not therefore represent a real cost. Ensuring the survival of the Secretariat is however extremely important, since its coordination is essential for the ultimate success and survival of TPWind.
- q Given the importance of TPWind and its Secretariat, the EC is in principle willing to finance a follow-up of the Windsec project. To this purpose, an ad-hoc topic will probably be included in the next FP7 Energy “call for proposals”, under “cross cutting issues” (*TPWind has provided the EC with a first version of the desired topic on January 30<sup>th</sup>*)

## Outcomes of the brainstorming session – Jan 29th (II)

- q The “Windsec-2” project (which should be called in a different way to stress the differences with the current action) should be more ambitious and have a bigger scope. To this purpose, the EC has suggested to include cooperation activities with the oil & gas and maritime sectors, which are facing similar R&D challenges (e.g. offshore foundations and specialized vessels)
- q In the development of the “Windsec 2” project, TPWind should make clear how it will avoid any overlap with EWEA, which is an industrial association involved in lobbying activities. As a matter of fact, the Platform is an independent R&D network, acting as a think tank, and should therefore defend and preserve its independence and identity in order to remain successful
- q A detailed action plan on the future of TPWind will be developed and approved before the end of 2009. For this reason, the drafts put forward by the Secretariat will be discussed during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Outcomes of the brainstorming session – Jan 29th (III)

- q As for the contents of the action plan, several blocks of potential activities were proposed by the ExCo and the Secretariat to the EC (i.e. projects, cooperation, dissemination, training, certification and lobbying)
- q However, it was decided to give priority only to the first three blocks (i.e. projects, cooperation and dissemination). As a matter of fact, these activities are more important for the future of the Platform and more in line with its mission: should TPWind start dealing with training, certification or lobbying, its objectives and purpose would change significantly
- q In order to fund all these new actions, TPWind could also introduce a mixed system (should the “Windsec 2” project not fly): the core activities of the Platform could remain free of charge, while new ancillary services (to be defined) could be implemented for fee, so as to ensure the financial sustainability of TPWind without compromising its independency



## Contents of the action plan

- q As already outlined, the action plan will be based on the following blocks of activities:
  - § Projects
  - § Cooperation
  - § Dissemination
- q A detailed description of each block will be provided in the next slides
- q The action plan will be finalized before the end of 2009 and will guide the development of the Platform in the years to come. The first draft will be presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> GA

## Block I: Projects

- q The “Projects” block is composed of three sub-components:
  - § 1) Development of the EWI in cooperation with the EC. This would represent a key achievement for TPWind, since EWI is likely to become a very powerful instrument for the implementation of the SRA / MDS and for the development of the wind energy sector
  - § 2) Coordination of the projects identified during the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, which are included in the SRA / MDS implementation plan
  - § 3) Development of a “project incubator network”, in order to encourage the set-up and implementation of new actions in the future. In order to do that, the Platform will:
    - Become a permanent R&D forum organizing events for wind energy operators and encouraging cooperation
    - Act as a “help-desk” for members that intend to apply for public funding
    - Develop a comprehensive database covering international, European, national and regional funding schemes relevant to the wind energy sector

## Block II: Cooperation

- q Strengthening cooperation with other organizations and Technology Platforms (both at national and European level) will allow TPWind to reach a wider public and support global initiatives in the wind energy sector
- q More in details, TPWind intends to increase cooperation primarily with the following organizations:
  - § ETPs: SmartGrids, ESTEP and Waterborne;
  - § Relevant organizations based outside the EU, especially in Asia and America (e.g. China and the USA, like the AWEA)
- q Finally, TPWind will aim at developing a common “matchmaking website” in cooperation with other ETPs. This portal will provide members with a database of organizations interested in cross-border collaboration in the wind energy sector

## Block III: Dissemination

- q TPWind will grow into a more effective dissemination platform, in order to spread best practices, success stories and updated information (on R&D, economic and legislative issues) relevant to the wind energy sector
- q This objective will be achieved through:
  - § The organization of dedicated events;
  - § The publication of ad-hoc newsletters and articles;
  - § A more effective use of the website.
- q Further to that, TPWind will enhance the visibility of the projects identified during the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly and included in the SRA / MDS implementation plan, through the dissemination of their results and progresses

Thank you for your attention!



<http://www.windplatform.eu/>