On 6 June 2016 nine governments sharing the North Seas signed a historic Political Declaration for regional cooperation on offshore wind energy. The UK signed shortly afterwards. Since then considerable results have been achieved. Governments have directed significant resources to the implementation of the Political Declaration and are taking forward the actions it identifies through a series of expert Support Groups. They have defined specific measures, both practical and political to be implemented by 2019. And they have engaged with stakeholders in a constructive and open approach.

In parallel the offshore wind energy industry achieved some significant milestones in recent months. Notably it has met its self-imposed cost reduction target of €100/MWh by 2020 ahead of time. Winning bids of auctions in the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark delivered up to 48% cost reduction compared to projects just two years ago. The industry is ready to deliver 60 GW of new capacity in the 2020s or at least 4 GW/year, and these volumes would foster further cost reductions. Beyond 4 GW/year, the industry believes it can become fully competitive with new conventional generation ahead of 2030.

Considering the potential of offshore wind energy in all these countries, and recognising the significant progress achieved in the last 12 months, on the first anniversary of the signing of the Political Declaration, this Joint Statement aims to provide further impetus to advance this strategic energy source for the region.

- 1. We, the signatory governments, reaffirm our commitment of deploying a significant amount of new offshore wind power in Europe between 2020 and 2030 as already reflected in the North Seas Declaration of June 2016 and in national strategies, where they exist. We welcome the cost reductions that have been achieved and the intention of the industry to keep reducing the cost of offshore wind and for Europe to remain the global leader in the sector. We recognise that cost reduction can be accelerated in the light of significant yearly deployment volumes and if the respective grid can be developed. We recognise the potential of large projects of strategic interest contributing towards the delivery of the ambitious goals, while fully respecting that decisions on specific offshore wind power projects and targets remain the remit of Member States.
- 2. We will work together to facilitate the achievement of a significant amount of projects by building on the outcomes of the implementation of the North Seas Declaration.
- 3. We will increase the focus on taking action to facilitate investments in projects, grids and associated infrastructure through enhanced collaboration between public and private sectors while respecting the particular decision making processes in each sector.
- 4. We will coordinate further activities within the Supporting Groups implementing the North Seas Declaration.
- 5. We support the provision of market-based and market-responsive public financing in order to facilitate and accelerate the transition towards the market integration of offshore wind energy. Besides national strategies, we will work towards the necessary European framework supporting our common renewable energy trajectories. To achieve this, we invite the Commission to look into possibilities to mobilise dedicated funding for strategic joint projects for offshore wind energy, including from private sector investors, the European Fund for Strategic Investments or if relevant from within the existing EU budget.

Signed by:

Marie-Christine Marghem Minister of Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development Federal

Government of Belgium

Rainer Baake

State Secretary for Energy, Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy, Germany

Kristoffer Böttzauw

Deputy Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Energy Utilities and Climate,

Denmark

Samuel Leupold

Chief Executive Office Offshore Wind Power

DONG Energy Wind Power A/S

Michael Hannibal

Chief Executive Officer Offshore

Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy

Keith Anderson

Chief Executive Officer

Scottish Power Renewables

Jens Tommerup

Chief Executive Officer

MHI Vestas Offshore Wind

John Lavelle

Chief Executive Officer Offshore Wind

GE Renewable Energy

Anja-Isabel Dotzenrath

Chief Executive Officer

E.ON Climate & Renewables GmbH.

João Manso Neto Chief Executive Officer EDPR

Marc de Jong Chief Executive Officer LM Wind Power

Michael Simmelsgaard Vice President Strategic Projects and Partnering ,Vattenfall Business Area Wind Valerio Battista, Chief Executive Officer Prysmian

Even Larsen Chief Executive Officer Fred. Olsen Windcarrier Jan Willem van der Graaf Chief Executive Officer Seaway Heavy Lifting

Ditlev Engel Chief Executive Officer DNV GL – Energy Peter Robinson Managing Director MPI Offshore

Patrick Fragman
Managing Director Grid Integration
Business Unit
ABB

Terry Tale Chief Executive Officer and President AXYS Technolgies

Irene Rummelhoff Executive Vice President New Energy Solutions Statoil Mark Gainsbourough Executive Vice President New Energies Shell

U. Gaissorory h.

Jesper Bank Chief Commercial Officer Port of Esbjerg Kees-Jan Rameau Chief Strategic Growth Officer Eneco

Dr. Hans-Josef Zimmer Chief Technology Officer EnBW Bruno Geschier Chief Sales and Marketing Officer Ideal

Paul Cooley Director of Generation Development SSE

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Antoine Cahuzac Chief Executive Officer EDF Energies Nouvelles

Pieter Van Oord Chief Executive Officer Van Oord Alain Delsupexhe President and Founder EOLFI