



Steering Committee Online meeting – Minutes 22 NOVEMBER 2024

Disclaimer

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1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Stephan Barth (*ETIPWind Vice-Chair*) welcomed the participants and began with a recap of the key achievements since the last Steering Committee meeting held in September, namely:

- The public workshop hosted in October 2024 in Brussels, where the long-term research and innovation targets by 2050 for the wind energy sector were discussed and validated;
- the latest ETIPWind publications: the factsheet on key megatrends in wind energy technology and the joint report on offshore renewables developed in collaboration with ETIP Ocean; and
- the various dissemination and external events where ETIPWind participated such as: Wind Energy Hamburg, Floating Wind Conference in Aberdeen, ENLIT in Milan, and the SET Plan Conference in Budapest.

He then presented the main objectives of the meeting:

- to validate the methodology to develop the ETIPWind's Roadmap;
- to start establishing the Working Groups to develop the ETIPWind's Roadmap; and
- to clarify our proposal to establish a wind R&I partnership and discuss the advocacy's next steps.

2. EU POLICY UPDATE

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) took the floor to update the Steering Committee members about the most recent EU policy developments.

She first presented the main priority for the new Commission: enhancing competitiveness. This priority was outlined in [Mario Draghi's report](#) and then echoed in [Heritor's report](#) on the role of Research, Technology and Innovation in boosting European competitiveness. The Clean Industrial Deal was introduced as it will be a framework to implement actions based on these recommendations.

She then highlighted the priorities identified by the new Commissioners during their hearings in front of the European Parliament, focusing on those relevant to the work of ETIPWind. This includes the portfolios of Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy; Dan Jørgensen, Commissioner for Energy and Housing; Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice President for the Clean, Just and Competitive Transition; Wopke Hoekstra, Designate Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth; and Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation.

Lastly, she provided an update on European funding programmes, starting with Horizon Europe. In the 2023-2024 work programme, there are still two ongoing calls for proposals for wind energy. Looking ahead to the 2025 work programme, there will be three calls for proposals dedicated to wind energy with a combined budget of 51 million EUR. Additionally, results from the last call of the Innovation Fund show that six wind energy projects will be funded. An update was also given on the next call under the Innovation Fund, scheduled to open in December 2024.

The update was complemented by comments from Enrico Degiorgis (*DG RTD*). He confirmed that the next Horizon Europe programme will be published at the end of March or beginning of April 2025.

3. ETIPWIND ROADMAP'S PRESENTATION

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) then detailed the objectives and methodology to draft the ETIPWind Roadmap for validating the proposal with attendees and gathering their input.

The objectives of the next ETIPWind strategic document include:

- advocating for a partnership on wind R&I;
- providing recommendations on the optimisation of EU funding programmes; and
- describing the wind energy sector's research and innovation needs to achieve long-term targets by 2050.

The suggested structure of the document includes five chapters, where chapters three and four will require input from one task force and five working groups. She then presented an example of the input that will be gathered from the Steering Committee members on circularity and sustainability. And the timeline for publishing the document, which is set for the first week of April 2025.

The floor opened for participant's feedback. The main comments from Steering Committee (SC) members are summarised below.

