



Steering Committee + CTOs meeting – Minutes 20 MARCH 2024

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1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Adrain Timbus (*ETIPWind Chair*) welcomed the participants and began with an introduction of what happened for the European wind energy sector in the past few months. He reminded the signature of the European Wind Energy Charter, what the wind industry needs to deliver the volumes, and the role of Research & Innovation in achieving the targets.

He then highlighted one of the main milestones ETIPWind achieved last year: the publication of the Strategic R&I Agenda (SRIA) and its launch event.

Before presenting the agenda of the meeting he also raised the main remaining challenges for ETIPWind that include:

- the need to better channel public investments to support the competitiveness of European wind energy technologies;
- the need of targeted calls for proposals for wind energy EU projects; and
- the need to better involve EU Member States so they can implement more strategic wind energy projects at national level.

Adrian then presented the agenda and finished by reminding the recent changes in the ETIPWind Secretariat staff.

2. KEYNOTE SPEECH

Bernd Biervert (*Head of Unit "Clean energy transitions", DG RTD European Commission*) then took the floor for a keynote speech. Key points from his presentation are summarised below:

- ETIPWind and ETIPs in general are an important part of the SET Plan community. This has been reaffirmed in the communication about the revamp of the SET Plan published last year.
- Cross-cutting issues such as societal needs, sustainability, or digitalisation are key topics that need to be tackled together within the SET Plan. The European Commission counts on the ETIPWind community to provide input to the cross-cutting task forces that will be created to tackle those challenges.
- This is an important moment due to the upcoming European elections and geopolitical situation. Which also explains the cuts in the Horizon Europe budget. But the Commission still wants the green transition, digitalisation, and competitiveness to remain crucial priorities in the next Horizon Europe work programmes.
- The focus for the successor of Horizon Europe will be competitiveness. An idea could be to have a bigger and cross-sectoral programme. This still needs to be discussed within the European Commission.
- The European Commission spent more or less €50m annually to support wind R&I. In total this amount reaches €700m from 2009 to 2023. The portfolio of EU funded projects reflect quite well the priorities of ETIPWind.
- The design of the next Horizon Europe work programme is ongoing. The ETIPWind SRIA will be considered during this process.

3. ADVOCACY OF R&I PRIORITIES 2025-2027

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) started with a presentation of the ETIPWind's advocacy strategy for R&I priorities 2025-2027. She first reminded the short-term priorities identified in the ETIPWind's SRIA last year. She then raised the three main streams of advocacy activities for ETIPWind this year namely:

1. Advocacy targeting Horizon Europe
2. Advocacy targeting other EU funding programmes
3. Advocacy targeting national governments

She finished by reminding the main R&I priorities identified by ETIPWind for the definition of the Horizon Europe Work programme 2025. Projects focusing on those R&I topics will help achieving broader objectives including:

- Delivering the volumes to achieve EU targets
- Sustainable supply chain and reduced dependency on critical raw materials
- 100% renewable based power system
- Excellence of European wind energy projects

Adrian Timbus then opened the floor for comments from the CTOs and Steering Committee.

A discussion on EU funding and how to get more out of it was initiated. A Steering Committee member raised the cumbersomeness of the processes to get EU funding (such as funding from the Clean Energy Transition Partnership). A Steering Committee member raised the need to have smaller consortiums in EU projects to avoid complexity. Another one raised the need to have calls for proposals that are more focused to not dilute the impact of the projects.

A Steering Committee member raised the example of the Clean Sky partnership which was successful to identify common R&I priorities for the whole community and delivered real value to the aviation sector. The wind sector may need to take inspiration from it to achieve its long-term vision at the EU level. It was agreed to gather additional information on the aviation partnership to see if this could fit the needs of the wind energy sector.

Alexander Vandenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) reminded why we need to get a more strategic mindset in the R&D approach for wind energy: because wind energy technologies are still made in Europe. Meaningful political measures have been taken by the European Commission (Wind Power Package, Critical Raw Materials Act, Net Zero Industry Act) but in terms of programmes and funding, the EU is still lagging.

