



Steering Committee + IWG meeting – Minutes 26 JUNE 2025

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1. OPENING

Adrian Timbus (ETIPWind Chair) opened the meeting and reminded the main challenges that the European wind sector faces at the moment including:

- The global competition and technology race with China.
- The fact we're not building fast enough (13 GW vs. 35 GW / year).
- The fact we're not spending enough on wind R&I and that we don't innovate fast enough.

He then mentioned the new ETIPWind report 'From Innovation to Industrial Competitiveness' that intends to provide some solutions to those challenges. He reminded the conclusions from the EU funding analysis included in the report and highlighted the need to set up a European Fund for Wind Research & Competitiveness.

After this quick introduction, Adrian presented the key objectives of the joint meeting:

- take stock from the main ETIPWind / IWG Wind achievements and reflect on the lessons learned for the future;
- discuss with the Commission what can be done to improve EU funding for wind; and
- clarify the next steps and the road to set up a European Fund for Wind Research & Competitiveness.

Adrian then gave the floor to Enrico Degiorgis (DG RTD, European Commission) for a keynote speech.

2. KEYNOTE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Enrico Degiorgis took the floor for a speech focusing on the next Horizon Europe work programmes, the revision of the SET Plan and the future of ETIPWind / IWG Wind.

- Stressed the importance of maintain aligning the sector with roadmaps and contributing to the SET Plan progress report, where the IWG Wind can be potentially strengthened.
- Highlighted the need to maintain and potentially expand the wind energy community, suggesting broader outreach and a possible enlargement of the Steering Committee.
- Underlined the IWG's reinforced role as an official Commission group with high-level national representatives, that can be more attractive for other countries.
- Provided an outlook on Horizon Europe in the upcoming years and noted that further information on the next Multiannual Financial Framework is expected will by mid-July.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE FUTURE

Capucine Vannoorenberghe (ETIPWind / IWG Wind Secretariat) then took the floor to present a quick recap of the main achievements from ETIPWind and the IWG Wind in the past three years. Main highlights included:

- The review of the factsheet on wind energy R&I in NECPs and recommendations from IWG Wind.
- The revision of the SET Plan targets on wind energy and presentation to the SET Plan Steering Group.
- The elaboration of SRIA and launch event at ZF factory.
- The review of the offshore renewables report and organisation of a joint workshop on co-location of offshore wind and ocean energy.
- The factsheet to raise awareness about main wind technology megatrends and event at the European Parliament.
- The Elaboration of the ETIPWind report in collaboration with EERA JP Wind and IWG Wind. Launch of the report in Copenhagen.

She then launched a discussion on the main lessons learned since the beginning of the SETIPWind project (September 2022). Main lessons are listed below:

- EU funding for wind R&I is not optimal. We need to change our approach to support innovations and technology development.
- The Commission is open to work on optimising EU funding support. At the national level, changing the mindset will take more time.
- We need a closer collaboration with National Ministries. IWG Wind members need to be closely connected to them.
- Joint R&I reports where all entities contribute are more impactful than separate documents. It is also clearer for the Commission.
- ‘Short and sweet’ events (at the Parliament or at a factory) are more engaging and work better to involve EU and national policymakers.
- Working more closely with the SET Plan Steering Group would be beneficial (e.g. SET Plan targets).

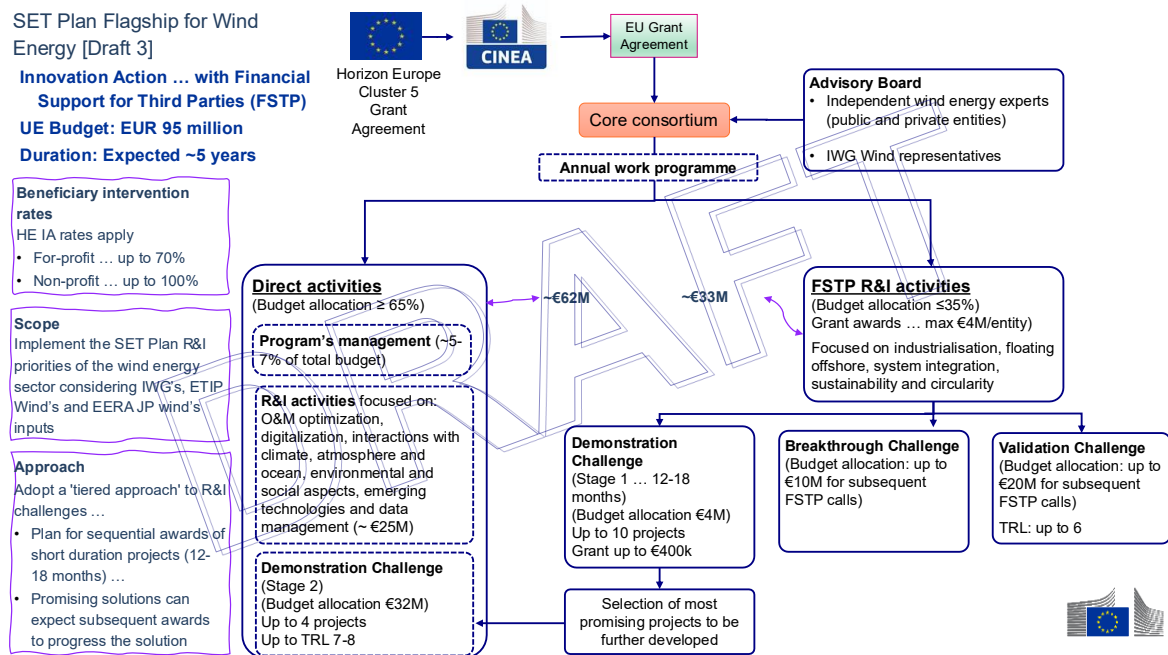
During the open floor session, Steering Committee and IWG Wind members shared their reflections.

