

European Wind Energy
Technology Platform
(TPWind)



The Working Groups of TPWind

Work Program Proposal

Working Group 6 - Wind Policy and Environment

Prepared by the TPWind Secretariat

May 2007

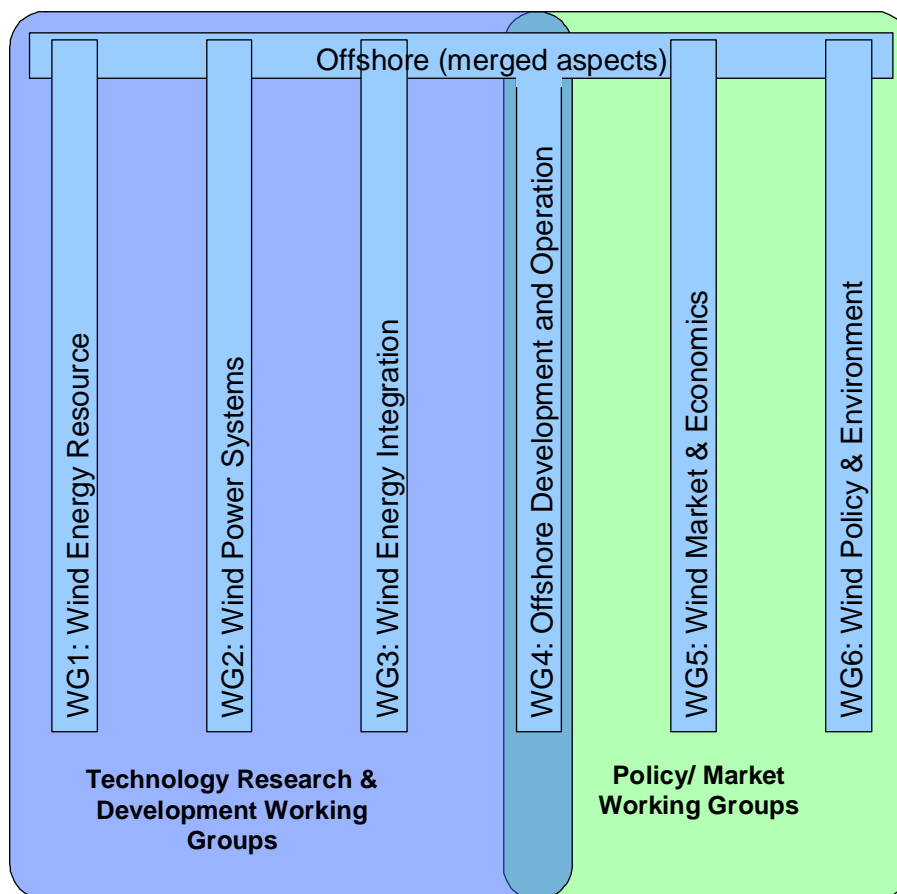
Introduction

As endorsed during the Second Steering Committee meeting of the European Wind Energy Technology Platform (Milan, May 9th 2007) the Working Groups of the Platform are:

- WG1: Wind Energy Resource,
- WG2: Wind Power Systems,
- WG3: Wind Energy Integration,
- WG4: Offshore Development and Operation,
- WG5: Wind Market and Economics,
- WG6: Wind Policy and Environment.

Moreover, it has been decided that each Working Group is dealing both on onshore and offshore aspects. The WG4 is focused on offshore-specific aspects.

In the following, a short description of the foreseen topics covered by each Working Group is provided, enabling to select the right experts for each Working Group.



WG6: Wind Policy & Environment (A. Zervos)

This Working group is focused on possible improvements of policy and environmental measures at international, EU and member states level, for onshore and offshore. Key areas in this thematic may include: *policy optimization, environmental aspects optimization. Specific weight will be given to administrative and institutional barriers, and the effects that they have on wind development.*

Policy:

- Onshore:

Policy optimization has to be performed at International, EU, National and Regional level. Coherence must be assessed between the different policy levels. **This topic shall provide inputs to the Member States Mirror Group (MSMG) of TPWind for implementation at National or Regional level.**

Key policy issues that have to be addressed include complex administrative procedures, conditions and prices for grid access, support mechanisms, the impact of non competitive electricity markets, the impact of an electricity market with numerous externalities; international standards, rules for international trade, etc.

- Offshore:

A correct policy for offshore is needed if this technology is to deliver substantial electricity production in the medium and long term. The objective of this WG in relation to offshore is then to discuss and propose policy measures that will contribute to the growth of this sector.

Some of the policy issues that need to be addressed are the same than for onshore (see paragraph above). However, offshore has distinctive features that should be addressed separately, for instance, the influence of the grid and the socialization (or not) of its costs; relation with other users of the sea and marine planning; Also the relation between Member States that share an offshore wind farm; eventually, the modification of the payment mechanism for offshore.

Environment:

Environmental impacts of wind farms are more and more known.

Onshore, the **Environmental Impact Assessment** processes might be optimized through sharing the information between countries, and setting a common policy framework.

Offshore, wind exploitation is a relatively new type of marine activity, and proven effects will clearly only be known subject to experience. The experience to date on environmental and social acceptability has been very positive compared to

expectations. It is important that there is ongoing dissemination of good quality information on the existing environment and feedback on impacts in the future. Spatial planning or, at least, geographical definition of marine interests in coastal zones, is a valuable planning tool. It helps to diminish conflicts between different marine uses at an early stage in the process.

This group would have to analyze the evidence that exists and try to work out on a common understanding of environmental effects (negative and positive) for onshore and offshore; if possible, define a common methodology for the environmental impact assessment of wind farms, mainly offshore. The group should also contribute to the spread and consolidation of the good practices that exist.