Bernd Biervert (*DG RTD, European Commission*) answered that all those concerns are valid and should be considered for the elaboration of the next framework programme which will start in 2028. He reminded the variety of the EU funding tools available for the wind sector including the European Investment Bank, the opportunities provided by the European Innovation Council, etc. Bernd also mentioned that the European Commission is currently setting up a co-programmed partnership on solar PV. And that other sectors also have industrialised partnerships. These are however difficult to create because they require a legal act.

A Steering Committee member raised the fact that there is a discrepancy between the European Commission's ambition to maintain the competitiveness of the wind energy sector and the fact it will continue supporting wind R&I with more or less the same EU funding budget in the coming years. Bernd

Biervert answered that the funding available through Horizon Europe is the result of a collaborative approach between the European Commission and the Member States within the programme committees. Bernd then mentioned that innovative financing mechanisms should definitely be created within the next framework programme and mentioned a possible new and bigger “competitiveness fund” currently being discussed by the European Commission.

Adrian Timbus asked Bernd Biervert how ETIPWind could support the European Commission to better engage with Member States on wind R&I. Bernd reaffirmed the good work ETPWind is already doing. He mentioned the need to better collaborate with the SET Plan Steering Group and said that the role of the Implementation Working Groups such as IWG Wind should be reinforced in this perspective.

4. UPDATE ON ETIPWIND ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) presented the key achievements from ETIPWind since the last CTOs + Steering Committee meeting last year in Copenhagen. She especially mentioned:

- the ETIPWind public workshop co-organised with the European Commission in June 2023
- the publication of the 2022 wind energy competitiveness report
- the ETIPWind Steering Committee meeting at the EERA’s Innovation Forum in September 2023
- the new SET Plan targets on wind energy defined by the IWG Wind
- the joint ETIPWind and IWG Wind meeting organised to review the draft Strategic R&I Agenda
- the ETIPWind CTOs meeting organised at LM Wind Power’s facilities
- the ETIPWind engagement at the SET Plan Conference organised in Barcelona
- the ETIPWind factsheet on the National Energy & Climate Plans
- the publication of the ETIPWind’s Strategic R&I Agenda and its launch event at ZF’s facilities

She then invited the Steering Committee members and CTOs to share their feedback on 2023 activities by answering questions on slido.com.

To the question “*Are you satisfied with the R&I priorities included in the ETIPWind Strategic R&I Agenda 2025-2027?*” participants answered:

93% YES (25 votes)

7% NO (2 votes)

0% I don’t know (0 vote)

To the question “*Do you feel you had the opportunity to contribute to the elaboration of the ETIPWind Strategic R&I Agenda 2025-2027?*” participants answered:

100% YES (27 votes)

0% NO (0 vote)

0% I don’t know (0 vote)

Capucine then presented the 2024 objectives for ETIPWind and the detailed timeline of the activities scheduled this year.

Adrian Timbus (*ETIPWind Chair*) took back the floor to explain that the two Vice-Chairs of the Steering Committee will step-down. Jacob Edmonds (Ørsted) and Ignacio Marti (Coordinator of the EERA's joint programme on wind energy) will start working in different organisations as of April 2024. Adrian explained that the Steering Committee must elect two new Vice-Chairs, one representing the industry and one representing the research community.

He reminded that the ETIPWind Secretariat invited the Steering Committee members to express their interests to apply for the Vice-Chair positions prior to the meeting. He said that the ETIPWind Secretariat gathered two applications:

- For research: Stephan Barth, Managing director at ForWind and new Coordinator of the EERA's joint programme on wind energy
- For industry: Hanne Wigum, Leader offshore wind concepts at Equinor

Adrian Timbus invited the Steering Committee members to vote via slido.com to elect the two candidates.

To the question “*Do you support Stephan Barth (ForWind, EERA JP Wind's Coordinator) as Vice-Chair of the ETIPWind Steering Committee?*” participants answered:

95% YES (21 votes)

0% NO (0 vote)

5% I prefer to abstain (1 vote)

To the question “*Do you support Hanne Wigum (Equinor) as Vice-Chair of the ETIPWind Steering Committee?*” participants answered:

100% YES (22 votes)

0% NO (0 vote)

0% I prefer to abstain (0 vote)

Stephan Barth and Hanne Wigum were therefore elected as new Vice-Chairs of the ETIPWind Steering Committee. Adrian Timbus congratulated them and announced the coffee break.

