

WORK PROGRAMME 2026

Overarching priorities

1.
The business case
for wind



2.
Grids and system
integration



3.
Electrification



4.
Security



5.
Industry profile and
fighting disinformation



6.
Operational excellence



1.

The business case for wind

- Wind auctions that Governments are planning meet the actual capacity targets and are designed to ensure projects are executed at competitive costs and deliver the EU wind objectives – notably through tariff indexation and realistic ceiling prices. Auctions also integrate – in terms of cost impact – the effect of the EU policies such as NZIA, ETS, CBAM, and trade defence and industrial policy measures e.g. steel.
- National Governments commit to the sustained buildout of onshore and offshore wind. They endorse to the New Offshore Wind Deal providing the conditions for 15 GW offshore wind buildout p.a. from 2031 to 2040 – with Hamburg Summit as a key political milestone to push cross border cooperation and ambition.
- The EU Climate & Energy framework provides clear investment signals for wind energy underpinned by an ambitious and socially acceptable 2040 climate target and annual wind deployment volumes in the post-2030 National Energy & Climate Plans.
- The Clean Industrial Deal enables National Governments to cut administrative burdens for wind energy projects and boost the sector's competitiveness across the economy.
- The Clean Industrial Deal supports the electrification of industry wherever relevant, driving demand for wind energy, and the scaling up of clean tech manufacturing in Europe while guaranteeing its competitiveness. WindEurope supports and tracks investments in the wind supply chain.
- The implementation of the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) translates into a limited number of clear, actionable and harmonized pre-qualification and non-price award criteria and leverages the European supply chain where it makes sense. It treats the UK as a secure region when implementing cybersecurity pre-qualification criteria on a par with EEA countries.
- WindEurope helps National Governments to simplify and expedite permitting for projects and grids, to implement EU rules on it ASAP, and to digitalise their permitting processes.
- The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is implemented in a way that preserves the international competitiveness of the wind industry, avoids unnecessary administrative burdens and unintended costs, as well as unnecessary disruptions to electricity trading or price distortions, notably between the EU and the UK.
- The European Commission enables open and fair trade, defends the interests of wind as one of Europe's strategic industries in trade negotiations (including on access to raw materials e.g. steel), and uses the tools at its disposal – e.g. the Foreign Subsidies and Foreign Direct Investment screening – to ensure a level playing field on the European market. Trade defense is used as a last resort.
- EU Electricity Market rules are safeguarded and send clear price signals, for investments and existing plants. Member States swiftly implement key provisions of the 2024 EMD Framework. Existing price zones with large liquidity and competitive trading arrangements are maintained.
- The wind industry strengthens cooperation on biodiversity with environmental NGOs to ensure EU nature laws are sensibly applied, industry works to mitigate possible negative impacts and exploit positive impacts.
- Renewables auctions, permitting, and grid connection processes are designed to support repowering which is currently at a disadvantage to greenfield projects in many places.
- WindEurope helps industry ensure maximum public funding for industrial scale up and innovation – including via CISAF and the EU Innovation Fund. The EU 7-year EU Budget (2028-2034) channels public money and innovative financing instruments towards a dedicated Wind Research And Competitiveness Fund. The EU funds R&D in energy system integration in line with its energy security, competitiveness and climate objectives.
- WindEurope works with its Ports Platform to secure EU and national Government funding, and financing notably via the EIB for Ports.
- The EU focuses on implementing existing legislation and on regulatory discipline and predictability which needs to factor in cost competitiveness and in particular address the competitiveness of the wind industry vis-à-vis other technologies and global competitors.