- A Steering Committee member called for stronger IWG collaboration and urged faster conversion of roadmaps into funded projects, stressing the need for timely national initiatives and adequate funding.
- It was also discussed that research overlaps should be avoided, stressing the need for better coordination to align national timelines and efforts. Similarly, it was stressed the need to increase national funding contributions to the SET Plan and the future EU framework.
- IWG members highlighted the value of the common European programme developed by ETIPWind and the efforts directed to streamline the access to EU funding.
- A representative from the European Commission encouraged the participants to use the platform to foster innovation, engage actors beyond the sector, and asked the IWG members to address their Member States to complement EU projects and share insights into what is needed in local conditions (unforeseen conditions).

4. SET PLAN FLAGSHIP CALL FOR WIND

Enrico Degiorgis then took the floor to present the draft structure of the SET Plan flagship call for wind. The SET Plan flagship call is a new instrument that the European Commission would like to test in the next Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027.

This new instrument aims to mobilise a budget of €95m for wind R&I and to optimise the way EU funding is distributed for wind R&I projects. The draft figure describes how it will work.



Steering Committee and IWG Wind members had the possibility to ask questions and clarifications to the European Commission. Main questions raised are summarised below.

- A Steering Committee member requested more details on how the Core consortium and the Advisory Board are envisioned. It was clarified that the Advisory Board's role should be to provide guidance on priorities and not act as an executive arm. The European Commission also stressed that industry partners must be directly involved in the Direct activities, and the Core consortium will need to collaborate as the administrative arm for topics under the FSTP activities.
- Another member of the Steering Committee asked whether the FSTP beneficiaries will be responsible for selecting topics and partners. The Commission confirmed that the FSTP model will allow greater flexibility.
- A question was raised regarding the timeline of the new funding tool. The Commission responded that they expect to present it before the end of 2025.
- A member of the Steering Committee asked whether competing technologies could run in parallel under the Direct activities, or whether these must be defined from the beginning. The Commission replied that there will be more flexibility, with the option to discontinue projects that do not deliver results.

5. EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2025 – MAIN FINDINGS AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE EUROPEAN WIND SECTOR

Alexander Vandenberghe (ETIPWind / IWG Wind Secretariat) then took the floor to present the brand new European wind energy competitiveness report, published by ETIPWind in June 2025. He highlighted some key findings including:

- Wind energy contribution to Europe's GDP
- Subsector's share in the direct contribution to GDP
- Economic impact per GW installed capacity
- Economic performance of turbine manufacturers
- Economic performance of component suppliers
- Global market share of EU manufacturers, including China
- Wind turbine generator exports and imports
- European Research & Innovation (R&I) investments
- National Research & Innovation (R&I) investments

All the findings can be found in the report available online on the [ETIPWind website here](#).

Steering Committee and IWG Wind members raised a couple of questions and clarifications regarding the findings.

6. NEXT STEPS

Nina Mavrogeorgou (ETIPWind / IWG Wind Secretariat) finally presented the next steps for ETIPWind / IWG Wind activities. She clarified the difference between:

- The ETIPWind-IWG Wind fourth round of funding: the next funding cycle to support the work of ETIPWind and IWG Wind.
- The SET Plan flagship call for wind R&I: a call to be published as part of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 to establish a new funding tool for wind R&I.
- The European Fund for Wind Research & Competitiveness: the new framework to be established as part of the next EU budget (or MFF) 2028-2034.

Key activities foreseen for the next round of ETIPWind / IWG Wind activities will include: the creation of one single community, more focus on the implementation of R&I activities, the streamlining of decision-making process, and more content-driven meeting schedule.

She then presented a timeline of activities from now until 2032 to clarify how the activities will be articulated with each other. She finally invited the Steering Committee and IWG Wind members to save the date for the next in-person meeting that will be organised in parallel of the next EERA's Innovation Forum on 15-17 September 2025.

7. CLOSING REMARKS FROM CINEA

Baris Adiloglu (CINEA, European Commission) finally took the floor to share his views and conclusions from the SETIPWind project. He stressed that the most important achieved has been the creation of a single, united community working towards the ETIPWind project mandate, defining Research and Innovation priorities for the wind energy sector and implementation actions at the national level to accelerate the deployment and deployment of wind energy in Europe. Echoing Beatrice Coda's remarks from the previous day, he underlined the value of collective support and the importance of remaining connected through events and exchanges.

Looking ahead, he emphasised that the next cycle of the SETIPWind project should further strengthen the engagement and collaboration of Member States, which is also at the core of the latest changes of the SETPlan governance.

Adrian Timbus finally closed the meeting and invited all participants for a last group picture.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

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Benjamin Mauries	Saipem
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