5. EERA'S LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAMME AND SYNERGY WITH ETIPWIND DOCUMENTS

Adrian Timbus (*ETIPWind Chair*) invited Ignacio Marti to present the EERA's long-term research programme elaborated by the EERA joint programme on wind energy.

Ignacio explained the concept of the document and how it was elaborated to ensure it is aligned with the ETIPWind Strategic R&I Agenda. He listed the R&I topics identified in each of the R&I areas which structure the long-term research programme. Those R&I areas are the same as the R&I areas identified in the ETIPWind SRIA plus an additional one on cross-cutting research themes.

Adrian Timbus opened the floor for questions.

6. STRATEGIC PROJECTS FOR WIND ENERGY – WHY EU FUNDED PROJECTS ARE WORTH IT

Adrian Timbus (*ETIPWind Chair*) launched the last session of the meeting dedicated to EU projects on wind energy. He invited three project representatives to pitch the concept of their project and to highlight the broader value it will bring to the wind energy sector.

John Korsgaard (LM Wind Power) presented the BLADES2BUILD project focusing on blades recycling.

Hamza Kazmi (Ørsted) presented the InterOPERA project focusing on HVDC and offshore grids.

Lorena Perez Redondas (GE Vernova) presented the REALCoE project focusing on offshore wind turbine manufacturing.

Adrian invited participants to ask questions to the project coordinators. Clarifications were asked on the concept of the different projects.

The blade recycling process for cement production used in the BLADES2BUILD project was discussed. Questions were raised about the components manufacturing and the testing facilities for the InterOPERA project. A Steering Committee finally raised a more general question about the complexity of working with industry competitors within European projects.

7. NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

Adrian Timbus (*ETIPWind Chair*) concluded the meeting by reminding the next steps for ETIPWind including:

- advocacy for R&I priorities 2025-2027;
- dissemination of the wind industry's priorities;
- elaboration of the ETIPWind Roadmap;
- discussion on the future of ETIPWind.

He then thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Organisation
Adel El Gammal	EERA (Observer in this meeting)
Adrian Timbus	Hitachi Energy
Alexander Vandenberghe	ETIPWind Secretariat
Andrei Moscal	ETIPWind Secretariat
Antonio Ugarte Olarreaga	CENER
Arnoldus van Wingerde	Fraunhofer
Benjamin Mauries	SAIPEM

Bernd Biervert	European Commission
Bert Verdyck	ZF
Capucine Vannoorenberghe	ETIPWind Secretariat
Celine Mahieux	Shell
Cesar Yanes Baonza	Iberdrola
Cristina Garcia Duffy	ORE Catapult
Dominique Follut	WEAMEC (Observer)
Doris Bush	Flender / Winenergy (Observer)
Felix Cebulla	RWE
Hamza Kazmi	Orsted
Hanne Wigum	Equinor
Helena Solman	Wageningen University
Henrik Steengaard Olesen	Siemens Gamesa
Ignacio Marti	DTU
Joerg Scholle	ENERCON
John Korsgaard	LM Wind Power
John Olav Tande	SINTEF
Kasper Roed Jensen	Vestas
Lars Landberg	DNV
Lorena Perez Redondas	GE Vernova
Marcin Luczak	Gdansk University
Mariya Trifonova	Sofia University / CSD
Martin Knops	ZF
Nicolas Quievy	Engie (Observer)
Paul McKeever	ORE Catapult
Peter Eecen	TNO
Raul Prieto	Fortum (Observer)
Silvia Olivotto	ENEL
Solveig Roschier	Fortum (Observer)
Stephan Barth	ForWind
Stephanie Abrand	SAIPEM
Tim Brown	GE Vernova
Tuhfe Gocmen	DTU
Wouter Haans	Shell