

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

**THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND CLIMATE ACTION OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE, ENERGY AND UTILITIES OF
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK**

**ON COOPERATION ON CONNECTING HYBRID OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY
PROJECTS IN THE NORTH SEA**

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”);

Building on the good cooperation between the Participants established in the Letter of Intent (LoI) on *Cooperation on Jointly Analyzing Joint and Hybrid Offshore Renewable Energy Projects between the Countries* of December 14th 2020 and the Memorandum of Understanding on *the Realization of a Joint Project between Germany and Denmark on Bornholm Energy Island* of July 26th 2022;

Acknowledging that energy security and the fight against climate change are crucial to the future of the European Union (hereinafter “EU”);

Further acknowledging that recent geopolitical events have strengthened the need to increasingly replace fossil fuels, in particular Russian oil, coal and gas, with European renewable energy from the North Sea, including offshore wind electricity and green hydrogen, contributing to both EU climate neutrality and energy security;

Acknowledging the cooperation on joint and hybrid offshore projects and the common wish to realise the vision of the North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe established between the Kingdom of Denmark (hereinafter “Denmark”), the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter “Germany”), the Kingdom of Belgium (hereinafter “Belgium”) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (hereinafter “Netherlands”) in the “Esbjerg Declaration” of May 18th 2022;

Recognizing that offshore renewable energy hubs and an increasingly meshed offshore grid are crucial to generate, connect, convert and transport offshore wind energy in the North Sea;

Noting in that regard Germany’s plans to establish offshore renewable energy clusters of 10 GW generation capacity in the North Sea by the mid-2030s and Denmark’s plans to establish a Danish Energy island with up to 10 GW generation capacity in the North Sea aiming for 2040;

Recalling the joint obligation to consequently pursue the target of achieving good environmental status for all European seas including the North Sea, according to the EU Marine Strategy Directive;

Bearing in mind that this Joint Declaration of Intent (JDoI) provides a general framework for cooperation and to express the cooperative intent of the Participants;

Have therefore agreed on the need for a JDoI to initiate a focused cooperation on connecting the planned German offshore renewable energy hubs and the Danish Energy Island in the North Sea and have thus decided on the following:

Section 1 – Objective

The objective of this JDoI is to initiate cooperation on the planning of a possible interconnection between the Danish Energy Island in the Danish exclusive economic zone and an offshore renewable energy cluster in the German exclusive economic zone for the mutual benefit of both countries. This could improve security of supply, increase overall socio-economic welfare, bring diversification of energy sources, contribute to EU and national targets and ambitions for renewable energy and facilitate energy system integration of wind power and development of hydrogen and Power-to-X technologies.

Section 2 – Cooperation

The cooperation between the Participants under this JDoI will be operationalized through a Joint Working Group established and presided by the ministries responsible for energy policy, and further consisting of representatives of the energy authorities, where appropriate, and of the relevant Transmission System Operators (TSOs). The TSOs will be responsible for the analyses to be carried out, referring regularly to relevant ministries and agencies.

The Joint Working Group will in particular work on the following topics:

- a. A jointly developed analysis (“pre-feasibility study”) that clarifies technical, environmental and economic aspects.
- b. Preparation of a joint recommendation from the Joint Working Group at the latest by first half of 2024 on how to continue with the next phase towards the realization of a project. This recommendation should be based on the analysis mentioned above and will describe which project configuration would be most suited for the cooperation and can act as basis for further design and development of the project based on the respective best available techniques (BAT) with a view towards realisation by the mid 2030s.

Section 3 – Arrangements of the Participants

This JDoI does not create any rights and obligations under international law and does not impose any financial obligations on the Participants.

All costs resulting from cooperation under this JDoI are to be borne by the Participant that incurs them, unless otherwise mutually jointly decided.

Section 4 – Amendment Procedures and Dispute Resolution

This JDoI may be amended at any time by jointly written consent of the Participants.

At any time, the Participants will consult, at the request of any of them, on any matter relating to this JDoI, in the spirit of cooperation, good faith and mutual trust, to resolve quickly any difficulties

or misunderstanding that may arise. In case of misunderstanding between the TSOs, the Ministers of each Side should be informed.

Section 5 – Final Provisions

This JDoI will come into effect on the day of signature.

This JDoI will be jointly reviewed upon written request of one of the Participants.

This JDoI may be terminated by either Participant giving three (3) month's written notice to the other Participant. The termination of this JDoI will not affect any on-going activities under this JDoI, unless otherwise decided by the Participants.

Signed in duplicate at Ostende on the 24th of April 2023 each in the English language.

*For the Federal Ministry for Economic
Affairs and Climate Action of the Federal
Republic of Germany*

Robert Habeck

*Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate
Action of the Federal Republic of Germany*

*For the Ministry of Climate, Energy and
Utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark*

Lars Aagaard

*Minister of Climate, Energy and Utilities
of the Kingdom of Denmark*