



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Ocean Energy Roadmap
- Presentation by the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Commission.

Oceans are a vast renewable energy resource. Ocean energy technologies are being developed to exploit the energy of tides, waves, and differences in temperature and salinity in the ocean.

The EU has set itself ambitious climate and energy objectives for 2030 and 2050, and is committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The development of ocean energy is fully in line with the objectives of European energy policy, the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package. It is part of the Integrated Strategic Energy Technology Plan and – as an innovative renewable energy technology – contributes to the Energy Union. Ocean energy can contribute to achieving the energy and climate objectives, it reduces European dependence on energy imports and it increases the security of supply by providing a reliable source of indigenous energy. European companies in ocean energy are global leaders: more than half of the world's wave and tidal energy companies are based in Europe. This sector can provide up to 27 000 jobs by 2035.

Industry sources see potential to increase innovative ocean energy capacity in Europe to 100 GW by 2050. Tidal stream devices are already being deployed in pre-commercial farms and wave energy converters could move from a research demonstration phase to a pre-industrial phase by mid-2020s.

Following the 2014 Commission Communication on Blue Energy, which recognised the immense potential of harnessing the power of our seas and oceans, the Commission created the Ocean Energy Forum that gathered European industry, research communities, financiers and public authorities to explore ways to accelerate the development of this sector.

In November 2016 this Forum delivered the Ocean Energy strategic roadmap: “Building Ocean Energy for Europe”. Among its recommendations are adopting EU-wide standards for testing devices and components, the need to establish investment support schemes and an insurance fund to address uncertainties inherent in demonstration and pre-commercial phases of development. The roadmap also calls for guidance and cooperation to de-risk environmental consenting. It invites the Commission, Member States and industry to take these recommendations on board.

The Commission is committed to exploring the recommendations made in this roadmap together with Member States, to seek cooperation and to continue to support the ocean energy sector as the sector is moving from research and development stage into the deployment of pilot projects and pilot farms.