Grids and system integration

- EU and national decisionmakers (Commission, Governments, TSOs, Regulators) understand a renewables-based energy system is the most cost-effective even when factoring in total energy system costs and put renewables-based electrification at the core of their energy system planning based on the WindEurope Energy System Costs Study.
- The EU Grids Package leads to better top-down grid planning consistent with delivering climate neutrality, incentivizes the massive public and private investment in grids that is required, including anticipatory investments, accelerates grids permitting, ensures TSOs and DSOs adopt a dynamic and non-discriminatory management of grid connection queues, supports the grids supply chain, and helps drive electrification.
- The European Commission, TSOs, industry and National Governments cooperate to draw lessons from the Iberian blackout and enshrine pre-emptive measures against similar incidents in the EU Grids Package.
- The 7-year EU Budget (2028-2034) ensures a significant increase of the financial envelope for electricity interconnections, grid resilience and distribution grids including via reform of TEN-E and Connecting Europe Facility.
- The EU and National Energy Regulators empower TSOs and DSOs to raise private finance to develop the grid and update their remuneration framework to enable investments in grid resilience and optimisation.
- TSOs and DSOs harmonise their approach to flexible grid connection agreements and give developers the necessary guarantees on when the connection will become firm, with compensation if deadlines are not met.
- National rules allow renewables developers to take on responsibility for developing the grid, based on agreements with system operators and adequate compensation.
- National governments mitigate business risk related to rising grid fees, as these present a significant and growing risk for wind projects.
- Governments actively support development of combined wind / solar / storage projects such as by dedicating a share of their renewables auctions to them where appropriate.
- The EU and National Governments prioritise the delivery of offshore goals and intensify cooperation within existing fora e.g. BEMIP, NSEC. They coordinate grid infrastructure, as part of their maritime spatial planning, and take actions to ramp up investments in offshore supply chains and ports.
- The EU and National Governments develop a cost-sharing methodology that unlocks investments in cross-border offshore infrastructure and ensures market efficiency and revenue visibility for offshore wind farms connected to offshore bidding zones. With complementary de-risking measures e.g. the allocation of longer-term transmission rights.
- National energy regulators promote more flexibility in the electricity system, to provide more grid security and stability and remove barriers to more storage, demand response, grid optimisation, and hybrid wind / solar / storage projects, and balanced criteria for renewables integration in network requirements.
- The EU and the UK works towards good details on electricity trading and ETS / CBAM / NZIA. The EU and North Seas Governments bring back the UK as a member of the North Seas Energy Cooperation.
- WindEurope assesses the benefits and security implications of AI in wind farm operation and system flexibility and develops sector recommendations.
- EU defines the framework for the development of a full-scale HVDC multi-terminal, multi-vendor, multi-TSO meshed offshore grid, supported by appropriate regulations and aligned frameworks, as a natural evolution of the InterOPERA project.

3.

Electrification

- WindEurope's Energy System Cost Study demonstrates to European and National Governments a renewable electricity-based energy system makes the most economic sense. WindEurope's annual event profiles the key messages from the report.
- WindEurope engages energy consuming industries on how wind can help them electrify ensuring appropriate offtake. WindEurope works with energy intensive sectors (e.g. chemicals) the Commission and Governments, to enable tripartite contracts leveraging EU and national support (de-risking, Financing).
- WindEurope works with the Electrification Alliance to make the case that electrification is generally the most cost-effective and energy efficient way to meet the three strategic objectives of the EU: boosting competitiveness, making our energy system resilient, and fighting climate change.
- The European Commission delivers a meaningful Electrification Action Plan creating a business case for industry to electrify.
- The European Commission provides action-oriented Guidance to Member States on taxation to ensure a level-playing field between renewables and gas.
- WindEurope institutes a programme to identify a list of opportunities where the wind sector could leverage AI to e.g. accelerate production, improve sustainability and improve asset management.
- The EU supports industry in electrifying their production processes as part of the Industrial Decarbonisation Bank building on the initial Innovation Fund call on industrial process heat. And helps create lead markets for green products via the Industrial Accelerator Act.
- National Governments apply the revised Clean Industrial State Aid Framework to support investments in the electrification of industry.
- WindEurope supports the expansion of PPAs thanks to the creation of state-backed counterparty risks guarantees, harmonised rules on guarantees of origin, carbon accounting rules, and carefully designed auctions allowing for the combination of CfDs and PPAs – which can serve as a good basis for tripartite contracts and drive the PPA market. WindEurope works with EIB to make the most of their PPA de-risking instrument.
- WindEurope supports the creation of more electricity demand to produce renewable hydrogen through the implementation and enforcement of the renewable hydrogen targets set out in RED III and the Fuel EU Maritime and Refuel EU Aviation Regulations.
- WindEurope supports the system integration of AI and data centres to boost demand for renewables electricity in Europe.

4.

Security

- National Governments ensure EU economic security rules are applied when addressing foreign investments in EU critical renewables, grid or manufacturing infrastructure.
- The wind industry works closely with NATO, the European Defence Agency, National Ministries and the European Commission to define how they can help protect our infrastructure by applying industry guidelines for proportionate, risk-based, and continuous surveillance of assets. This leads to the development of a masterplan for the protection of critical energy infrastructure at sea-basin level. The industry gets the military and law enforcement to do more to protect energy infrastructure – NATO exercises, Cable security Plan.
- The wind industry joins forces with NATO and military institutions to design wind farms that support security and defence operations via standardised approaches for sharing data, enhancing situational awareness, and – potentially – co use of assets.
- National Governments set the right requirements for physical and cyber-security that are clear, transparent and do not bring unnecessary complexity or compromise the business model of wind projects e.g. including harmonised data security across the EU-27 and the UK, in close cooperation with industry.
- WindEurope advocates for the resilience of the supply chain, wind farms and their grid connections as critical elements of an energy security strategy.
- National Governments and TSOs understand there are certain products / functionalities that are truly critical to national and EU infrastructure. They apply the supplier threat assessment methodology when implementing EU cybersecurity rules and as part of their cybersecurity prequalification criteria in wind auctions.
- The European wind industry proactively engages Governments to ensure a timely, effective and harmonised implementation of EU cybersecurity rules – the EU Cyber Resilience Act, EU Data Act, NIS 2, CER and the Network Code on Cyber Security.
- Ministries of Defence apply more flexible rules when involved in the authorisation of wind projects. The wind industry proactively spreads good practices to reduce the impact of wind farms on defence capabilities.
- WindEurope stresses the key role of wind energy in contributing to energy security and resilience as part of the overarching EU security agenda. And mobilises the military to be proactively supportive of wind as it is good for national security. And advocates for part of the NATO 1.5% expenditure on civil preparedness to be spent on protecting wind and other critical energy infrastructure.

