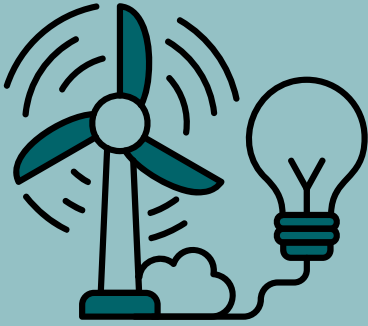


OWFA'S 2024 MANIFESTO: NO OFFSHORE WIND WITHOUT EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS



As we approach the European Commission's new five-year mandate, **it is essential that the focus on promoting green growth and fostering renewable energy development should continue.** This ongoing commitment should be complemented with a stronger emphasis on **enhancing European competitiveness, energy independence and resilience** while securing a sustainable future, in line with EU climate neutrality objectives.

Amidst a complex geopolitical climate, **offshore wind energy stands as a proven and vital component in Europe's path towards net zero**, with plenty of potential for expansion in the offshore areas around Europe. Therefore, it is **imperative that our industry has investment certainty, secure capacity, and robust political and financial support.**

Monopiles are truly an area where **EU-based manufacturing makes a real difference** for the overall climate outcome because these very large steel structures are:



up to
10m



up to
2000
tones



EU-produced monopiles emit up to 99% less CO2 during transport, compared to those typically imported from outside of the EU, according to recent data.

With the necessary scale-up, the potential carbon savings from European production are therefore immense. There are currently five established European players that are OWFA members which can make use of their facilities to ensure this scale-up. **Without consolidation and expansion of this capacity, the prospect of a Europe-led transition could be jeopardised.** We acknowledge and appreciate the political backing our sector has received so far with the adoption of the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Wind Power Package in particular. **Now, more decisive action is needed.**

To cultivate the market certainty that our industry requires, we propose three primary recommendations:



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These three recommendations come with a series of concrete suggestions OWFA makes to policymakers in charge of these files:

A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLY CHAIN APPROACH

Policymakers should proactively seek to understand the offshore wind supply chain and listen to a wide range of representatives, not only wind farm owners and developers, to ensure all perspectives are equally considered.



CONCRETE POLICY SUPPORT

Policymakers need to substantiate their pledges with tangible support for the supply chain. There needs to be binding legislation that provides certainty for investments, enables faster scale-up of foundation production and increased funding to facilitate decarbonisation.



STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND RESILIENCE

It should remain possible to supply all major components required for offshore wind within Europe. This will not only boost local industries but also reduce dependency on third countries, thereby enhancing European autonomy and competitiveness.



To support these recommendations and provide the certainty that the offshore wind foundations market needs, we call on:

The European Commission to enable a swift and tangible enhancement of the sector by:



Developing binding legislation to support the wind sector. The Wind Power Package showed support for the wind sector on paper, but binding legislation is needed to make concrete and harmonised changes.



Revisiting the EU public procurement rules, making non-price selection criteria compulsory to focus on reducing CO2 emissions and strengthening resilience.



Using trade instruments effectively to ensure a level playing field. We advocate for the deployment of trade instruments that genuinely guarantee a fair and competitive environment. The application of Anti-Dumping and Anti-Subsidies Regulations should be a necessary measure, not a last resort. We further urge the initiation of ex-officio cases under the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, given the well-documented increase in foreign-owned and supplied manufacturing capacity, as well as subsidised steel foundations, transition pieces and semi-finished foundations imported to the EU by some third countries.

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We also call on the **Member States** to be proactive in the effective implementation of EU policies on the ground, and make it easier for offshore wind projects to be deployed at national level. This includes:



Balanced auction design. Promoting the use of non-price selection criteria in public tenders and auctions as much as possible, based on reliable sustainability requirements applied to each major part of the value chain individually.



Better design of Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs). Ensuring flexibility, including regarding inflation and existing capacity requirements, that will allow European fabricators to scale up capacity to meet the indicated PPA demand over time, helping ensure stability in future orders.



Supporting local industry. Decreasing the permitting time for expansions of existing factories and implementing the Net Zero Industry Act effectively and efficiently. Ensuring that land is available for expansion, including through physical allotments and zoning decisions in local planning.



Screening investments in local industry. Considering the broader impact of allowing third country companies to take over local businesses, especially for foundations and other strategic components, which could allow these companies to avoid anti-dumping measures on steel by importing semi-finished foundations to European final fabrication sites.

Moreover, we call on the **European Parliament** to play its role in supporting initiatives going in that direction by:



Encouraging the Commission's wind power initiatives and ensuring that amendments to Commission proposals maintain strong support for the offshore wind supply chain, and foundations in particular.



Adopting a Motion for Resolution on securing and supporting the future of the European offshore wind supply chain.

ABOUT THE OFFSHORE WIND FOUNDATIONS ALLIANCE

OWFA is a coalition of five European companies producing offshore wind foundations: CS Wind Offshore, EEW Special Pipe Constructions GmbH, SIF Netherlands BV, Smulders Projects, and Steelwind Nordenham GmbH. OWFA members have already produced more than 9,000 monopiles, jackets and transition pieces and is a critical part of the European offshore wind sector.