- A question was raised regarding whether a sixth working group would be needed to address cross-cutting R&I issues.
- A SC member inquired about the intended use and audience of the Roadmap document. The Secretariat added that it will be presented and serve as a tool to align efforts with the European Commission and Member States, delineating responsibilities. It should facilitate communication with higher level policymakers due to the complexity and detail of the previous documents.
- The importance of targeting upcoming funding programmes was emphasised while ensuring the Roadmap remains concise to maintain its impact. It was agreed the need to balance short-term and long-term influences, particularly as we target the next multi-annual financial framework and move to another level of collaboration with the European institutions.
- It was suggested to include measures for assessing impact and drafting performance indicators, to what Enrico Degiorgis (*DG RTD*) agreed and noted the importance of defining KPIs for objectives, particularly in areas such as performance, cost reduction, and recyclability. This will be further discussed with the ETIPWind Core Team.
- A SC member underlined the need for alignment with the previous two documents, and the Secretariat clarified that the contributors who drafted those documents will be directly involved in the Roadmap Working Groups.
- It was said that the focus of detail of the document should be on the middle-term activities, and ongoing initiatives should be accounted for. The ongoing projects will be taken into consideration in the discussion of the Working Groups.
- Enrico Degiorgis (*DG RTD*) offered additional insights, noting that the European Commission has already begun preparations for the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme. He recommended addressing any possible changes from prior documents and highlighted the need to clarify short-term objectives, alongside mechanisms for revising the Roadmap in the long term. He conveyed the European Commission's interest in defining R&I needs and effectively distributing work between industry, the European Union, and Member States levels, while keeping in mind the current structures of the SET Plan. Enrico Degiorgis also encouraged data-sharing and including

testing infrastructure in the Roadmap, noting the European Commission's ongoing work in these areas.

Before the coffee break, the Secretariat shared a document with the attendees, requesting their nominations for representatives in each of the Roadmap Working Groups.

4. UPDATE ON WIND R&I PARTNERSHIP'S ADVOCACY

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) provided an update on the wind R&I partnership. To ensure all participants were on the same page she reminded the concept and background of the partnership. The proposal emerged in response to challenges with current R&I funding for wind energy, and aimed to secure at least 1 billion EUR in EU funding. A clarifying note and FAQ on the possible structure, contributions and governance were sent to the participants before the meeting.

She then reported on the meetings held with the European Commission during the SET Plan Conference in November in Budapest. One of the main points discussed included the need to formalise the engagement from the Member States.

Then Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) summarised key takeaways and next steps for wind R&I advocacy, targeting the first formal milestone at the upcoming WindEurope's annual event in April 2025 in Copenhagen.

During the Q&A section, participants raised several questions and provided input regarding the proposed wind R&I partnership. Comments and questions from SC members are summarised below.

- A SC member inquired whether funding would be sought during 2027 within the ETIPs framework. Capucine Vannoorenberghe explained that the idea is to launch the partnership in 2028 following the final round of ETIPs funding.
- It was asked how in-kind contributions would be calculated and how information about these contributions would be shared. The Secretariat clarified that in-kind contributions would not follow a shared percentage across partnership members. Instead, members would report on additional activities, a matter to be discussed with the European Commission and among the partnership members.
- Clarification was asked on the steps required and timelines for recommendations on the next Horizon Europe work programme 2026-27. The Secretariat outlined the process, starting with identifying challenges and topics to present to the European Commission. It was noted that this is a process already underway.
- A SC member asked whether co-programmed partnerships will mobilise extra budget, to what the Secretariat clarified that an institutionalised partnership will adapt more to the wind energy sector needs as it is more flexible and enables a longer-term visibility.
- Enrico Degiorgis (*DG RTD*) noted the importance of having more visibility on the budget available in the upcoming years. He stressed the need to clearly demonstrate how the partnership could address the current issues in the EU funding framework and show its ability to anticipate private investments.

- A question was raised on the definition of in-kind contributions. The Secretariat explained that any self-funding activities carried out by the industry that align with the partnership's topics but are not funded by the EU will count as in-kind contributions.

5. ETIPWIND WORK PROGRAMME 2025 AND CLOSING REMARKS

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (*ETIPWind Secretariat*) concluded the meeting by introducing the ETIPWind work programme and presenting a proposed timeline for 2025. The work programme is structured around the key objectives outlined earlier in the discussions, namely:

- roadmap elaboration and dissemination;
- the future of ETIPWind and advocacy for a partnership;
- advocacy focused on the next Horizon Europe work programme and optimisation of EU funding programmes;
- engagement with new EU policymakers; and
- additional activities (Steering Committee meetings and ad-hoc reports).

Stephan Barth (*ETIPWind Vice-Chair*) thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Organisation
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