5.

Industry profile and fighting disinformation

- WindEurope's narrative explains the value of wind to Europe's energy system and how accelerating its expansion boosts competitiveness, energy security and climate action. It emphasizes the value of a strong wind supply chain to Europe's economic resilience. And tells the story of what happens if wind and the grid are not built in a way that is tailor-made for different audiences.
- WindEurope works closely with National Associations and corporate members to ensure the industry speaks with one voice.
- WindEurope's advocacy is informed by up-to-date insightful market intelligence and we communicate the right data to decision-makers in a timely manner – including via the WindEurope Intelligence Platform, empowering them in shaping ambitious wind policies.
- WindEurope makes an impactful presentation of the Energy System Costs Study to EU and national policymakers so they they understand the benefits of a renewables-based energy system and the need for balanced buildout of renewables technologies e.g. wind and solar energy. The study is presented with an eye to the upcoming energy files to be published and co-legislated in 2026.
- WindEurope collaborates with members to spread the good story of wind more effectively, including on jobs and the supply chain. Together with the National Associations, we empower them to respond to dis- and misinformation threats - supported by WindEurope's AI monitoring and crisis communication tools.
- Top-tier media report on big wind developments and come to WindEurope as the authority on wind.
- WindEurope, together with its members, use social media effectively to drive the policy agenda. We deepen our collaborations with influencers and opinion leaders to share the good story of wind with new audiences.
- WindEurope actively disseminates good practices and stories on community engagement and coexistence with nature, and stresses the value of wind as part of our narrative.
- WindEurope mobilises members to report on the industry self-ban on blade landfilling, and supports members in delivering the ban with Market Intelligence. The European Commission's Circular Economy Act enshrines the industry's self ban on landfilling blades in law. EU legislation sets the right waste codes helping create a European market for blade waste.
- WindEurope empowers members to continue improving the sustainability of their supply chains sharing best practices from its members in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- The wind industry is recognised as an attractive sector to work in. WindEurope continues to expand its student programme at the annual event to accelerate the entry of students into the workforce.
- WindEurope continues its work on raising awareness about wind in primary and secondary schools, thereby promoting green careers.
- WindEurope runs dedicated campaigns targeting job seekers, students, and parents to showcase the strong career opportunities in technical education and wind energy.
- WindEurope supports the European Commission in building out Wind Energy Net-Zero Academies to deliver an EU-recognised skills and certification framework. The Academies harmonise national systems with industry standards, train and certify newcomers and integrate workers into the sector. 100,000 professionals to be certified within the first 3 years of establishment.
- WindEurope provides Member States and industry with a new jobs forecasting tool that drives workforce planning across the full wind farm lifecycle. It enables stakeholders to identify critical skills gaps, prioritise high-demand roles and fast track re-training for workers from adjacent sectors.



6.

Operational excellence

- Ensure WindEurope delivers excellent service to our members, empowering them to grow their business and engage actively in the Association's activities – sharing expertise, shaping policy e.g. via Working Groups and coordinated advocacy, PR and events.
- WindEurope's Governance ensures smooth and effective decision-making to support the delivery of its strategic objectives limiting the need for extraordinary Board or Management Committee meetings.
- WindEurope constantly exchanges with and gets guidance from members on sensitive policy developments to inform its advocacy and ensures trust-based relationships allow for sensitive topics to be discussed and information shared.
- Ensure our business model provides sustainable revenue to cover the Association's activities and to deliver services to members and the wind industry.
- Ensure WindEurope provides the data and analysis on wind energy that our members, policymakers and relevant stakeholders want.
- Ensure WindEurope events – notably the annual event in Madrid - are the flagship meeting points for the European industry and serve as effective platforms for political, business, R&D and media engagement, driving the industry forward and profiling it to national and European audiences.
- Ensure our events set a gold standard for sustainability.
- Connect people from different parts of the value chain who want to do business together, connect members to Government, get investors interested and active in wind projects.
- WindEurope is a great place to work. Sustain employee well-being and performance.
- Ensure our HR, Legal, IT and Financial resources and processes are effectively managed.
- Ensure WindEurope's internal processes and systems are properly maintained and continuously improved:
 - Ensure proper security, contingency and back up for main databases and systems;
 - Leverage Artificial Intelligence to reduce manual work and repetitive/cumbersome tasks;
 - Ensure effective use of online platforms for document storage and management;
 - Implement digital signature; and
 - Ensure compliance with EU NIS 2 legislation.